

Boston Latin School
Tufts IGL Inquiry 2021
*The Sleeping Giant Has Awoken:
Security in the 21st Century in Asia*

The European Union and The United Kingdom

Briefing Paper

Introduction:

As the joint delegation from the European Union and the United Kingdom, we would like to bring our viewpoint as a developed democracy to the table. While the United Kingdom is no longer a part of the European Union, our beliefs and values are similar enough that only one delegation is necessary to represent us both. At this convention, we hope to share the importance of democratic values with other participating nations. We are proud to represent a group of countries that takes human rights as well as civil liberties extremely seriously and will represent that view with the utmost vigor during this conference.

Key Points:

- ❑ In light of rising geo-political tensions in the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula, we wish to promote values of democracy and free-trade in all nations. Additionally, we wish to conduct peaceful negotiations and prevent escalations of current military presence in these regions.
- ❑ The United Kingdom and European Union wish to strengthen our independent bilateral trade relations with nations in the South China Sea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❑ We wish to advocate fighting climate change and demonstrate the critical condition of our global environmental state. We wish to offer nations support in cutting greenhouse gas emissions and putting more policies in place to eradicate climate change.
- ❑ We seek to promote global health, mend setbacks, and establish protective structures in this COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we stand by following protocol from world health authorities and keeping open communication with them.

- ❑ The European Union and United Kingdom seek to promote democratic values, economic justice, security, and human rights in all nations.

Background:

The European Union is a group of sovereign European countries who have entered into treaties and harmonised policies together. After the fall of Rome in 476, many European states viewed themselves as the transfer of rule of the fallen Roman Empire. However, pan-European thought emerged most during the 19th-century, with the liberal ideas of the many revolutions happening around the world, in particular the French and American. Between the First and Second World War, the European markets were far more interdependent, resulting in people advocating for economic and political unions in Europe.

After World War II, many advocated for a European integration as it would limit the extreme nationalism that devastated the continent. This led to the Council of Europe in 1949, which focused mostly on human rights and democracy, not economic or trade issues. However, the lack of progress led to the European Coal and Steel Community, which helped to economically integrate the Marshall Plan funds from the United States. European leaders understood that coal and steel were industries that were fighting against each other, and believed that tying their national industries together would allow them to stay at peace. These leaders later became known as the founding fathers of the European Union.

The EU has grown from its first six founding states (Belgium, France, West German, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) to the current 27 states. After applying many times and being rejected, in 1973, the United Kingdom finally joined the European Economic Community, now known as the EU. However, the UK always had a rock relationship with the EU due to many economic issues. For example, in 1984, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wished to

reduce British payments to the budget. At the time, it was one of the poorest nations, but it was paying a lot more due to its lack of farms.

The Maastricht Treaty, in 1993, renamed the EEC to the EC and was designed to integrate Europe's nations politically and economically. This included united foreign policy, common citizenship rights and for all members other than the UK, a single currency. After Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair's victory in 1997, he worked to rebuild ties with the rest of the European states. During this time, however, there was a ban on British beef due to the "mad cow" scare and a ban on British chocolate.

In recent years, the UK continued to have many more disagreements and controversies with the EU. One such event was the Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown missing a televised ceremony in which all the other leaders signed a treaty, but he failed to show up and defend a treaty he helped negotiate in 2007. Following that, in 2011, David Cameron was the first UK prime minister to veto an EU treaty by outlining the challenges facing Europe and promising to renegotiate their membership in the EU. Meanwhile, in the UK, the UK Independence Party was beginning to grow more support in its stance against the EU. With the economic unrest and the migrant crisis occurring, the UKIP continued to gain more support. Therefore, Cameron renegotiated for changes in migrant welfare payments, financial safeguards, and easier ways for Britain to block EU regulations.

