

# TRIPS Council: UK statement

World news story

The following statement was delivered during the formal TRIPS Council.



Thank you, Chair for giving me the floor and thank you for convening this formal session of the TRIPS Council.

The United Kingdom welcomes the text of the oral status report and is content for it to be delivered at the upcoming General Council. We believe this report is factual, objective, and accurately reflects developments made by this Council since the General Council was last updated in May, and we thank other delegations for their engagement.

The United Kingdom would like to extend our gratitude to you and the Secretariat for successfully organising several informal TRIPS Council sessions and small group consultations, to help Members advance discussions on substantive topics in a transparent manner. Our delegation has engaged in good faith throughout this process, asking questions conducive to healthy discussion, and has found the exchange of views from Members useful.

However, as reflected in the status report, this Council has been finding it difficult to move towards consensus. We once again reiterate our long-held view that a discussion on fundamental areas of disagreement would help guide

discussions towards pragmatic solutions. It is only by developing a common understanding of these underlying principles, that we will be able to meaningfully move forward in this process.

We will continue to actively engage in all discussions and review the merits of any proposal submitted to the TRIPS Council. Responding to the question of vaccine equity necessitates a multifaceted response underpinned by pragmatic action, including voluntary licensing and technology transfer agreements for vaccines, support for COVAX, and solutions for production bottlenecks and supply chain issues. We will continue support action in this regard, and we look forward to our future discussions.

Thank you, Chair.

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## [FCDO Statement on the reopening and resettlement of Varosha](#)

Press release

Following a statement made by Turkish President Erdogan today, the UK has expressed concern over the issue of Varosha underlining the UK's support for the UN Security Council resolutions.



A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesperson said:

The UK is deeply concerned about the announcement made during the visit of President Erdogan to Cyprus on 19-20 July 2021 regarding the reopening and resettlement of an area constituting 3.4% of the fenced-off area of Varosha.

The announcement runs contrary to UN Security Council resolutions

and to the Security Council Presidential Statement of 8 October 2020 which called for Turkey to halt and reverse its actions in Varosha.

The UK strongly supports the relevant Security Council Resolutions covering the issue of Varosha and calls for all parties to comply with them.

The UK will be discussing this issue as a matter of urgency with other Security Council members.

The UK calls on all parties not to take any actions which undermine the Cyprus Settlement process or increase tensions on the island .

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## [Digital consultation launched to shape the future of the OxCam Arc](#)

- From today Oxford-Cambridge Arc residents can go online and have their say on their vision for the future of the area
- The digital consultation on the vision for the Spatial Framework will be open to all for 12 weeks
- The government is also establishing a new expert panel ,which will engage with local authorities and communities, to advise on bringing forward sustainable economic and housing growth in the Arc

People across the Oxford Cambridge Arc, and all with an interest in the area, will have the opportunity to contribute to the long-term development of the area, as part of a newly launched government consultation.

A new plan aims to enhance the infrastructure, environment and new developments in the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. It will be developed by government, informed by engagement with local communities and stakeholders, and will have sustainability at its core.

This public consultation is the first of three that will guide a new Spatial Framework over the next two years, and a digital platform has been created that will make it quick and accessible for people who live, work, and have an interest in the area to make their voices heard.

Comments received in the consultation will help create the Spatial Framework's vision for the area to 2050, and will help guide local planning

and investment decisions in four areas; the environment; the economy; connectivity and infrastructure; and place-making. Visit: <https://placebuilder.io/futureofthearc>

The consultation is also [seeking views on the work the government has done to set the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal](#).

The government has additionally today announced a new expert panel to advise on sustainable economic and housing growth in the Arc. The panel will be chaired by leading development and regeneration expert Emma Cariaga and will advise the government on issues ranging from design and sustainability to delivery and investment models.

The panel's primary area of focus is between Bedford and Cambridge, where the government is examining opportunities to bring forward well-designed, inclusive and sustainable places.

Other members will consist of industry leaders, local representatives and subject area experts from a range of disciplines, who will work with local government and other partners to inform the panel's advice. The full panel will be confirmed in due course. See [further details](#).

Housing Minister Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP said:

Today is a big step forward for the OxCam Arc as we have launched an innovative digital consultation with the public, including those that live and work in the Arc, so that everyone has a chance to have their say.

This is a fantastic opportunity for people across the Arc to make their voice heard and help create the future for their community that they want to see.

