



**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Engaging and influencing trade policy

Negotiating a 'healthy' trade policy for the UK The Faculty of Public Health

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www.fph.org.uk

Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth

#DoNoHarm

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2019/11/01/martin-mckee-is-the-nhs-on-the-table-after-brexit-looking-beyond-the-soundbites/>

Health in All Policies

“Improving the health of people in the UK will improve the productivity of our nation and enhancing our health and care industries will provide a platform for creating health related jobs: the “health dividend.” The next UK government therefore needs to make health central to all its policies. And it must not surrender our rights to health in the post-Brexit era.”

Source: *BMJ* ; 357: j2676

Health in All Policies

“a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities”

Source: Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, Article 168, Public Health, <https://bit.ly/1q3mD7t>

Health in All Policies

“ Our guarantee of equivalent or higher standards of health protection and health improvement when we have left the EU is unequivocal ”

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care during passage of EU (Withdrawal) Act, 18 April 2018 ⁶

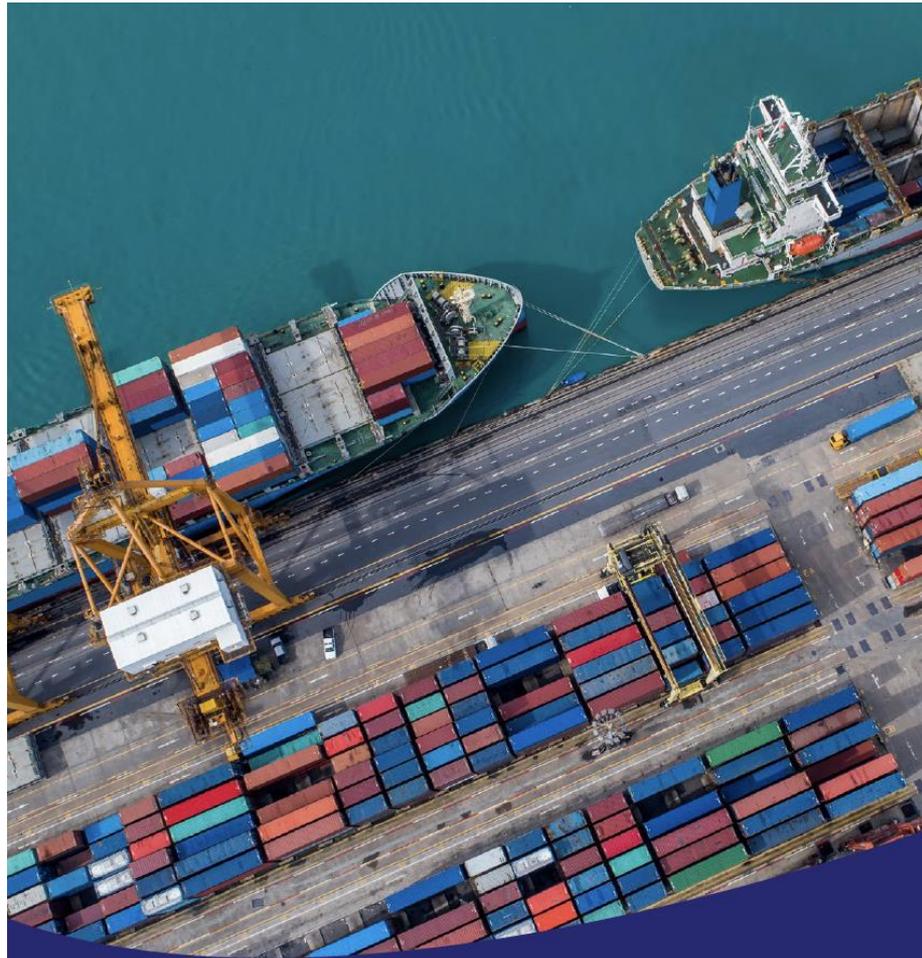


Source: Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP,
<https://bit.ly/2HaMvfz>

Health in All Policies

“The effect of Article 168 in the domestic law of this country before exit will continue after exit...we are now in a good position to offer certainty”. Lord Duncan of Springbank, Lead Minister in the Lords during passage of EU (Withdrawal) Act ¹⁵

Source: Hansard, EU (Withdrawal) Bill, Lord Duncan of Springbank, 23 April 2018, <https://bit.ly/2C4LgMC>



Negotiating a 'healthy' trade policy for the UK

Blueprint for a public health approach to
post-Brexit trade agreements



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<https://www.fph.org.uk/media/2444/a-blueprint-for-a-public-health-approach-to-post-brexit-trade-negotiations.pdf>

Method

FPH carried out a six-month programme of evidence-gathering:

- We hosted a series of stakeholder workshops involving over 20 organisations, including FPH's members, health and legal experts, and officials.
- We commissioned polling experts ComRes to conduct a major survey of 505 business leaders across the UK in businesses with over 50 employees about health and trade.