In October 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May officially announced her intention for the UK to leave the EU. In March 2017, the order was delivered to the EU, setting Britain's departure for March 2019. However, Parliament rejected May's withdrawal, setting the new deadline for October 2019, or the first month after that when the withdrawal is passed. On

January 31, 2020, the UK officially withdrew from the EU, making the first and only country that has formally left the EU.

I. Committee on the South China Sea

As the delegation of the European Union and United Kingdom, we are critical about China's behavior in the South China Sea. Although we don't take any position on land territory, all applicants should resolve any fights while staying peaceful according to international law which includes the UNCLOS and its negotiation procedures.

About 12 percent of the foreign trade and shipping is dependent on the South China Sea. This means that we would want to maintain a peaceful and safe route to get and receive important items such as food, aircrafts, fuels, and many other items from other countries.

One third of the world's maritime shipping passes through it, which costs over \$3 trillion dollars of trade every year. It is also believed that huge oil and natural gas reserves are under the sea bed. China is striving to get it so they don't have to pay other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq etc. for oil for its factories and peoples usage.

The EU and UK do not have any direct role in the conflict as they are not directly involved. However, the EU is willing to integrate environmental policy, integrated maritime policy, and reformed common fisheries. The UK has deployed the Royal Navy to Asian Waters and is attempting to establish a permanent presence in the Asia-Pacific in order to maintain peace and safety in the area. The UK aligns with the smaller islands, such as the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, and others who want to challenge China on limiting people in the South China Sea. Additionally, we support the UNCLOS, so we are aligned with other countries who do so as well.

Although we are undeniably involved, we have decided to take the status of the neutral observer, and do not have an official stance on the legitimacy of the nine-dash line.

We prioritize “securing international maritime domains and upholding international maritime norms.” Therefore, we believe that it is most important that all disputes in the region should be resolved peacefully and lawfully, while still protecting and promoting freedom of navigation and trade. The disputes over the South China Sea is greatly concerning as China is posing a threat to the freedom of navigation.

The universal and unified character of UNCLOS sets the legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, meaning that this law is still extremely relevant to the South China Sea. It is extremely important that everyone respects this law so that the area can remain peaceful and safe for trade.

China must obey the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, regardless of whether we agree or not. In order to maintain peace in that area, China must respect the ruling. That being said, we definitely agree with the ruling in favor of the Philippines.

Currently, 12% of the United Kingdom’s seaborne trade, both imports and exports, passes through the South China Sea. This amount will only increase as the East Asian economy continues to grow and assumes a greater share of the global economy.

Since the European Union and the United Kingdom are both very far from the South China Sea, a military conflict would not directly impact our country. We believe that it is extremely important to uphold the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. It is essential that, in an area with so much trade and economic activity, all of it is safe and fair. Therefore, if it is necessary we are willing to participate in the conflict. However, we wish to emphasize economic cooperation. We would most likely be allied with the United States, France, Australia,

and others who are also likely to challenge China's attempts to restrict their freedom in the South China Sea.

II. Committee on the Korean Peninsula

The European Union and the United Kingdom believe that the Korean peninsula is currently tense. While our delegation has multiple economic, political, and security agreements with the Republic of Korea (including a powerful free trade agreement), the unresolved military conflict brewing in the region is cause for concern. The increasing effort and resources put into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) nuclear program in the past decade are also viewed unfavorably by our delegation.

The delegation of the European Union and the United Kingdom is quite concerned about the peninsula's geo-political situation and recognizes the dangers that could come if a military conflict were to arise. However, in reality the European Union is currently tasked with many of its own issues (e.g. Brexit, increasing nationalism, immigration, COVID-19, etc.) and is not devoting a significant amount of time to the issues on the Korean peninsula.

Our delegation did not participate in the Six Party Talks, and ultimately felt that they were unsuccessful. We were pleased with the gains made during the fourth round of talks, especially after the unfortunate event of the DPRK pulling out of the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of which all EU members are a part of. Yet, DPRK's actions in 2009 proved the talks to have little impact, as DPRK resumed their nuclear activities.