Both the Spatial Framework consultation and Expert Advisory Panel will help us to ensure the Oxford-Cambridge Arc will be a great place to live and work – now and in the decades to come.

Transport Minister Chris Heaton-Harris said:

The East West Rail project plays an important role in enabling connectivity within the OxCam Arc and will help us build back better from COVID-19.

We've committed £760 million to the first phase of EWR which will support improved access to jobs and other opportunities in the area as well as boosting economic growth in the region more widely.

Cllr Barry Wood, Leader of Cherwell District Council and Chair of the Arc Leadership Groups said,

The bold economic and sustainability ambitions we have set out for our region need to be matched by well-planned, long-term and coordinated investment into our towns, cities and rural areas. Inclusive growth, with high environmental standards so that all our residents can benefit, remains at the heart of what we seek to achieve.

By progressing the Arc Spatial Framework, government will look at how and where we need to connect and build new infrastructure, whilst enhancing our environment to deliver the sustainable growth that our region is capable of. To start, we must shape a shared vision for the type of growth we want to see.

This is why it's so important for every single resident to be able to have their say directly to government on what matters most to them. How we create opportunities for people to prosper, today and in the future, is an important matter for everyone.

Dr Barbara Ghinelli, Director, Harwell Campus Development and High-Tech Clusters, UKRI-STFC said:

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc has a unique combination of world-class scientific, technical and knowledge capabilities that can drive forward the economy, improve quality of life and benefit all the residents of the United Kingdom.

These capabilities are crucial for attracting talent to further science and technology excellence across a number of business sectors and therefore making the UK highly competitive on a global scale. It is important that we do not squander the opportunities thus created, and that means fashioning an environment in the region where people can thrive, be engaged and deliver their best.

Clare Walton, Chief Executive, Community Action: MK said:

The success of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc will be measured by the experience of the communities who live there. The key to creating inclusive and sustainable communities will be partnership working and investment in community support.

This is an exciting opportunity for the government to think differently about how large-scale housing developments can design out inequalities. The Arc offers great potential to innovate and embrace science and technology, but our collective prosperity must be paramount. We must create opportunities for all people regardless of income, gender, race, disability, age, and this requires commitment to social infrastructure. Enabling the

Voluntary and Community Sector to thrive in these new communities will help create vibrant sustainable places that people feel invested in and a part of.

Emma Cariaga, Chair of the Expert Advisory Panel, said:

I am delighted to be chairing the new panel exploring opportunities for sustainable economic and housing growth in the Arc. The past 18 months have highlighted the importance of the quality of the places in which we live, work and enjoy ourselves. So it is great to see those opportunities to bring forward well-planned places that make the most of existing, proposed and emerging infrastructure are being properly considered.

As a panel, we will explore a range of subjects – including design, finance models and sustainability – that will be vital for these places to get right if they are to serve present and future communities. I look forward to getting started

This regional success will build on the work of the United Kingdom Government that has helped millions of people continue to provide for their families as part of its Plan for Jobs to protect, support and create employment.

The Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) Arc is the name given to the area identified by government as a key economic priority with the potential to be one of the most prosperous, innovative and sustainable economic areas in the world. It is made up of the five ceremonial counties of Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire. It includes:

3 county councils: Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Cambridgeshire.

17 district councils: City of Oxford, South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse, West Oxfordshire, Cherwell, Northampton, South Northamptonshire, Daventry, Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby, East Northamptonshire, City of Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

6 unitary authorities: Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Luton, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, and City of Peterborough.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

The consultation document published today, '[Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#)'

- is the first of 3 planned public consultations on the Spatial Framework. Alongside this, the government have published the [Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#) for consultation. The Sustainability Appraisal

(SA) will inform development of the Spatial Framework and ensure that sustainability is at its heart. The consultation will be supported by a new and innovative digital engagement platform designed to give a voice to the wider community, as well as traditional engagement methods such as workshops.

