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Analysis of Agricultural Trade Agreement between Turkey and the UK after Brexit

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Abstract

This study reviews the Brexit period and the free trade agreements of the United Kingdom. The main aim is to examine the trade relations and the trade agreement between Turkey and the United Kingdom in order to comment on further trade relations by analysing the free trade agreement signed on December 2020. According to the agreement, it can be revealed that there is limited free trade in agricultural goods. Some goods benefit from the preferential tariffs applied by the UK, but some Turkish export goods have limited preferential tariffs and will enter the UK's market within the quota limits. The United Kingdom also has limited preference in the Turkish market. It can be concluded that this free trade agreement may not foster the trade relations between the countries as expected.

Keywords: *Brexit, Trade agreement, Preferential tariff treatment, Tariff quota*

Brexit Sonrası Türkiye ve Birleşik Krallık Arsında Yapılan Tarım ticaret Anlaşmasının Analizi

Öz

Bu çalışma, Birleşik Krallığın Brexit dönemini ve serbest ticaret anlaşmalarını özetlemektedir. Temel amaç, Aralık 2020'de imzalanan serbest ticaret anlaşmasını analiz ederek daha ileri ticari ilişkiler hakkında yorum yapabilmek için Türkiye ile Birleşik Krallık arasındaki ticari ilişkileri ve ticaret anlaşmasını incelemektir. Anlaşmaya göre, tarım ürünlerinde sınırlı serbest ticaret olduğu gözlemlenmektedir. Bazı mallar Birleşik Krallık tarafından uygulanan tercihli tarifelerden yararlanmaktadır, ancak bazı Türk ihraç malları sınırlı tercihli tarifelere sahiptir ve Birleşik Krallık pazarına kota sınırları dahilinde girmesi mümkündür. Birleşik Krallığın da Türkiye pazarında sınırlı tercihli ticareti olacaktır. İki ülke arasındaki yeni serbest ticaret anlaşmasının ticari ilişkileri beklendiği gibi geliştirmeyebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Brexit, Ticaret anlaşması, Tercihli tarife uygulamas, Tarife oranlı kota*

1. Introduction

The United Kingdom's membership of the European Union (EU) started in 1973 and ended in January 2020. During her membership, the United Kingdom (UK) decided to leave the Union for two times. The first referendum was in favour of staying in the Union. In the second referendum, the UK voted for leaving the Union. When the exit negotiations came to an end, the withdrawal agreement was signed, and the transition period started. The UK isn't any more part of the single market with the EU. After leaving the EU, the United Kingdom started to negotiate her own trade agreements.

The aim of this study is to make an analysis of agricultural components in the trade agreement between Turkey and the United Kingdom, and examination of the trade preferences of both sides. Firstly, the study explains the Brexit transition period and the trade agreements of the United Kingdom shortly, and then gives information about the trade relations of the UK with her trade partners. Lasty, the trade agreement and agricultural trade between Turkey and the United Kingdom are analysed.

2. Brexit and the Transition Period

The European Union is an Economic Union which is the deepest form of an economic integration. The United Kingdom joined the European Community (EC) in 1973 when there had been a customs union between the EC members. The European Community reached the common market status at the end of 1992 and became a monetary union after the introduction of the Euro in 1999. The United Kingdom did not enter the monetary union, just stayed in the common market stage inside the Union. So, in fact, Brexit means exit from the common market.

The United Kingdom held two referendums during her membership. Two years after the UK joined the European Community, the UK held a referendum whether to continue its membership. The British people voted for staying in the Union in the referendum. The result of the second referendum in 2016 was in favour of "exit" from the European Union (51,9% for, 48,1% against leaving the EU) (Pruitt, 2019). According to the referendum results, Britain notified the European Council of its intention to leave the European Union on March 29, 2017, and the exit negotiations began. The exit period was called Brexit which was the short definition of the words "Britain and exit".

A political agreement was prepared on the financial statement in December 2017. Later, the withdrawal agreement was agreed between the UK and the EU in November 2018. The United Kingdom left the Union in January 2020. However, in the withdrawal agreement a transition period was proposed until the end of 2020 to negotiate some other details of the exit.

According to the UK–EU Withdrawal Agreement, the Brexit transition is the period which started on 31 January 2020 and ended on 31 December 2020. During this period, UK remained in the common market and in the customs union, but was no more a member of the European Union. The UK continued to contribute to the budget, and considered all the EU rules, in order to make a deal.

