

DEFRA SPS AGREEMENT UPDATE

BHC WINTER MEETING 2025

Background

- The UK and EU have agreed to create a common sanitary and phytosanitary area. This means that the UK will be aligning with EU regulations for the areas in scope of the agreement, which includes the regulation of live animals. The Common Understanding states that this will result in the vast majority of movements of animals, animal products, plants, and plant products between Great Britain and the European Union being undertaken without the certificates or controls that are currently required by the rules within the scope of the SPS Agreement for such movements. These same benefits would be extended to the movements between Great Britain and Northern Ireland, through the interplay of the Windsor Framework and the SPS Agreement. We are unable to comment further while negotiations are taking place on the detail on the SPS agreement.

Negotiations

- We have begun negotiations with the EU on an SPS agreement to make trade with our biggest market cheaper and easier, cutting costs and removing barriers to trade for British producers and retailers. We're aiming to conclude negotiations and have legislative arrangements in place no later than 2027, subject to discussion with the EU.

Business readiness

- We recognise that business readiness is important and that industry will need to adapt. We will share information with industry on changes to existing regimes as soon as we are able to.

Industry engagement

- We recently held the first Industry Stakeholder Information Forum to provide an overview of the SPS agreement and progress to date. Whether you attended the Forum or not, we would like to hear your views on the SPS Agreement, particularly around:
 - What you see as the opportunities;
 - What you think you will need in terms of information to implement it;
 - Any case studies and sector-specific considerations;
 - Any other support you need to make the most of the deal.

Please share your feedback, and any other questions you may have by emailing

EUEngagement@defra.gov.uk

- The November Forum is just the beginning of our engagement with industry and we will be coming back out with more engagement in the New Year and will provide further updates as soon as negotiations allow. If you didn't attend the forum and would like to be included at future events, please contact EUEngagement@defra.gov.uk