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-3:
“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


Orgalim represents Europe’s technology industries, comprised of 770,000 companies that innovate at the crossroads of digital and physical technology. Our industries develop and manufacture the products, systems and services that enable a prosperous and sustainable future. Ranging from large globally active corporations to regionally anchored small and medium-sized enterprises, the companies we represent directly employ 11.55 million people across Europe and generate an annual turnover of €2,298 billion. Orgalim is registered under the European Union Transparency Register – ID number: 20210641335-88.