Our delegation describes the strained relationship among North Korea, South Korea, and China. South Korea is a well developed democracy with deep ties to the western world bordered by North Korea -- the world's only remaining truly communist government and the arguably most infamously repressive modern government. Their contrast is stark, and they both sit on the

outskirts of China, the world's most populous country. The three vary in terms of government type, culture, and economic system, but also have much to gain from each other, which makes for tension and cooperation alike.

All three states suffered under Japanese rule during World War II and have seen deadly civil wars fought over political ideology. Yet, these traumatic parallels have not prompted unity, as economic and cultural allies inform much of their current relations. Recent historical memory explains the three different governing styles in each nation.

The delegation of the European Union and the United Kingdom believe that the current actors in the region's peace talks are acceptable. We want to ensure fair representation of the many stakeholders in the region while not overpowering those most affected by action on the peninsula.

Our delegation's role is to promote free trade with the Republic of Korea and support non-proliferation in the DPRK. We would like to limit (and ideally cease) the production of nuclear weapons in North Korea and promote the EU's fundamental ideals of democracy and representation.

North Korea's nuclear program has major dangerous implications for the region because of the sheer size of their arsenal. The power of the weapons have a span that can reach as far as the west coast of the United States.

The United Kingdom is very concerned about North Korea's nuclear weapons. North Korea is not part of any treaties or organizations that can keep them in check from launching their nuclear weapons, and have high security around their arsenal.

North Korea is a powerful Chinese ally and thus fits into China's grand strategy.

Human rights and economic justice should be a concern when dealing with North Korea, because the country has had numerous human rights violations. North Korea has rejected United Nations measures to have access to the country, in order to acknowledge any human rights abuses that are currently happening. In order to alleviate these concerns, the UN would need unhindered access to the country, which they do not have. We are willing to engage with North Korea to protect the human rights of all its citizens.

We are in favor of Korean unification, but the strained relationship between North and South Korea makes that possibility seem unlikely in the near future. A reunification would be in the best interest for the world, and would also benefit the UK since we are allies with South Korea.

The tensions on the Korean peninsula between North and South Korea should be a concern for all of Asia. If there is not a peaceful resolution for the tensions between the countries, it could escalate into full blown warfare. The current state of North Korea's nuclear program makes any major conflict with the country dangerous for the entire world.

There are many issues preventing peaceful unification, all stemming from the fact that the two countries are so vastly different. The organization of the two governments is on completely separate bases and trying to combine them would be very difficult. South Korea is a technologically advanced nation with many global connections, and North Korea is a more controlled regime. The countries are so different from one another that it's hard to see a reunification happening soon in the future.

III. Committee on Taiwan

Taiwan was established by refugees from China, but Dutch colonies and Chinese reports have evidence from 400 AD. After the first Shino-Japanese war, Japan won and took control of

Taiwan. Then China re-conquered Taiwan during WWII. In the following years China became communist and most of the democratic people fled to Taiwan.

Taiwan is an independent country that is unrecognized. It is strongly influenced by China and is in a stranglehold in many ways. It will most likely remain unrecognized because of China's influence on other countries and the potential consequences of opposing them. However, it is becoming more and more independent as time goes on.

Taiwan is technically a country but it is unrecognized by many countries and organizations. It also does not declare independence because China has stated that it will invade Taiwan if it does.

Taiwan isn't recognized by the UN or World Health Organization. China is most certainly against Taiwan having a seat in bodies such as the United Nations or the World Health Organization. This is because China views Taiwan as one of its provinces and is against it having independence and support from other organizations.

China wants to reunify with Taiwan because there would be an economic boost. They would receive all of Taiwan's technological discoveries and ideas. Taiwan is also the 14th greatest trading country in the world and it has a GDP of an estimated 290 billion US\$. Also, many people in Taiwan would go to China because of relatives, work, etc.