The UK government mentioned this transition period as an "implementation period" (Wright & Etherington, 2 Dec, 2020). The aim of this period to give time to the both sides while negotiations between the UK and the EU continued.

The transition period included (Edgington, Jul 1, 2020):

- Travelling to and from the EU (including the rules around driving licences and pet passports)
- Freedom of movement (the right to live and work in the EU and vice versa)
- UK-EU trade, which will continue without any extra charges or checks being introduced
- There is no more free movement of people. UK visitors to the EU need a valid passport; visas are required for stays over 90 days in a 180-day period.
- There will be no free movement of goods. Customs formalities will be applied. For food exports from the UK valid health certificates will be required and (phyto-)sanitary border checks will be carried out (European Commission, Dec 24, 2020).

UK also leaves the Common Fisheries Policy. There will be equal access to waters. UK fishery products will face customs formalities, and Sanitary (human and animal health) and Phytosanitary (plant health) measures (SPS measures) will be checked by the Union. Transition period of 5.5 years during which reciprocal access rights to fish in each other's waters remained unchanged (European Commission, Dec 24, 2020).

During the transition period, until the end of 2020, the UK contributed to the EU Budget. UK's participation in the 2020 EU budget is paid in sterling, the settlement is drawn up and paid in euro. The UK receives and will continue to receive funding from EU programmes – such as structural funding – as if it were a Member State (Keep, 2020: 3). Table 1 shows the UK's net payments to the budget.

Table 1: UK's Net Payments to the Budget

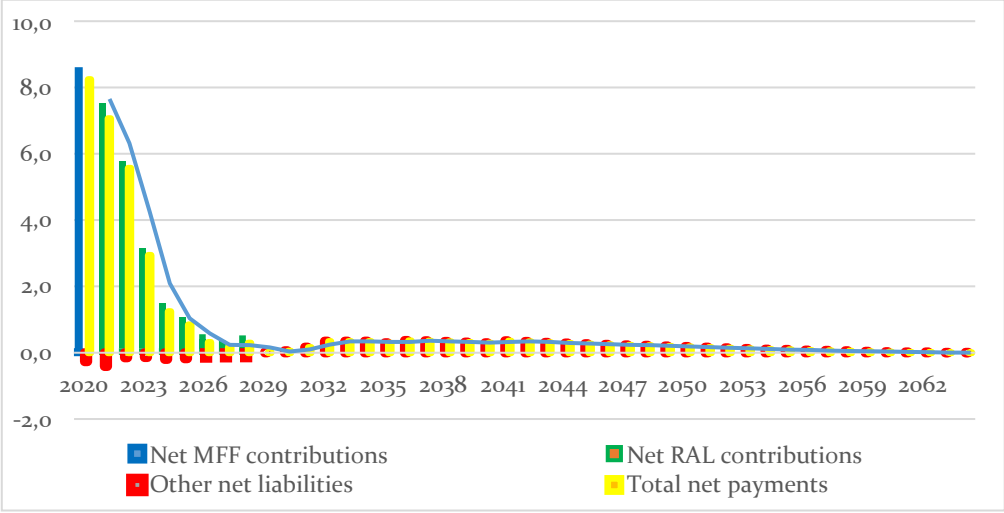
	Period	Payment (£)
UK participation in EU Budget (net)	2020	8,5
Net RAL contributions	2021-2028	19,8
Other net liabilities	2028-2064	-28,3
Total	2020-2064	33,4

Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, Nov 2020.

RAL: Reste à liquider (RAL or outstanding commitments), is the sum of commitments agreed but that have not yet turned into payments. (European Commission, 2020)

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) estimations, UK's net RAL payments will be of £19,8 billion, between 2021 and 2028. Total payments during 2020-2064 years will be appr. £33,4 billion. The figure shows that most of the payment will be realised until 2028. No EU Member State should pay more or receive less because of the UK's withdrawal from the EU (Keep, 2020: 3).

Figure 1: UK's Contribution to the Budget (2020-2068)



Source: Office for Budget Responsibility, Nov 2020.

3. UK's New Trade Agreements and its Trade Partners

UK set new tariff rates after the exit from the European Union. UK Global Tariff (UKGT) is pursued for the goods imported into the UK. The exception of this tariff profile applies when there is a trade agreement between UK and the country. Some imported products cover also tariff rate quotas.

