

JOINT DECLARATION CONCERNING A TRILATERAL APPROACH TO RULES OF ORIGIN

Further to Protocol 3 of the Incorporated Free Trade Agreement, as set out in the Appendix to Annex 1 to the Trade Agreement between Switzerland and the United Kingdom signed today, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have adopted the following declaration:

Joint declaration concerning a trilateral approach to rules of origin

1. In advance of trade negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom, the Governments of the Parties to the Trade Agreement between Switzerland and the United Kingdom recognise that a trilateral approach to rules of origin, involving the European Union, is the preferred outcome in trading arrangements between the Parties and the European Union. This approach would replicate coverage of existing trade flows, and allow for continued recognition of originating content from either of the Parties and from the European Union in exports to each other, as per the intention of the Switzerland-EU Trade Agreements.
2. In this regard, the Governments of the Parties understand that any bilateral arrangement between the Parties represents a first step towards this outcome. In the event of an agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, the Governments of the Parties approve taking the necessary steps, as a matter of urgency, to update Protocol 3 of the Incorporated Free Trade Agreement to reflect a trilateral approach to Rules of Origin involving the European Union.
3. The Governments of the Parties further approve taking the necessary steps, as a matter of urgency, to update Protocol 3 of the Free Trade Agreement to reflect the results of the revision process of the Regional Convention on pan-Euro-Mediterranean Preferential Rules of Origin, where they are agreed between the parties to that Convention.
4. In respect of paragraphs 1 and 3, the necessary steps will be taken in accordance with the procedures of the Joint Committee contained in Protocol 3 of the Incorporated Free Trade Agreement.
5. This Joint Declaration will come into effect on signature and will continue in operation until terminated by either Government.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland upon the matters referred to therein.

Signed in duplicate at Berne on this eleventh day of February 2019 in the English and German languages, both texts being equally valid. In the event of any inconsistencies between the texts, the English language text shall prevail.

For the Swiss Federal Council

For the Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland