

JOINT DECLARATION

CONCERNING A TRILATERAL APPROACH TO RULES OF ORIGIN

1. In advance of the conclusion of trade negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the “United Kingdom”), the United Kingdom and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (“Viet Nam”) recognise that a trilateral approach to rules of origin, involving the European Union, is the preferred outcome in trading arrangements between the United Kingdom and Viet Nam, and the European Union. This approach would replicate coverage of existing trade flows and allow for continued recognition of originating content from either of the United Kingdom and Viet Nam and from the European Union in exports to each other, as per the intention of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. In this regard, the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam understand that any bilateral arrangement between the United Kingdom and Viet Nam represents a first step towards seeking this outcome.

2. In the event that the United Kingdom and the European Union reach agreement on rules of origin appropriate for a trilateral approach, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam approve taking the necessary steps, as a matter of urgency, to update the Protocol to the Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (the “UK-Viet Nam FTA”) Concerning the Definition of Concepts of “Originating Products” and Methods of Administrative Cooperation to reflect a trilateral approach to rules of origin involving the European Union. The necessary steps will be taken in accordance with the procedures of the Trade Committee contained in the UK-Viet Nam FTA. Should the agreement between the United Kingdom and European Union not include the provision of rules of origin suitable for a trilateral approach at entry into force, it is the understanding of both the United Kingdom and Viet Nam that they will endeavour to pursue appropriate discussions with the European Union.

3. This Joint Declaration will come into effect on the entry into effect of the UK-Viet Nam FTA and will continue in operation until terminated in writing by either the United Kingdom or the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Termination will take effect immediately upon the date of such notification.