

## Update on UK and EU trade negotiations

Yesterday, ahead of the two-day EU leaders' summit, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission and Charles Michel, President of the European Council to discuss the latest state of play of the negotiations on the UK's future relationship with the EU.

Although the Prime Minister noted the desirability of a deal, he expressed his disappointment that more progress had not been made over the past two weeks and confirmed that he looks forward to hearing the outcome of the European Council and would reflect before setting out the UK's next steps.

The 27 EU leaders are expected to conclude that progress on the key issues of interest to the Union is still not sufficient for an agreement to be reached. Sticking points remain in the areas of fisheries, enforcement of a trade agreement and future state subsidies policy.

Any agreement must be approved by the British and European parliaments before the 2021 deadline, with civil servants also requiring time to enshrine a trade deal into legislation, so both sides now consider the end of October or the first week of November as a more realistic deadline for achieving a deal.

## Webinars to help businesses prepare for EU Exit

Business Secretary of State, Alok Sharma MP has published a [message](#) to remind business leaders that regardless of whether a trade agreement is reached with the EU, from 1 January there will be guaranteed changes to:

- the way businesses import and export goods
- the process for hiring people from the EU
- the way businesses provide services in EU markets

The Government is hosting [a series of free webinars](#) to help businesses to prepare for the changes.

## Guidance on how the border with the EU will work

The Government has published an [updated Border Operating Model](#), which provides further detail on how the GB-EU border will work and the actions that traders, hauliers and passengers need to take.

The updated guidance confirms:

- further detail for businesses and passengers on how the GB-EU border will operate after the end of the transition period.
- that hauliers will need a Kent Access Permit to proceed to the border.
- EU, EEA and Swiss national ID cards will not be acceptable for travel to the UK, including for drivers, from October 2021.

## **Guidance on using personal data post EU Exit**

The Government has published [guidance](#) on what action you need to take regarding data protection and data flows with the EU/EEA after the end of the transition period.

Most organisations use personal data in their daily operations. Personal data is any information that can be used to identify a living person, including names, delivery details, IP addresses, or HR data such as payroll details.

## **Green Cards, if needed, can be printed by customers**

Whilst there is still no definitive answer on whether a motor insurance green card will be needed for customers taking their rental or leased vehicle abroad in 2021, the [advice from the Motor Insurers' Bureau \(MIB\)](#) is that the card can be issued by insurers electronically and then printed by the person travelling abroad.

This will make life easier for rental companies as previous guidance had indicated that only a printed version would suffice and it had to be printed on green paper.

## **CMA consults on its functions post EU Exit**

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) is consulting on its draft guidance on its functions after the end of the Transition Period.

[The consultation](#), which closes at midday on 30 October 2020, is inviting views and is particularly interested in whether the draft guidance provides sufficient information and clarity.

## **Changes in the rules when hiring workers from the EU**

The Government has published information for businesses on [hiring from the EU](#) as from the 1 January new rules will apply with the introduction of a new [points-based immigration system](#).

The new system will introduce job, salary and language requirements, treating EU and non-EU citizens equally, transforming the way in which employers recruit from outside the UK.

From 1 January 2021, employers will need a [sponsor license](#) to hire most eligible people from outside the UK, excluding Irish citizens, who are exempt. The process usually takes around eight weeks and fees apply.

The new system will not apply to EU citizens living in the UK by 31 December 2020. They and their family members are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and have until 30 June 2021 to make an application.