3.1. UK's Trade Agreement with the European Union

The United Kingdom and the European Union signed a Trade and Cooperation Agreement in 2020. They agreed on 100% tariff liberalisation for the goods that comply with the relevant rules of origin. The statement on origin shall be made out in an invoice or on any other document that describes the originating product. The exporter shall be responsible for providing sufficient detail about the identification of the originating product. This statement shall be valid for 12 months up to a maximum of 24 months from the date it was made (UK Government, Dec 24, 2020: 35). Products that are certified as organic in one market will be recognised as organic in the other. The agreement also covers regulations about the free movement of capital and payments for goods and services in order to facilitate trade and investment.

3.2. UK's Trade Agreements with Non-EU Countries

From 1 January 2021 onwards, the EU trade agreements would not be applicable to the UK. After exit from the European Union, the United Kingdom started to negotiate new trade agreements with the non-EU countries to make trade easier.

Totally trade agreements with 61 countries / trade blocks have been applicable from January 1, 2021 onwards. Trade agreements with Serbia, Algeria, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina are still in discussion. The UK signed agreements with Albania, Jordan, Canada and Mexico, but they didn't enter into force. Differently from other agreements, UK signed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with USA, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Israel and Japan. Mutual recognition agreement (MRA) is an agreement in which countries recognise the results of one another's conformity assessments that include requirements like testing, inspection, and certification (UK Government, Mar 9, 2021).

Andorra and San Marino are part of customs unions with the EU. According to the agreement with these countries, the goods imported from Andorra and San Marino will not face with tariffs and when they provide the statement of origin.

Trade discussions between the UK and the other countries are taking place under WTO terms, but the trade discussions with Algeria (not member of the WTO) are taking place under the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preferences.

3.3. UK's Trade Partners

United Kingdom is a net importer in the trade of goods. The import share of Non-EU countries in the UK's trade has increased after 2016 (Table 2). In 2020, Non-EU countries accounted for 53% of total UK's goods exports. UK's import form the EU countries consisted of 53% of total imports.

Table 2: UK Trade in Goods with EU and Non-EU at Current Market Prices, £ million, Seasonally Adjusted

	Trade in goods			EU		Non-EU	
	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
2015	281 689	397 811	-116 122	47%	55%	53%	45%
2016	297 555	430 387	-132 832	48%	55%	52%	45%
2017	336.208	471.593	-135.385	49%	55%	51%	45%
2018	351.132	487.975	-136.843	49%	55%	51%	45%
2019	372.954	503.757	-130.803	46%	53%	54%	47%
2020	311.521	427.504	-115.983	47%	53%	53%	47%

Source: Official for National Statistics, 2021a.

UK's top export destinations are listed in Table 3. USA is the biggest export destination accounting for 15% of total UK's exports. Turkey ranks 15 in top UK's export partners with a share of 1,5%.

Table 3: Top UK'S Export destinations

	Country	2019, £ million	2020, £ million	% of Total Exports 2020
1	United States	61.215	47.284	15,2
2	Germany	36.592	31.888	10,2
3	Ireland	21.919	21.597	6,9
4	Netherlands	24.596	20.045	6,4
5	France	24.575	18.415	5,9
6	China	30.599	17.642	5,7
7	Switzerland	11.089	13.159	4,2
8	Belgium	12.943	10.663	3,4
9	Italy	10.064	8.652	2,8
10	Hong Kong	8.629	8.589	2,8
11	Spain	10.670	8.461	2,7
12	Canada	5.737	6.191	2,0
13	Japan	6.821	6.005	1,9
14	South Korea	4.176	4.879	1,6
15	Turkey	5.435	4.785	1,5

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2021b.

United Kingdom imports goods mainly from Germany and China with import shares of 12,8% and 12,7%, respectively. The United States is a crucial trade partner of the United Kingdom and is the third biggest import source of the UK with a share of 8,6%. Turkey ranks 12 in the Import Partners list of the UK (Table 4).

