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## **EU and UK industry calls for a mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment in pursuit of economic growth**

EU and UK business organisations met in February 2025 to discuss practical measures to reduce technical barriers to EU-UK trade. Recognising the shared nature of challenges faced by industry in the EU and UK, the discussion identified a mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment as a desirable outcome of the forthcoming discussions between the parties.

Such an agreement would bring the following mutual benefits:

- ❖ Increased stability in regulatory environments, which brings confidence to business investment and enables scalability.
- ❖ The avoidance of duplicative conformity assessments for EU and UK businesses who want to trade into both markets. Lowering compliance costs in this way supports export-led growth, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- ❖ Greater availability of conformity assessment bodies to EU and UK businesses for regulatory purposes, building capacity, capability and increasing competition.

The common goal of industry on both sides is to achieve efficient market access with as few administrative and bureaucratic hurdles as possible. In this regard, EU and UK business organisations recognised a mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment as practical and deliverable, because:

- ❖ It can be delivered alongside other industry-focused measures or can act as a standalone 'mini deal', outside the EU-UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement.
- ❖ It is scalable over time, allowing an initial agreement to be reached on selected sectors and then built up.
- ❖ The United Kingdom Accreditation Service, UKAS, is assessed to the same requirements as EU Member State National Accreditation Bodies as a signatory to the European co-operation for Accreditation multilateral agreement; this facilitates the technical recognition of equivalence of accredited conformity assessment.

Considering the ambition to deepen the trading relationship, and the upcoming EU-UK Summit on 19 May, the below signatories therefore call on the EU and the UK to pursue a mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment, recognising it as a practical and achievable measure to reduce unnecessary barriers to trade.

# Signatories calling for a mutual recognition agreement on conformity assessment



APPLiA



British Chamber of Commerce  
EU & Belgium



British Chambers of Commerce



Chartered Institute of  
Export & International Trade



Confederation of  
British Industry



Construction Products  
Association



Construction Products  
Europe



EURIS



European Federation of  
Catering Equipment Manufacturers



Federation of Small  
Businesses



LightingEurope



Make UK



Orgalim – Europe's  
Technology Industries



Scottish  
Engineering



Small Business  
Standards



SMEUnited



Confederation of Swedish  
Enterprise



techUK



United Kingdom Accreditation  
Service