China's "One Country, Two Systems" constitutional principle allows Taiwan to elect their own president, but be a province of China.

Britain doesn't recognize Taiwan, but it is the fifth largest trader for Taiwan. The UK has this position because of its respect and reliance on China. Although the UK does have a cultural delegation in Taipei.

As stated, Taiwan is one of our trade partners. We (UK) believe that Taiwan should have as much independence as possible, but the USA and the UK dislike the idea of a war between China and the western powers. Because of this, we will do everything in our power to prevent war.

The European Union and UK are in prominent trade relations with Taiwan. They are Taiwan's fifth largest trading partner. As of 2019, two-way trade amounts to around 50.5 billions euros. The EU is also the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment in Taiwan having accumulated around 48.6 billion euros.

Although Taiwan is just a small island off the coast of China, it serves as a gateway location to Asia's artificial intelligence market. TSMC, a Taiwanese semiconductor manufacturing corporation, supplies about 48% of the global chip market. As technology becomes even more widespread and specialized, TSMC's ability to produce the most advanced chips capable of hosting AI applications puts it in a very strong position in the growing market that is AI.

The UK uses many Taiwanese products including their chips for technology which means it doesn't support sanctions.

There has been a growing sense of Taiwanese identity over the last century. Many factors have contributed including the 50 years of Japanese rule from 1895-1945 and the arrival of the Nationalist (KMT) government and its ill-disciplined soldiers from the mainland. They left the Taiwanese craving independence and willing to fight for it.

Taiwan has been governing independently from mainland China since 1949, and economic ties between the island and mainland are thriving. However, a renewal of tensions came under China's new leadership. It caused the growing movement of Taiwan independence.

Many Taiwanese people solely identify as Taiwanese and not Chinese, so they don't appreciate the push to identify as Chinese.

The UK and EU both trade with Taiwan and treat it as an independent country without officially naming it one. The EU is Taiwan's 5th largest trading partner which means they support independent trade between Taiwan and other countries.

Yes. China and the US are in a fierce trade war and increased trade and sales to Taiwan has angered China. The Chinese government doesn't support trade sales straight to Taiwan.

As a part of China legally and officially, China reserves the right to use force to reunify Taiwan under its control. It is not clear whether other superpowers including the US would honor treaties with Taiwan and come to its aid in the case of Chinese invasion. However, China has continued to work towards a peaceful reunification, but is prepared to invade if Taiwan declares independence. President Xi of China has said that, "Chinese people don't attack other Chinese people. We are willing to use the greatest sincerity and expend the greatest hard work to strive for the prospect of peaceful reunification."

IV. Committee on Climate Change and Global Health

The EU has always been a strong advocate for fighting climate change and continues to take initiative and demonstrate leadership in regards to the critical environmental state of the world. The Paris Agreement was ratified by the EU on October 5, 2016, a treaty regarding climate change that strives to restrict global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The eventual goal of this treaty is to limit the increase of the global average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius, so that greenhouse gas emissions reach their peak by the mid-century. As of now, with the EU at the forefront, there are close to 190 Parties who have ratified the agreement, effectively agreeing to make drastic social and economic changes within

their respective regions. The EU recognizes that, as a developed country, there is an obligation to offer support and understanding to developing nations and issue further attempts to eradicate climate change. Among other developed countries, the EU has committed to mobilizing \$100 billion US dollars per year until 2025. As a precarious future lies ahead, the EU acknowledges the prominence of unity and actively sets a precedent for progression, leadership, and cooperation.

