



UK-EU Reset

Exploring the potential impacts of a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Area

04 November 2025

Common Understanding


Cabinet Office

Policy paper

UK-EU Summit - Common Understanding (HTML)

Updated 19 May 2025

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Security, defence, and development cooperation
3. Putting people at the centre of the European Union – United Kingdom relationship
4. Strengthening our economies while protecting our planet and its resources
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1. Introduction

1. In view of the United Kingdom - European Union summit of 19 May 2025, the European Commission and the United Kingdom explored areas with the potential to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom^{[\[footnote 1\]](#)}. This Common Understanding between the European Commission and the United Kingdom sets out the conclusions of those exploratory talks. We will proceed swiftly on the undertakings set out in this document, in accordance with our respective procedures and legal frameworks. We will respect each other's decision-making autonomy.

2. In order to strengthen the bilateral relationship, we stress the pivotal importance of the two main agreements that underpin our relationship: the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Windsor Framework, and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. We reaffirm our commitment to their full, timely, and faithful implementation.

3. We note the political agreements leading to full reciprocal access to waters to fish until 30 June 2038 and extending energy cooperation on a continuous basis.


EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.7.2025
COM(2025) 408 final

Recommendation for a
COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the opening of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on a common sanitary and phytosanitary area between the European Union and the United Kingdom in respect of Great Britain and to link the United Kingdom and the Union's greenhouse emissions trading systems

Impact Assessment

Published 19 May 2025



- UK secures new agreement with the European Union to support British businesses, back British jobs, and put more money in people's pockets.
- Package will help make food cheaper, slash red tape, open up access to the EU market and add nearly £9 billion to the UK economy by 2040.
- Prime Minister hails agreement as 'good for jobs, good for bills, and good for our borders'.

Policy paper

A UK government food strategy for England, considering the wider UK food system

Published 15 July 2025

Impacts on wider policies

 GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Environment](#) > [Food and farming](#) > [Food and farming industry](#)

Policy paper

Farming Profitability Review: terms of reference

Policy paper

UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025: Working for a more sustainable future

Updated 9 May 2025

 HM Treasury

Policy paper

New approach to ensure regulators and regulation support growth (HTML)

Updated 31 March 2025

Impact Assessment

ASCERTAINING THE RISKS TO THE
PPP SUPPLY CHAIN UNDER DIFFERENT
SCENARIOS OF "DYNAMIC
ALIGNMENT" WITH THE EU

Compiled For

CropLifeUK 

3 potential scenarios

- Gradual dynamic alignment
- Time-limited dynamic alignment
- Immediate and retrospective alignment

Active Substances

Cinmethylin
Isoflucypram
Pydiflumetofen
Bixlozone



MRLs

Example - Acetamiprid



Commodity	GB MRL	EU MRL
Apples / Pears	0.4	0.07
Cherries	1.5	0.8
Wine grapes	0.5	0.08
Strawberries	0.7	0.5
Raspberries	2.0	0.6
Tomatoes	0.5	0.06
Sweet/bell peppers	0.4	0.09
Cucumbers	0.3	0.05
Broccoli	0.4	0.06
Lettuces	1.5	0.01
Spinaches	0.6	0.01

Maximum Residue Levels (mg/kg)

EU Direction of Travel

Vision for Agriculture and Food

Shaping the future of farming and the agri-food sector for future generations in Europe.

Strategy to promote generational renewal

This strategy will address demographic challenges facing the EU's agricultural sector by attracting and supporting young & entrepreneurial farmers.

More on the Strategy



PAGE CONTENTS

About the Vision

Build an attractive agri-food sector

Foster a competitive and resilient sector

Provide the conditions for a future-proof sector

Focus on food, fair living and working condition in rural areas

Documents

About the Vision

The Vision for agriculture and food fosters trust and dialogue across the entire value chain within the EU and globally. The Vision emphasises close engagement with relevant institutions, farmers, food chain operators and civil society at local and regional levels, addressing their concerns and ideas. An [indicative timeline](#) shows the roll-out and publication of the key underlying initiatives and highlights when the various stakeholders will be involved.



€900 billion
added value

generated by the EU agri-food
system in 2022



about 30 million
jobs

in the entire agri-food sector



only 12%
of farmers

are under 40 years old



Strasbourg, 8.7.2025
COM(2025) 526 final
2025/0526 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
amending Regulation (EU) 2024/2865 as regards dates of application and transitional provisions

Technical Report

APPROVED: 09 January 2025
doi: 10.2903/sp.efsa.2025. EN-9216



Outline for the revision of the terrestrial
ecotoxicology guidance document and for the
development of an approach on indirect effects

Version 1.0 (January 2025)

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

European Commission

Log in EN Search on Europa Search

Law

Plant protection products – data requirements for applications for authorisation (update)

Have your say - Public Consultations and Feedback Published initiatives Plant protection products – data requirements for applications for authorisation (update)

Draft act

Feedback period
04 September 2025 - 09 October 2025
Feedback Closed

Upcoming

Commission adoption
Feedback Closed

About this initiative

Topic Food safety
Type of act Regulation
Committee C20407

Draft act
Feedback period
04 September 2025 - 09 October 2025 (Indicative timeline)

European Commission

EN

Food, Farming, Fisheries

Food Safety

Home Food Safety Animals Plants Horizontal topics

Home Plants Pesticides REFIT

REFIT

Evaluation of the EU legislation on plant protection products and pesticides residues

Plant protection products (PPPs) are used to protect plants against pests or diseases. PPPs and their residues are regulated in the EU by Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005. The Commission approves active substances, i.e., the agent used to achieve the protective effect, for the use in PPPs, which are authorised by the Member States. In order to protect consumers, the Commission also sets maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides, i.e. the highest levels of pesticide residues that are legally tolerated in or on food or feed, including imported products.

Conclusions (or not!)

Still many unknowns with much uncertainty and much to think about...

- Loss of 'control' and regulatory autonomy
- Challenges from divergent areas not within the SPS deal e.g. CLP
- A gradual phased transition would be most sensible
- Also possible that the deal might not happen
- Regulatory performance needs to improve and be more transparent - under any scenario
- What can we do?