



Cabinet of Commissioner Phil HOGAN

Brussels, 16 April 2020
D(2020)

NOTE TO THE FILE

Subject: GestDem 2020/1720 - PBSITG Meeting Request (17, 18, 19 February)

Present:

PBSITG Art.4.1.(b)
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Euro Commission Dermot Ryan, Cab Hogan

The Professional and Business Services International Trade Group (PBSITG) represents a broad range of interests, associations and firms across services sectors including: accountancy, advertising and market research, auditing, architecture and engineering, management consultancy and law (among others). Many of the firms have pan-European operations and bases and serve EU clients on a regular basis.

The PBSITG representatives expressed their concern for the effective operation of their respective professions – e.g. accountancy and law – in EU MS after the end of the transition period. They recalled the importance of a close relationship between the EU and the UK, especially for professional and business services in the future and emphasised the value of a trade agreement that covers the EU and UK professional and business sectors.

Mr Ryan confirmed the EU's desire to conclude a comprehensive agreement with the UK, which would include a wide range of activities, including with regard to trade in services. He noted that, even with a comprehensive agreement in place, there will be significant changes in the trading relationship. He recalled that the EU would negotiate with the UK on the basis of a negotiating mandate given to the Commission by the

Council. He outlined the likely process over the coming weeks and offered to meet the PBSITG before the summer, to review the negotiations to that point and to look forward to the process over the following months.