Amidst the COVID- 19 pandemic that has brutally ravaged through the globe the past year, the effects have been varying among EU regions. For most countries, the impact that the virus had was dependent on their economic status prior to the outbreak. Regions of the EU that are reliant on tourism for their income experienced a drastic impact on their economy, as transport and travel grinded to a halt. Lower income households were also severely struck, leading to an increase in poverty rates. The UK, which had retained a weak economy in past years due to their exit from the European Union, was particularly hit hard, with gross domestic product shrinking by 9.9%. This drastic economic endeavor can be owed to the high percentage of national income that is spent on recreational services, which unfortunately were closed for the majority of the lockdown. By the end of 2020, the UK economy was 7.8% smaller than its state at the end of 2019. An estimated 120,000 have died from COVID, with at least four million people infected. In spite of these challenges, actions have been taken to combat both the virus and the social and economic crises. The UK distribution of the vaccine has proven successful so far, giving at least one dose of the vaccine to around one fifth of the population. Government support programs were set up to limit job losses and help household incomes. EU leaders agreed on a recovery fund called the “Next Generation EU,” which puts €750 billion towards digital and

green transitions. The EU's entire recovery package amounts to €2 364.3 billion, including the €540 billion put in place for workers, businesses, and member states.

In many ways, the global pandemic offered various temporary solutions to the increasing environmental crisis. In the midst of travel restrictions and infrequent commuting and tourism, the transport sector, a powerhouse for greenhouse gas emissions, fell into a decline in 2020. The International Road Transport Union expects a 57% decline in road passenger transport activity in Europe in comparison to 2019. The International Air Transport Association stated that air passenger kilometres dropped by 65% between January and July of 2020. A strong contraction in GDP and energy might also aid the EU in achieving a 20% renewable energy goal and improve energy efficiency. It is inarguable that these figures show a positive correlation between the pandemic and the battle against climate change, however it is important to avoid disillusionment. While these factors contributed to reaching the energy goals of 2020, the transition of energy systems and fostering a political climate that prioritizes climate change is the only way to spark real global change and reach net neutrality by 2050.

The UK acknowledges the severity of the climate crisis and enacts policies that mainly focus on energy, a generous source of UK emissions. It's essential that when creating energy policies, maintaining affordability and a consistent supply of energy are factored into the cutting of emissions. The Climate Change Act of 2008 was the world's first legally binding national commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and its target goal is to reach net zero emissions by 2050 (it was originally 80%, but was amended in 2019). Governments are required to set legally binding 'carbon budgets,' each of which has a five-year cap on total greenhouse emissions. These budgets can't be exceeded in order to meet the UK's reduction goal of carbon

emissions, a task that has proven a challenge. While everything is on track to meet the third target, rapid migration from coal and gas-fired power to low carbon fuels for heating and transport must be instilled in order to meet the fourth and fifth targets. The UK also enforces carbon pricing, a penalty for burning fossil fuels, which has proven to be an efficient way of reducing carbon emissions. UK power generators are required to pay a minimum carbon price, also called the Carbon Price Floor, and car drivers are charged a Fuel Duty tax on road fuel. Amongst these policies is the push to increase renewable energy, grounded mainly in the electricity sector, where many cost-effective technologies lie. Research shows that a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic will instill a boost in the economy. In regards to large-scale power generation, a fixed price of low carbon power generation is guaranteed with a Contracts for Difference. Large UK companies are required to report their energy usage and emissions under the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting policy. The UK's relentless enforcement of environmental policies not only supports the stance against climate change, but actively combats it in an effective way.

The EU passes laws and regulations that dictate the climate change policies of all Member States. Although each Member State is responsible for following the policies set, the EU calls for collaboration between EU countries in order to streamline this process. For example under the environmental liability directive (ELD), each Member State designates a public body to seek out and fine organizations or companies causing environmental damage or pollution. The public bodies work independently of each other, but communicate and provide support for each other when needed so that no EU country is left behind.

