



Department for
International Trade

Chief Trade Negotiation Adviser &
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Dear Ms Mette I. Wikborg,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Department for International Trade to set out for your Ministry and stakeholders how the UK will approach Technical Barriers to Trade.

The UK highly values its strong trading relationship with Norway. We have a shared ambition for a new high-quality comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), to come into effect in 2021. We have made excellent progress in our negotiations, which the UK is committed to continuing.

The 1st January 2021 marks the end of the process of transition of the UK-EU relationship. From the 1st January 2021 the UK will regain control of its own laws and its own trade. This will mean that there will be changes to how UK businesses interact with the EU single market, and by extension Norway, as Norway is a participant of the EU single market through the European Economic Area Agreement.

The vast majority of these changes will take place regardless of the agreement we reach with the European Union on our future trade relationship, because the UK will be leaving the single market and customs union, regaining its political and economic independence.

As the high-quality comprehensive FTA will not come into force between our countries from 1st January 2021, it is prudent to put in place necessary mitigations to ensure continuity in trade at the end of the year whilst negotiations continue. Primarily, the UK and Norway will be able to continue trade in goods through the interim continuity agreement signed on 8th December 2020 in London.

From 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021, in accordance with published UK Technical Notices and guidance, certain goods can continue to be placed on the Great Britain market, where they bear CE marking. This approach includes goods which have been assessed by an EU recognised notified body, including those based in Norway.

The UK welcomes reciprocation of this treatment from Norway where possible, considering Norway's requirement to align to EU regulation.

This letter does not constitute a legally binding agreement. The UK and Norway will communicate any changes to existing and future processes.

The UK will work towards future arrangements with Norway to secure a high quality, comprehensive FTA, to come into force in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

CRAWFORD FALCONER

OFFICIAL

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