Table 4: Top UK's Import Sources

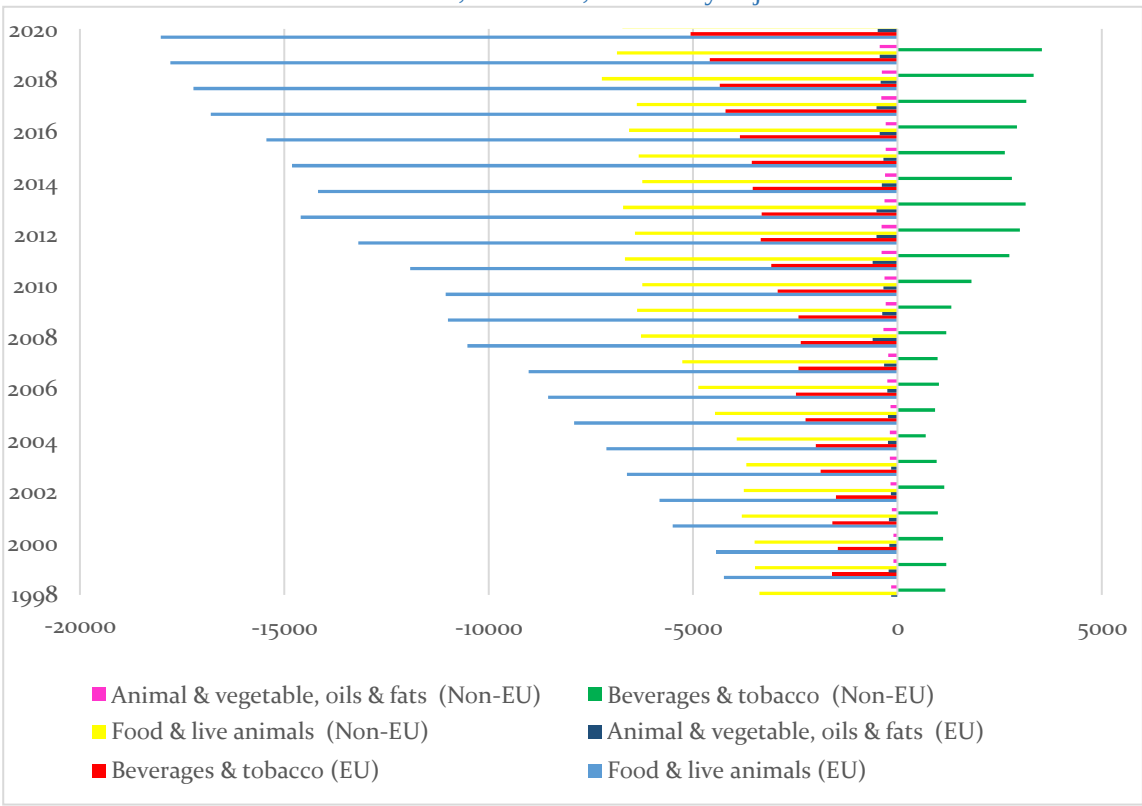
	Country	2019, £ million	2020, £ million	% of Total Imports 2020
1	Germany	65.355	54.910	12,8
2	China	47.032	54.105	12,7
3	United States	46.434	36.722	8,6
4	Netherlands	42.585	35.651	8,3
5	France	31.317	23.949	5,6
6	Belgium	25.999	22.953	5,4
7	Italy	19.778	16.978	4,0
8	Spain	17.311	14.739	3,4
9	Ireland	13.753	13.100	3,1
10	Norway	16.158	11.314	2,6
11	Poland	11.012	10.533	2,5
12	Turkey	9.013	8.178	1,9
13	Russia	8.321	7.905	1,8
14	Hong Kong	7.122	7.158	1,7
15	Japan	9.724	7.101	1,7

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2021b.

Agriculture's contribution to the national economy in the United Kingdom remained at less than 1% (National Statistics, 2020: 11). UK had a trade surplus with non-EU countries only in beverages and tobacco group. In other agricultural commodities UK had trade deficits with the EU and non- EU countries (Figure 2). UK's trade deficit has been increasing with EU in food and animal product group. Whisky is an important export product, followed by cereals and associated products.

Main UK's import products are cereals, followed by coffee, tea, cocoa, spice, fresh fruit and vegetables. The EU is an important market for the UK in food, feed and drink exports. The UK imports 70% of agri-food products from the EU (Coe, 2019: 10).

Figure 1. UK Trade Balance in Agricultural Goods Commodities with EU and Non-EU Countries at Current Market Prices, € Million, seasonally adjusted



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2021a.

4. Analysis of Trade Agreement and Trade Relations between Turkey and the UK

The United Kingdom signed the Free Trade Agreement with Turkey on December 29, 2020. According to the agreement, no country shall adopt any duty, tax, fees or other charges of any kind imposed on the export of goods to the territory of the other country, unless the duty, tax, fee or charge is also applied to like goods destined for domestic consumption (Article 2.6).