Under the European Green Deal and European Climate Law, the EU has the ambitious goal of becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Although many of the EU policies around climate change are regulated at EU level or have similar responsibilities for each Member State, the EU understands that some countries are in a better position than others to implement climate change reforms. For this reason the EU implemented the Effort Sharing Decision, setting the nation targets for emissions reductions based on each of the Member State's GDP per capita. Additionally, the EU uses an Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to regulate and maintain the emission levels of each Member State. EU ETS is based on trading and selling allowances, with each allowance permitting the holder to emit one tonne of CO₂ or other type of greenhouse gas. Each year, the EU distributes allowances to each Member States based on their emissions goal for that year, and each Member State then auctions off the allowances to the different sectors within their countries. Any spare allowances can be transferred to the next year, but if a Member State uses more allowances than allocated, they must buy them from another Member State or face a financial penalty. This forces industries to either lower emissions or convert to an energy efficient process.

Within the EU, Emission levels of greenhouse gases and contribution to climate change is different for each Member State, with Germany having the highest greenhouse gas emissions. Within Europe, Turkey is the largest contributor to climate change. The entirety of the EU Member States contributes more to climate change than any country in Europe though.

The EU is concerned with the public health and safety of its citizens due to climate related disasters. The EU and UK face threats of flooding due to more extreme precipitation events and rising sea levels which could cause economic destruction as well as endanger the

lives of EU and UK citizens. The economic destruction comes in the form of decreased transportation due to extreme weather events causing flooded ports and railways. Many Member States also face water scarcity, as precipitation events become more sparse and flooded rivers become more prone to water pollution. Climate change will also bring increased temperatures and heatwaves, increasing the number of mortalities due to heat stroke. The EU gets 40% of its water from the Alps, but with the increased temperature and glacial melting, that water supply could quickly become unreliable.

The United Kingdom has been one of the hardest hit countries by the COVID Pandemic. The UK is currently in their third lockdown, and on the downward slope in the third major wave of COVID cases and deaths. They currently have 1.1% of their population fully vaccinated and 28.1% partially vaccinated. The UK's GDP was down 9.9% in 2020, the largest annual fall on record. The economic sector most damaged by the global pandemic has been tourism and travel industries, as well as the service industry. While the UK has one of the highest vaccination records, it also has one of the worst coronavirus death rates in the world.

Given the WHO's mission statement, available scientific research of SARS-CoV-2, and other constraints, they gave the best possible response with allotted resources. Four days after the Director-General declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), which is WHO's highest level of alarm under international law, they published their first COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP). As more information came in they continuously updated the response plan with the latest information, data, and action guidelines. With the most recent Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan update outlining the key lessons and challenges moving forward for 2021 being: epidemiology, healthcare systems and workers, surveillance, communities, public health and social measures,

global supply chains, the infodemic, comprehensive preparedness and science. They've hosted global research and innovation forums, held press conferences, launched international clinical trials such as the Solidary Trial which launched March 18, 2020, and convened with international expert networks.

While China did go public and was willing to share information about COVID-19 sooner than the last SARS outbreak, they did not proactively alert world health authorities. They notified the International Health Regulations (IHR) focal point in the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office about the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission (December 31, 2019), who then contacted WHO's Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources, which triggered the response team of the Incident Management Support Team (IMST), and other offered assistance from the WHO. Despite this, internally, after official confirmation of COVID-19 and an explosion of cases, the Chinese government responded effectively. They quickly built hospitals and treatment/diagnostic systems. They followed protocol, isolated, and controlled the pandemic in a step-by-step manner with severe measures.

V. Committee on Trade and Technology

The United Kingdom has a complex relationship with China. In 2019, the UK and China's bilateral trade was about \$110 billion. Chinese firms also have stakes in some British offshore oil fields and utilities. The United Kingdom wishes for strong, bilateral trade agreements that are able to support both countries, especially as the UK is leaving the European Union. But the balance between China and the UK is thin. On the topic of the Uighur Muslim minority, the United Kingdom's foreign minister Dominic Raab said "it is clear that gross, egregious human rights abuses are going on." The UK holds the possibility of sanctions to be placed on China under the Global Magnitsky Act. However, the UK does not seek to be cut off

from China. Our two countries can benefit greatly from one another, but not while China is committing human rights violations against the Uighur population. In addition to relations with China, the United Kingdom has strong ties with the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The UK is aiming to deepen engagement with ASEAN and is a major development partner in the region. In 2018, UK-ASEAN trade was at a ten-year high of about £37.2 billion. The United Kingdom also annually provides £300 million in developmental assistance, and has an embassy in all ten ASEAN member states. The UK also has free trade agreements (FTAs) with South Korea and Japan.