- Feedback from this consultation will help to create the Spatial Framework's vision for the Arc to 2050. Using the vision as a foundation, the next document 'Towards a Spatial Framework' is planned to be published for consultation in Spring 2022, focussing on options for delivering the Spatial Framework's objectives based on feedback from engagement, initial evidence gathering and analysis.
- The government then hope to publish a draft Spatial Framework for consultation in Autumn 2022, with implementation of the final framework shortly after. The public will be consulted with at each of these stages and government will continue to work closely with local stakeholders throughout. The consultation is open to all members of the public.
- With the right interventions and investment, local economic forecasts suggest that by 2050 we would see economic output in the Arc doubling to over £200bn. The Arc's success is key to the UK's national prosperity, international competitiveness, and ability to meet the challenges and opportunities we will face as a country over the next century, including climate change and supporting nature recovery, technological change, fighting COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics
- The OxCam Arc offers a significant opportunity for the government and partners to work together to support the harmonious delivery of improved connectivity, productivity and place-making, whilst ensuring pioneering environmental standards and enhancements are delivered and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan is put into action.

## **Expert Advisory Panel**

- In addition to the development of the Spatial Framework, the government is also exploring potential options for sustainable economic and housing growth in the Arc.
- An advisory panel, to be chaired by Emma Cariaga, will explore potential opportunities for sustainable and economic growth in the Arc, with the Bedford-Cambridge area as its primary focus.
- The panel will provide recommendations to the government on issues ranging from design and sustainability to delivery and investment models.

- The panel will report to the Minister for Housing, the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP.

## **Biography – Emma Cariaga – Joint Head of Canada Water Development, British Land:**

Emma jointly leads the development of Canada Water, a 53-acre new urban centre in Central London. Her role involves building and leading a best-in-class multi-disciplinary team to set the vision for the new place, deliver an exemplar mixed-use development for London and creating a long-term sustainable investment for British Land.

She joined the Executive Committee of British Land in 2019. Alongside her role on Canada Water, she leads their Public Affairs strategy to ensure the organisation can respond to the wider issues that affect real estate including global trends (economic, technology, shareholder/consumer behaviour), as well as the social and natural capital impact of their investments.

She is a Non-executive Director of Assura Plc as well as a Non-executive Director of TEDI-London – a higher education provider for future engineers founded by Arizona State University, King's College London & UNSW Sydney. She is also a Committee Member of the British Property Federation Development Committee.

Emma joined British Land in 2014 from Landsec where she delivered several Central London developments as well as overseeing their strategic land portfolio. Prior to this, Emma held development and land management roles at Barratt and Crest Nicholson.

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## **New and improved National Security and Investment Act set to be up and running**

- The National Security and Investment Act – the biggest shake up of the UK's national security regime for 20 years – to be commenced fully from 4 January 2022
- businesses and investors urged to get ready for the changes, with guidance published to ensure a smooth transition to the new rules
- new laws will advance the UK's gold-star reputation as an attractive place to invest, while strengthening government's powers to investigate and intervene in potentially hostile foreign investment

Businesses and investors are being urged to get ready for changes to the UK's strengthened national security regime which will be commenced fully on 4 January 2022.

The National Security and Investment Act modernises the government's powers to investigate and intervene in mergers, acquisitions and other deals that could threaten the UK's national security.

The new regime will see investors being given more efficient clearance processes for relevant acquisitions as well as more transparency about what types of deals the government could examine and the processes for doing so.

This will give investors additional certainty and clarity as the UK enshrines its status as a global champion of free trade and investment.

The regime also means new rules for businesses. Once the Act is commenced, the government will be able to scrutinise and intervene in certain acquisitions made by anyone, including businesses and investors, that could harm the UK's national security, but the regime will be targeted and proportionate. The government will be able to impose certain conditions on an acquisition, or, if necessary, unwind or block it – although the government expects to do this rarely and the vast majority of deals will be able to proceed without delay.

The Act also grants government a 5-year retrospective power to call in acquisitions in the wider economy which were not notified, but may raise national security concerns. However, these powers will not apply to acquisitions which took place prior to the Act's introduction to Parliament (11 November 2020), so businesses and investors have certainty about historical deals.

Once the Act fully commences, investors planning an acquisition in one of the defined sensitive areas of the UK economy may need to get approval from the government before they can complete it.

Before the new laws are commenced on 4 January 2022 businesses and investors are encouraged to read a [range of guidance](#) published by the government today, to ensure they understand this new process. More guidance will follow later this year.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

Protecting the UK's national security is of paramount importance to this government. Now that our investment screening regime has been strengthened, the government will be able to take swift and decisive action against potentially hostile foreign investment.

This robust regime will also make the investment screening process simpler and quicker for investors and businesses – giving them the certainty they need to do business in the UK – and I urge them to make sure they are ready for the changes coming into force on 4 January 2022.

