

**PARTNERSHIP, TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (“the United Kingdom”) and THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA (“Albania”) (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

RECOGNISING that the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, done at Luxembourg on 12 June 2006 (“the EU-Albania Agreement”) will cease to apply to the United Kingdom at the end of the transitional arrangement during which that Agreement continues to apply to the United Kingdom;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the principles set out in the preamble to the EU-Albania Agreement, and desiring that the rights and obligations between the Parties as provided for by the EU-Albania Agreement should continue as modified by this Agreement;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE 1

Objectives

1. The overriding objective of this Agreement is to preserve the links between the Parties established by the association created in Article 1 of the EU-Albania Agreement.
2. In particular, the Parties agree to preserve the preferential conditions relating to trade between the Parties which resulted from the EU-Albania Agreement and to provide a platform for further trade liberalisation between the Parties.
3. For the avoidance of doubt, it is confirmed that the Parties establish an association as well as a free trade area in goods and associated rules in accordance with this Agreement and affirm the objectives in Article 1 of the EU-Albania Agreement (as modified by this instrument).

ARTICLE 2

Definitions and interpretation

1. This ‘instrument’ means these Articles 1 to 12 and Annexes I to III below, together with the preamble above and the signatures below.

2. Throughout this instrument:

the “Incorporated Agreement” means the provisions of the EU-Albania Agreement to the extent incorporated into this Agreement (and related expressions are to be read accordingly); and

“*mutatis mutandis*” means with the technical changes necessary to apply the EU-Albania Agreement as if it had been concluded between the United Kingdom and Albania, taking into account the object and purpose of this Agreement.

3. Throughout the Incorporated Agreement and this instrument, “this Agreement” means the entire agreement comprising this instrument and the integral parts of this Agreement as referred to in Article 10 of this instrument, and the provisions of the EU-Albania Agreement as incorporated by Article 3(1).

4. References to financial cooperation in the Incorporated Agreement cover a range of forms of such cooperation and means by which it may occur, including assistance provided through multilateral and regional organisations.

ARTICLE 3

Incorporation of the EU-Albania Agreement

1. The provisions of the EU-Albania Agreement in effect immediately before they cease to apply to the United Kingdom are incorporated into and made part of this Agreement, *mutatis mutandis*, subject to the provisions of this instrument.

2. The obligations in the Joint Declarations made by the parties to the EU-Albania Agreement in relation to that Agreement and set out in Annex I to this instrument shall apply with the same legal effect, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Parties to this Agreement, subject to the provisions of this instrument.

ARTICLE 4

References to European Union law

1. Except as otherwise provided, references in this Agreement to European Union law are to be read as references to that European Union law in force as incorporated or implemented in United Kingdom law as retained European Union law on the day after the United Kingdom ceases to be bound by the relevant European Union law.

2. In this Article “United Kingdom law” includes the law of the territories for whose international relations the United Kingdom is responsible to whom this Agreement extends, as set out in Article 6.