

**UK-Andean sub-committee on Technical Barriers to Trade**  
**14:00-16:00 GMT / Tuesday 26 April 2022, Webex videoconference**

**Attendees:**

UK

Tom King, Sisi Omu, Adrien Couderc, Nathan Marsh, Melissa Roberts, Andrea Perez, Anthony Gilmore, Niamh Lear, Ned Mazhar, Qaed Munshi

Ecuador

Andrés Quiroz, Carina Rosero, Jeanneth Bustamante, Iván Flores, Javier Llorca, Verónica Santillán, Martín Herrera

Peru

Ingrid Jauregui Lozano, Claudia Rosas, Carlos Castillo, Andrea Florián, Jesús Asencios, Soraya Lastra Casapía, Fiorella León Shedan, Laura Cerón, Francisco Retuerto, Consuelo Orihuela, Luzmila Zegarra

Colombia

Juan Felipe Quintero

Interpreters

Antonio Carvallo, Nora Ohrenstein

**Agenda:**

- 1. Opening Remarks and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Agreement on the Rules of Procedure**
- 4. Procedure for the Mutual Recognition of Organics – Ecuador and Peru**
- 5. UK Updates on Regulatory Changes**
- 6. Conclusions and Next steps**
- 7. Any Other Business**
- 8. Date of Next Meeting and Closing Remarks**

**Summary:** A productive and collaborative first meeting of the UK-Andean TBT sub-committee. Main topics of discussion included the procedure to be followed on a potential recognition agreement for organics and changes to the UK's regulatory procedures since the UK-Andean agreement entered into force (highlighting in particular the removal of VI-1 certification for wine and the UKCA mark). All Parties agreed to continue to cooperate and share technical information via correspondence outside of the sub-committee with a view to

optimise the progress that can be made on TBT matters between the United Kingdom and the Andean nations.

### **Opening Remarks and Introductions**

- All Parties expressed their gratitude at the collaborative approach taken to prepare for this sub-committee and signaled their aspirations to further develop the UK-Andean relationship and continue to work closely on implementation of the trade agreement.

### **Approval of Agenda of the first meeting of the TBT sub-committee**

- The order of items 4 (UK update on changes to regulatory requirements) and 5 (procedure for mutual recognition of organics) were swapped at the request of Ecuador.
- Ecuador requested an item under “any other business” on the UK’s environmental law.
- UK requested two items under “any other business” on the process for pharmaceutical registration in Ecuador and the fast-track route for pharmaceuticals and medical devices in Peru.

### **Agreement on the Rules of Procedure (RoP)**

- The Parties agreed to temporarily adopt the EU-Andean RoP pending the agreement of a new draft UK-Andean RoP at the Trade Committee, in line with the approach taken in other sub-committees under this agreement.

### **Procedure for the Mutual Recognition of Organics**

- Statement by Ecuador  
Presentation from Ecuador emphasised importance of UK market access and desire to reach agreement on equivalence with the UK. Ecuador is currently increasing organic production and explained the updates they are making to their legal framework to facilitate this.

Ecuador looking for guidance and the procedure from the UK on the best route to follow in order to achieve this aim.

- Statement by Peru  
Reassert Peruvian interest in getting to know procedures to initiate negotiations on mutual recognition. As per previous questions submitted via email, Peru is looking for clarification on these procedures, and look forward to receiving the further responses from the UK’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

UK agreed to take away questions from Ecuador and Peru and suggested a continuation of these discussions informally over email.

## **ACTIONS**

**UK to take forward technical questions to organics experts in DEFRA to establish procedure for MRA on organics. Will formally respond to this and outstanding email questions in due course.**

**Ecuador to send MRA Organics presentation to UK**

**UK update on changes to regulatory requirements since entry into force of the agreement.**

- UK Regulatory Framework

UK provided an outline of their regulatory framework, including technical regulations, standards, accreditation and conformity assessment.

As an example of an area where the UK has diverged from EU law, the UK highlighted removal of wine VI-1 certification on imports to Great Britain to reduce the regulatory burden on Andean partners. The UK stated they are looking to work closely with business stakeholders to assess impact of any future regulatory changes.

- UK Conformity Assessed (UKCA) Marking

Presentation from the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy explaining impact of UKCA mark and its significance for the Andean region. UK affirms willingness to answer any queries on this and would be looking for support from Andean government to utilise their networks and social media to raise the profile of this in their respective nations.

- Contact for queries on the UKCA mark is [goodsregulation@beis.gov.uk](mailto:goodsregulation@beis.gov.uk)

Ecuador asked whether all products on the UK market will have to show the new UKCA mark. UK responded that UKCA mark applies to goods which previously required the CE marking and the reversed epsilon marking and that exporters should check guidance available on the UK government website.

Ecuador asked whether the UK is planning to replicate the EU platform that provides information on technical rules for certain products. The UK agreed to take this away and respond over email.

## **ACTIONS**

**UK to share UKCA mark presentation with Ecuador, Peru and Colombia for each Party to share internally and with their industry.**

**UK to clarify plans for equivalent database to EU helpdesk for exporters and to feedback to Andean nations.**

## **Any Other Business**

- Ecuador asked how the UK visualizes implementation of their environmental deforestation regulation which was adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Ecuador would appreciate extra clarity on how this will align with EU regulation on deforestation. The UK suggested this may not be a matter for the TBT sub-committee, but agreed to discuss with relevant experts and provide Ecuador with a response.
- The UK asked about Ecuador's process for registering pharmaceuticals. UK companies have reported difficulties in accessing the Ecuadorian market, specifically relating to the amount of time taken to obtain the Health Registry for pharmaceuticals. The UK appreciates the openness shown by the Ecuadorian health agency in working to address these issues and would like to hear Ecuador's assessment of the results of the projects discussed. Ecuador is currently updating the regulations on the assessment of new pharmaceuticals. This is at the final stages of operation and will be shared with the Ministry of Public Health in 15 days. The process of review will continue from there and then products should be able to be processed in the 60 days, as required.
- The UK asked about the fast-track route for pharmaceuticals and medical devices approvals in Peru. Peru delivered a presentation on pharmaceutical and medical devices approval levels and processes (shared with the UK previously). Peru are considering recognizing the UKCA mark for medical devices. The UK were grateful to hear this positive development and are ready to assist Peru with any further information on the UKCA mark if needed.

## **ACTIONS**

**UK to provide clarity on implementation of deforestation legislation of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and will respond to Ecuador ASAP.**

## **Conclusions and Next Steps**

- UK agreed to take forward technical questions to organics experts in DEFRA to establish procedure for MRA on organics. The UK will formally respond to this and outstanding email questions in due course.
- Ecuador to send MRA Organics presentation to UK.
- UK to share UKCA mark presentation with Ecuador, Peru and Colombia.
- UK to clarify plans for equivalent database to EU helpdesk for exporters and to feedback answer to Andean nations.
- UK to provide clarity on implementation of deforestation legislation of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and will respond to Ecuador in due course.

## Procedure for agreeing joint minutes

- UK to share minutes first draft and summary for consideration within 10 days. Final minutes to be agreed within 21 days.

### **Date of Next Meeting and Closing Remarks**

- UK thanked all Parties for a warm and productive first meeting.
- UK reiterated intent to use committees flexibly, and are happy to continue to work with Andean countries via email.