

European Commission Communication on readiness at the end of the transition period between the European Union and the United Kingdom

The Communication adopted on the 9th July sets out a sector-by-sector overview of the main areas where there will be changes regardless of the outcome of the ongoing EU-UK negotiations, and sets out measures that national authorities, businesses and citizens should take in order to be ready for these changes. It in no way seeks to prejudge the outcome of negotiations. As such, it does not examine the possible implications of a failure to reach an agreement, nor does it consider the need for contingency measures.

Its aim is to ensure that all public administrations and stakeholders are ready and well prepared for the unavoidable disruptions caused by the UK's decision to leave the EU and to end the transition period this year. These measures complement actions taken at national level. The Communication advises that businesses revisit their existing preparedness plans.

With regards to trade in goods, the Communication states the following:

EU businesses must acquaint themselves with the formalities and procedures for doing business with the United Kingdom as a third country as of 1 January 2021. They should also factor in the increased administrative obligations and potentially longer timeframes resulting from these formalities and procedures. This might entail significant changes to the organisation of existing supply chains. Businesses are responsible for assessing the actions needed in view of these changes, in light of their individual situation.

The administrations of EU Member States have prepared the major border passage points and developed solutions to ensure the application of the Union Customs Code in this context. Where necessary, they should continue implementing and refining those options, and pursue their efforts to raise awareness among businesses, targeting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular.

Stakeholder notices:

In parallel, the European Commission is reviewing and, where necessary, updating all 102 stakeholder notices, published at the time of the withdrawal negotiations – many of which continue to be relevant for the end of the transition period. The list of more than 50 updated notices is in annex to the Communication and all are available on the Commission's dedicated [webpage](#).