

Trade Agreements (Parliamentary Scrutiny and Farming) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

CONTENTS

- 1 Parliamentary approval of trade agreements
- 2 Duty to consider agricultural, environmental and animal welfare standards
- 3 Trade and Agriculture Commission reports
- 4 Extent, commencement and short title

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Provide for parliamentary approval of trade agreements; to place a duty on the Secretary of State to consider UK agricultural, environmental and animal welfare standards when negotiating trade agreements; to require the Trade and Agriculture Commission to assess the effects of potential trade agreements on farming, the rural environment and animal welfare and to produce associated reports; to require the Secretary of State to lay such reports before Parliament; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Parliamentary approval of trade agreements

- (1) A Minister of the Crown must not enter into any bilateral international trade agreement unless the condition in subsection (2) is met.
- (2) That condition is that the House of Commons has passed a Motion of the form in subsection (3) in relation to that bilateral international trade agreement. 5
- (3) The form of the Motion is—

“That this House consents to the international trade agreement between the United Kingdom and [country], laid before the House on [date].”

2 Duty to consider agricultural, environmental and animal welfare standards

- (1) When negotiating a bilateral international trade agreement, the Secretary of State must consider the effects of any differences in agricultural, environmental and animal standards between the United Kingdom and the other country potentially party to that agreement. 10
- (2) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report on steps taken pursuant to the duty under subsection (1) in relation to a bilateral trade agreement before any Motion under section 1 is moved about that agreement. 15

3 Trade and Agriculture Commission reports

- (1) Section 8 of the Trade Act 2021 (Trade and Agriculture Commission) is amended in accordance with subsection (2).

- (2) After subsection (2) (advice under the Agriculture Act 2020) insert –
- “(2A) As part of that advice, the TAC must –
- (a) assess the effects of any proposed bilateral international trade agreement between the United Kingdom and another country on farming, the rural environment and animal welfare, and 5
 - (b) prepare a report on that assessment for the Secretary of State.”
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable any report received under section 8(2A) of the Trade Act 2021.

4 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 10
- (2) Sections 1 and 2 and this section come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Section 3 comes into force on the day on which section 8 of the Trade Act 2021 comes into force.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Trade Agreements (Parliamentary Scrutiny and Farming) Act 2022. 15

Trade Agreements (Parliamentary Scrutiny and Farming) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

B I L L

TO

Provide for parliamentary approval of trade agreements; to place a duty on the Secretary of State to consider UK agricultural, environmental and animal welfare standards when negotiating trade agreements; to require the Trade and Agriculture Commission to assess the effects of potential trade agreements on farming, the rural environment and animal welfare and to produce associated reports; to require the Secretary of State to lay such reports before Parliament; and for connected purposes.

Presented by Tim Farron

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be
Printed, 1st December 2021.

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2022

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at
www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright*

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS