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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	1 September 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2026) 458 annex
Subject:	ANNEX to the Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 regarding the modification of its WTO import tariff concessions on steel and steel products

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 458 annex.

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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Recommendation for a Council Decision

**authorising the opening of negotiations on an agreement between the European Union
and the United Kingdom under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs
and Trade 1994 regarding the modification of its WTO import tariff concessions on steel
and steel products**

ANNEX

DIRECTIVES FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION AND THE UNITED KINGDOM UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994 REGARDING THE MODIFICATION OF THE WTO IMPORT TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON STEEL AND STEEL PRODUCTS AS CURRENTLY BINDING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

- The Commission should negotiate an agreement with the United Kingdom pursuant to Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994¹, following the United Kingdom's decision to modify its import tariff concessions as they are currently binding the United Kingdom and reflected in its Schedule of Concessions XIX on all products between HS headings 72.06 and HS 73.07 by increasing the current duty binding to 50% ad valorem.
- The Commission should conduct the negotiations, with a view to agree with the United Kingdom on the modification and on adequate compensation following the United Kingdom's decision to modify its import tariff concessions on all products covered between HS headings 72.06 and HS 73.07 in its Schedule of Concessions XIX by increasing the current duty binding to 50% ad valorem.
- The Commission should follow the relevant WTO provisions, in particular Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on the Interpretation of Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994.
- The Commission should report to the Council on the outcome of the negotiations and, where appropriate, on any problem that may arise during the negotiations.

¹ https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_e.htm.