

Mr Fernández-Martos
Head of Unit – Economic affairs II – (former) UK Task Force
Rue de la Loi 200
1040 Brussels

18 March 2021

RE: EU-UK short term assignments

Dear Mr Fernández-Martos,

According to the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (see below Article 8 of Annex Servin -3), companies can send personnel to the UK for short-term work assignments without a visa, provided that they have a purchase or lease contract with a UK company. However, this does not apply to the personnel of company suppliers with a purchasing or leasing contract, who would need a visa. The same problems exist with sub-contractors. In the technology sectors, it is common for the manufacturer of a product to commission external service teams or sub-contractors to carry out assembly or services at the UK customer's premises. Furthermore, a visa is required for intra-corporate postings, putting companies that invest in an international support network at a disadvantage.

Article 8 of Annex Servin-3¹

"h) after-sales or after-lease service: installers, repair and maintenance personnel and supervisors, possessing specialised knowledge essential to a seller's contractual obligation, supplying services or training workers to supply services pursuant to a warranty or other service contract incidental to the sale or lease of commercial or industrial equipment or machinery, including computer software, purchased or leased from a legal person of the Party of which the Short-term business visitor is a natural person throughout the duration of the warranty or service contract,".

Orgalim stresses that it is very important for the personnel of suppliers to be able to perform short-term work assignments in the UK without a visa. The provision of services (installation, maintenance and repair) by manufacturers, suppliers and sub-contractors is an important part of our trade with the UK. The same applies to intra-corporate postings.

Orgalim requests that these problems be addressed through bilateral negotiations aimed at clarifying additional commitments on short term assignments.

Yours sincerely,



Malte Lohan
Orgalim Director General

¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A1231\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22020A1231(01)&from=EN)

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