Key Findings

83% agree that public health regulations and rules help support sustainable economic development

1. 94% of business leaders think it is important that the UK Government secures future trade deals with other countries that include high public health standards and regulations
2. 92% of business leaders agree that the business community has a responsibility to help ensure the health and wellbeing of the UK workforce is maintained
3. 87% of business leaders agree that current public health rules, regulations and protections help to support the health and wellbeing of the UK workforce (61% agree that they don't go far enough).
4. 85% of business leaders agree that the UK Government should consider the possible impact on the health and wellbeing of the UK workforce before agreeing post-Brexit trade deals.
5. 83% of business leaders agree that current public health rules, regulations and protections help to support sustainable economic development.
6. 77% of business leaders agree that leaders in the health community should have a 'seat at the table' alongside the business community in the negotiation of post-Brexit trade deals.

94% of business leaders think it important that the UK Government secures future trade deals with other countries that include high public health standards and regulations

Key recommendations

“ Trade is not an end in itself but a means to an end – a means of spreading prosperity ever more widely.

The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP,
Secretary of State for International Trade

”

1. Trade negotiations should be developed in a spirit of consensus building, with a presumption of transparency, full democratic oversight, and an overarching aim to deliver a net benefit to all.
2. The health community should have a ‘seat at the table’, alongside the business community, in the development of the UK’s trade policy and post-Brexit trade negotiations.
3. The UK’s Post-Brexit trade agreements should embed the UK Government’s commitments to ‘do no harm’ to the public’s health, including to ensure “a high level of human health protection”.
4. A Health in All Policies Approach should be adopted to the development of the UK’s post-Brexit trade policy, with trade agreements designed to promote health equity and sustainability
5. A ‘Duty to Regulate’ to protect and improve the public’s health should be adopted as the UK develops an independent trade policy and negotiates future free trade agreements (FTAs).
6. The right to health should be explicitly embedded into the UK’s future trade policy and negotiating positions, which should be both compliant with and measured against it.

Six Principles for 'healthy' trade

The UK Government has guaranteed that our existing public health protections and standards, and won't be 'traded away' with any trade partner – and that they will be the same or higher after Brexit.

1. A transparent and inclusive trade policy
2. A 'seat at the table'
3. Do no harm
4. Health in All Policies
5. The duty to regulate
6. The right to health

Six Principles for 'healthy' trade

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A transparent and inclusive trade policy

Recommendations

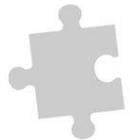
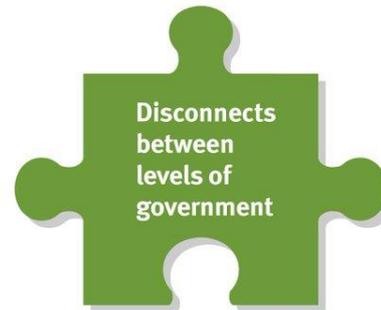
- UK government to adopt the principles outlined in the multi-stakeholder tool “Trade Governance Model that Works for Everyone”
- Trade negotiations should be developed in a spirit of consensus building with full democratic oversight



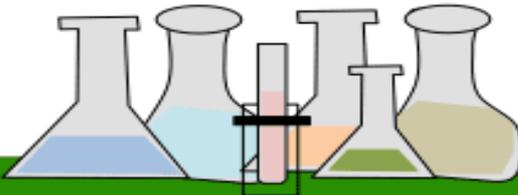
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Centre for Food Policy
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for integrated and inclusive food policy

Fragmentations that integrated food policy can address



www.city.ac.uk/food-policy



Both US and EU evaluate scientific research on:
Nutritional content
Environmental health
Human health

U.S.

E.U.

All GM foods are regulated

European Food Safety Authority
Evaluates human and environmental risks of GM foods

Approval by European Commission or a committee of member states

All foods containing more than 0.9% GM material must be labeled

Companies can be exempt from regulations

EPA
Regulates human and environmental health

USDA
Regulates transportation and planting of GM crops

FDA
Regulates nutritional content of GM crops

No labeling requirement for GM foods



Six Principles for 'healthy' trade

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Health in All Policies

Recommendations

- UK government to adopt a health in all policies approach in the development of the UK's post Brexit trade policy
- UK government to embed Comprehensive Integrated Impact Assessments (CIAs) into future foreign trade agreements.

Six Principles for 'healthy' trade

The UK Government has guaranteed that our existing public health protections and standards, and won't be 'traded away' with any trade partner – and that they will be the same or higher after Brexit.

The duty to regulate

Recommendations

- UK government to adopt a “duty to regulate” to protect and improve the public’s health as the UK develops an independent trade policy and free trade agreements
- UK government to up hold the UK’s current framework for assessing risk
- UK government to agree and implement a fair, transparent and balanced dispute resolution system.

Six Principles for 'healthy' trade

The UK Government has guaranteed that our existing public health protections and standards, and won't be 'traded away' with any trade partner – and that they will be the same or higher after Brexit.

The right to health

Recommendations

- UK government to explicitly embed the right to health into the UK's future trade policy and negotiating positions, and the policy and negotiation is measurably compliant
- The UK's future trade policy should be designed to ensure sustainable economic growth based on the highest levels of health and wellbeing among the UK workforce and population.

What should you consider if you are a civil servant working on trade policy?



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