In the Free Trade Agreement, Turkey and the United Kingdom agreed that each Party shall eliminate all customs duties on originating industrial goods of the other Party (Article 2.6). In order to benefit from the preferential rates, exporters shall provide statement of origin. Declarations on origin will be valid for 12 months (for imports into Turkey) or up to 24 months (from the date it was made out for imports into the UK).

The agreement generally includes arrangements for the agricultural trade. Table 5 shows the preferential tariff rates and tariff quotas in the agricultural goods imported to Turkey from the UK. There is no preferential tariff for most of animal

products, the vegetable products, vegetable fats and oils. Furthermore, tariff reductions are applied under tariff quota regimes.

Table 5: Importation into Turkey of Agricultural Goods Originating in the United Kingdom

Sections	Product description	Preferential tariff treatment	Preferential tariff treatment under Quota	Tariff Quota (in tons net weight)
Section 1 Live animals and animal products				
Chapter 1	Live animals			
	Live bovine animals	NP	50% reduction	671
	Domestic species	NP	0%	377
Chapter 2	meat and edible meat offal			
	Meat of bovine animals	NP	30%reduction with max duty of 43%	2350
	Meat and edible offal	NP	52%	42
Chapter 3	Fish			
Chapter 4	dairy products			
	milk and cream	NP	0%	417
	buttermilk, yoghurt, kephir	0% + AC	-	-
	Whey butter	NP	0%	117
	butter	NP	0%	617
	Cheese	NP	0%	50
	Tulum cheese, beyaz peynir, edam, chedadar, kashkawal	NP	0%	333
Chapter 5	Products of animal origin	0%	-	-
Section 2 Vegetable products				
Chapter 6	Live trees			
	Bulbs, tubers	NP	0%	33
	Live plants incl.roots	NP	0%	567
	Cut flowers	NP	0%	17
	Parts of plants	NP	0%	17
Chapter 7	edible vegetables			
	Seed potatoes	NP	0%	1000
	fresh or chilled vegetables	NP	7%	17
	frozen vegetables	NP	11,5%	17
	Vegetables preserved	0%+AC	-	-
Chapter 8	edible fruits and nuts	NP	0%	83
	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	NP	30%	83
	Apricots, cherries, peaches	NP	0%	167
	Strawberries, raspberries	NP	0%	83
	fruits, nuts	NP	20%	17
Chapter 9	coffee, tea			
	green tea, black tea	NP	Max duty 45%	33
	Mate	0%	-	-
Chapter 10	cereals			
	wheat and meslin	NP	0%	5001
	durum wheat seed	NP	0%	16670

	rye	NP	0%	3751
	barley	NP	0%	8252
	oats	NP	50% reduction	834
	maize or corn	NP	0%	8942
	rice	NP	0%	4668
Chapter 11	malt, starches	NP	0%	83
	flaked wheat grains	NP	50% reduction	17
	malt	NP	0%	83
Chapter 12	oilseeds	NP	0%	175
	sunflower seeds	NP	0%	167
	other oilseeds (cotton)	NP	0%	250
	seeds for sowing	NP	0%	175
	sugar beet seed	NP	0%	50
Chapter 13	lac, gums	0%	-	-
Chapter 14	vegetable products	0%	-	-
Section 3 animal or vegetable fats or oils				
Chapter 15				
	fats of bovine animals	NP	0%	500
	wool grease	0%	-	-
	soyabean oil	NP	50%reduction	333
	sunflower seeds	NP	0%	3067
	animal or vegetable fats	0%	-	-
Section 4 prepared foodstuffs, spirits, vinegar, tobacco				
Chapter 16	preparations of meat, of fish	NP	30%	67
Chapter 17	sugars and confectionary	0% + AC	-	-
	cane or beet sugar	NP	20%reduction with a max duty of 50 %	13336
	lactose, glucose, fructose	0%	-	-
	chewing gum	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	167
	helva, Turkish delight, other confectionary	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	417
Chapter 18	cocoa and cocoa preparations			
	cocoa powder, paste and other substitutes	0%	-	-
	chocolate	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	1167
Chapter 19	preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk			
	diet infant foods	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	83
	flour	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	333
	rice	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	333
	pasta	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	3334
	bulgur wheat	0% + AC	-	-
	biscuits	0% + AC	0%+0 EUR/100 kg	250
Chapter 20	preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts			
	mushroom, salad, red cabbage	0% + AC	50% reduction	54
	fruits, nuts	0% + AC	50% reduction	54
	homogenised vegetables	NP	15%	50
	Pekmez, strawberries, raspberries	NP	20%	167

	fruit juices	NP	20%	167
	peanut butter	0%	-	-
Chapter 21	miscellaneous edible preparations	0%	-	-
Chapter 22	beverages, spirits, vinegar	0%	-	-
Chapter 23	residues and waste from the food industries			
	Oilcake	0%	-	-
	dog or cat food	NP	0%	233
	animal feeding prep.	NP	0%	1117
Chapter 24	tobacco and substitutes	0%	-	-

Source: UK Government, Annex 2-B-1, Dec 31, 2020.
Notes: AC: Agriculture component is applied
NP: No preference

Table 6 summarizes the preferential tariff regime for the exports from Turkey to the UK. Some animal products like milk and cream, cheese, butter, live poultry and poultry eggs are excluded from preferential tariff treatment. Many cereals do not benefit from preferential tariffs. Some vegetable products, vegetable fats and oils enter the UK market with tariff free.

Table 6: Importation into UK of Agricultural Goods Originating in Turkey

Sections	Product description	Preferential tariff treatment
Section 1 Live animals and animal products		
Chapter 1	Live animals	
	Live horses	Free
	Live buffalo	Free
	Live bovine animals	0.00% + 77.00 GBP/100 kg
	Live poultry	X
	Live animals (rabbits, birds, bees)	Free
Chapter 2	meat and edible meat offal	
	Meat of bovine animals	0.00% + 147.00 GBP/100 kg
	frozen bovine meat, boneless	0.00% + 254.00 GBP/100 kg
	frozen turkeys	X
Chapter 3	Fish	Free
Chapter 4	dairy products	
	milk and cream	X
	buttermilk, yoghurt, kephir	0.00% + 79.00 GBP/100 kg
	Whey butter	X
	butter	X
	Cheese	X
	Sheep's or buffalo milk cheese, kashkawal, tulum cheese	56.00 GBP/100 kg
	bird's eggs	Free
	poultry eggs	X
	Natural honey	Free
Chapter 5	Products of animal origin	Free
Section 2 Vegetable products		
Chapter 6	Live trees	Free
Chapter 7	edible vegetables	

	Seed potatoes	Free
	Tomatoes, fresh or chilled	Entry price
	fresh or chilled vegetables	Free
	frozen vegetables	Free
	Vegetables preserved	0.00% + 7.80 GBP/100 kg/net drained wt
Chapter 8	edible fruits and nuts	
	Plantains, fresh	Free
	Apricots, cherries, peaches	Entry price
	Strawberries, raspberries	Free
	frozen fruits, nuts	0.00% + 7.00 GBP/100 kg
Chapter 9	coffee, tea	
	green tea, black tea	Free
	Mate	Free
Chapter 10	cereals	
	wheat and meslin	Free
	durum wheat seed	Free
	rye	MFN - max 9.7 GBP/tonne
	barley	X
	oats	X
	maize or corn	X
	rice	X
Chapter 11	malt,starches	
	flaked wheat grains	X
	wheat malt in flour form	142.00 GBP/tonne
	wheat malt	106.00 GBP/tonne
Chapter 12	oilseeds	Free
	sunflower seeds	Free
	other oilseeds (cotton)	Free
	seeds for sowing	Free
	sugar beet seed	Free
Chapter 13	lac, gums	Free
Chapter 14	vegetable products	Free
Section 3 animal or vegetable fats or oils		
Chapter 15		
	fats of bovine animals	Free
	wool grease	Free
	soyabean oil	Free
	virgin lampante olive oi	92.00 GBP/100 kg
	extra virgin olive oil	93.00 GBP/100 kg
	other oils from olives	127.00 GBP/100 kg
	sunflower seeds	Free
	animal or vegetable fats	Free
Section 4 prepared foodstuffs, spirits, vinegar, tobacco		
Chapter 16	preparations of meat, of fish	Free
Chapter 17	sugars and confectionary	
	cane or beet sugar	X
	maple syrup	Free
	chewing gum	0.00% + 22.00 GBP/100 kg MAX 17.90%
	halva, loukhum, marshmallow	0.00% + AC MAX 18.70% + SD
Chapter 18	cocoa and cocoa preparations	
	cocoa beans	Free