The government has also been working closely with investors and businesses, including through a cross-sector Expert Panel, to ensure they understand what is new.

The Investment Security Unit – a dedicated hub that sits within the business department – will provide a single point of contact for businesses wishing to understand the Act and notify the government about transactions.

The unit will review transactions and coordinate cross-government activity to identify, assess and respond to national security risks arising from foreign direct investment – providing certainty for businesses that they will not be targeted and exploited by potentially hostile actors.

Investments will be screened much more quickly than the current regime, assessing transactions within 30 working days – and often faster – with timelines now set out in law, rather than by the government on a case-by-case basis as is currently the case.

Businesses are urged to contact the hub using the email address [investment.screening@beis.gov.uk](mailto:investment.screening@beis.gov.uk) if they have any queries ahead of commencement.

Today the government has also published:

Business Minister Lord Callanan said:

The UK has a world-class reputation as a leading destination for foreign investment and our National Security and Investment Act will only strengthen that reputation.

This government has been clear all along: we are open to foreign investment, but we will not tolerate those who wish to threaten our national security.

The UK is consistently placed as one of the leading destinations for foreign investment in Europe and around the world, thanks to the strength of its workforce, innovation and lack of red tape and this government is clear that the new national security regime will only strengthen the UK's status as a premier destination for inward investment.

Minister for Investment Gerry Grimstone said:

The UK is one of the best investment destinations in the world offering investors strong returns and growth in a low tax, high skill economy with a strong rule of law.

This Act bolsters our reputation with quicker, slicker scrutiny processes and more certainty and security for businesses to help attract high value, high impact investment.

From 4 January 2022, the commencement of the National Security and Investment Act will mean that:

- the government will be able to scrutinise, impose conditions on or, as a last resort, block a deal wherever there is an unacceptable risk to UK's national security
- investors and businesses will have to notify a dedicated government unit – the Investment Security Unit – through a digital portal about certain types of acquisitions in designated sensitive areas, such as artificial intelligence
- the UK's screening powers will include assets like intellectual property as well as companies
- the vast majority of acquisitions will be able to proceed unhindered and investments will be screened much faster than the current regime
- acquisitions will be assessed within 30 working days and often more quickly, as set out in law
- investors can also notify any acquisitions voluntarily if they believe it has implications for national security
- to ensure that no dangerous deal can slip through the net unchecked, in addition to mandatory notification for certain sensitive areas of the economy, the Secretary of State will have the power to 'call in' acquisitions in the wider economy which were not notified to government but may raise national security concerns

The 17 defined sensitive sectors are:

- Advanced Materials
  - Advanced Robotics
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Civil Nuclear
  - Communications
  - Computing Hardware
  - Critical Suppliers to Government
  - Cryptographic Authentication
  - Data Infrastructure
  - Defence
  - Energy
  - Military and Dual-Use
  - Quantum Technologies
  - Satellite and Space Technologies
  - Suppliers to the Emergency Services
  - Synthetic Biology
  - Transport
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# Draft mandate for negotiations in respect of Gibraltar: Foreign Secretary statement

Press release

Foreign Secretary statement on draft mandate for the negotiations between the UK and the European Union (EU) in respect of Gibraltar.



The European Commission has today published its draft mandate for the negotiations between the UK and the European Union (EU) in respect of Gibraltar. Once Member States have agreed the EU's mandate, negotiations can begin. The Foreign Secretary and the Chief Minister of Gibraltar agreed the UK approach to negotiations in March.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The UK, with Gibraltar, and Spain carefully agreed a pragmatic Framework Agreement, in full consultation with the EU Commission. The Commission's proposed mandate, published today, directly conflicts with that Framework. It seeks to undermine the UK's sovereignty over Gibraltar, and cannot form a basis for negotiations.

We have consistently showed pragmatism and flexibility in the search for arrangements that work for all sides, and we are disappointed that this has not been reciprocated. We urge the EU to think again.

On 31 December 2020, the UK Government, together with the Government of Gibraltar, reached a political agreement (the Framework) with the Kingdom of Spain on how a future agreement between the UK and the European Union in respect of Gibraltar would function in the interests of all parties.

At the UK-Gibraltar Joint Ministerial Council held in Gibraltar on 29th March 2021, the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP and the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Hon Fabian Picardo QC agreed our joint approach to the upcoming negotiations on a treaty between the EU and the UK in respect of Gibraltar.

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