

DECISION No 1/2022 OF THE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL ESTABLISHED BY THE TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY, OF THE ONE PART, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, OF THE OTHER PART

of 5 May 2022

as regards the adoption of operational guidelines for the conduct of the Civil Society Forum [2022/707]

THE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement'), and in particular Article 14(1) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Article 14 provides that the Parties shall facilitate the organisation of a Civil Society Forum to conduct a dialogue on the implementation of Part Two.
- (2) The Partnership Council shall adopt operational guidelines for the conduct of the Forum.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The operational guidelines of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement's Civil Society Forum, as set out in the Annex, are hereby adopted.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels and London, 5 May 2022.

For the Partnership Council

The Co-chairs

Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

Elizabeth TRUSS

ANNEX

GUIDELINES FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement**

Article 14(1) and Article 14(2) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement') provides that the Parties shall facilitate the organisation of a Civil Society Forum composed of representatives of the civil society of the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the United Kingdom) that shall meet at least once a year, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement further provides that the Partnership Council shall adopt the operational guidelines for the conduct of the Forum.

1. PARTICIPANTS

According to Article 14(3) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement⁽¹⁾, the Civil Society Forum will gather representatives of the civil society of the European Union and the United Kingdom, namely representatives of business and employers' organisations (but not individual private companies), trade unions, academia, and non-governmental organisations in different branches of society relevant to the areas covered by Part II of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The Parties will apply their respective rules and practices on the registration of civil society representatives in order to promote a balanced representation of civil society organisations.

For practical reasons, the number of physical participants in the Civil Society Forum will be limited to 60 representatives from Civil Society on each side, unless the Parties agree otherwise. Those representatives will be able to attend the Civil Society Forum meetings in person or by electronic means. The Parties may agree to hold the meeting entirely virtually in accordance with Article 14(2) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The Civil Society Forum will be open to other members of civil society organisations, who register in advance, to observe.

2. SCOPE

The discussions of the Civil Society Forum will cover the areas in Part II of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement: trade, aviation, road transport, social security coordination and visas for short-term visits, fisheries and other provisions.

3. TIMING, ORGANISATION AND AGENDAS

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement establishes that the Civil Society Forum will meet at least once a year, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Civil Society Forum will meet in close proximity to the meeting of the Trade Partnership Committee, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The co-chairs of the Trade Partnership Committee and Trade Specialised Committees and the co-chairs of the Specialised Committees on Energy, Air Transport, Aviation Safety, Road Transport, Social Security Coordination and Fisheries will be able to participate in the Forum when matters within their remit are discussed in the Forum.

The Civil Society Forum will be organised by the Party that is responsible for hosting the meeting of the Trade Partnership Committee, meaning that the location of the Forum will alternate between the European Union and the United Kingdom, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Party hosting the Forum will provide the venue and facilitate the meeting (e.g. provide links for registration and virtual participation).

The Parties will endeavour to consult their respective Domestic Advisory Groups on possible agenda items before agreeing a draft agenda with the other party. The Parties will endeavour to publish the draft agendas 15 days before the date of the Civil Society Forum meeting.

⁽¹⁾ The Civil Society Forum shall be open for the participation of independent civil society organisations established in the territories of the Parties, including members of the domestic advisory groups referred to in Article 13 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Each Party shall promote a balanced representation, including non-governmental organisations, business and employers' organisations and trade unions, active in economic, sustainable development, social, human rights, environmental and other matters.

The hosting Party will draft the results and conclusions of the Civil Society Forum in agreement with the other Party, within 30 days of the meeting. The results and conclusions of each of the meetings will be shared with the Partnership Council, Trade Partnership Committee and the Specialised Committees on Energy, Air Transport, Aviation Safety, Road Transport, Social Security Coordination, Fisheries and will be made publicly available.

In accordance with Article 14(1), second sentence of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the Partnership Council may amend the present guidelines, including to address issues arising during their implementation.