The United Kingdom's most important trade relationship is with the European Union (EU). Prior to Brexit, the United Kingdom and all other EU member states held a free trade agreement (FTA) with one another, and the EU as a whole is the world's largest single market area. In December of 2020, the United Kingdom signed the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This agreement does not match the level of economic integration that the UK saw while a part of the EU, but consists of an FTA, builds new operational capabilities (as the UK is a non-EU member outside of the Schengen Area), and establishes a Joint Partnership Council to oversee the implementation and upholding of the Agreement. Beyond the EU, the United States and the UK are each other's largest source of foreign investment, totaling about \$1 trillion invested in each's economies. In 2017, the US-UK Trade and Investment Working Group was established in order to provide commercial continuity between each country as the United Kingdom was leaving the EU. As of 2020, trade negotiations are taking place, and an agreement is most likely going to be similar to deals that were already in place with the European Union so that there is not further disruption in the economies of either country.

The Trans Pacific Partnership is a trade agreement that was originally signed by Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, Vietnam, and the United States in February of 2016. However, in 2017, former President Trump withdrew the United States from the deal. Certain clauses that the US had negotiated for were removed, and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is the current development of the TPP, resigned in 2018, after the United States withdrew from the agreement. The CPTPP is an FTA between the eleven countries signed onto the trade agreement. The CPTPP has strong rules on intellectual property, investment, e-commerce, and some rules of labor, environment, and state-owned enterprises.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade agreement between the ten members of ASEAN (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), plus China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. RCEP is regarded by many as a China-backed alternative to the TTP/CPTPP. The Partnership's beginnings were led by ASEAN and a movement to bring together some previously conflicted countries such as China, Japan, and South Korea. This is the first trade agreement connecting China, Japan, and South Korea. RCEP is also different from the CPTPP because it is less rigorous and detail-specific. While the CPTPP's signatories have more advanced economies than some of the signatories of RCEP, the CPTPP is also harder to negotiate and is fairly rigid. Meanwhile, RCEP is more of a foundation for future agreements, but still includes many important clauses. Between signatory countries, there are provisions on intellectual property and e-commerce (weaker provisions than the CPTPP), tariffs reduced by ninety percent, and a rules of origin section. The rules of origin specify what a country has to do to be able to use the tariff preferences of the agreements. For example, if a good's parts come

mostly from the US, but are being sold by Malaysia, then it should be the US tariffs that apply, not the RCEP tariffs. In the case of this agreement, forty percent of a product must be produced anywhere in the RCEP region for RCEP tariff preferences to apply. This rule of origin being applicable within the entire RCEP region will create a value chain within the region that will make production cheaper and incentivize intra-regional production and cooperation.

In regards to the CPTPP, as of January 2021, the United Kingdom is applying to join the CPTPP, and our application is currently being reviewed. By joining the CPTPP, British goods will be put into contact with Asia-Pacific countries where some big markets are. Lower tariffs and removing barriers are in a goal to give opportunities for British businesses to reach out and expand on these chances. Immediate impact however, may not be large because the UK already has agreements with some signatory countries previously to this. If the US should reconsider the CPTPP, this could allow for closer trade relations for the US/UK. The Indo-Pacific region is a very important region for post-Brexit UK and if current negotiations continue with rollover agreements, the UK will already have separate agreements with a majority of the countries in the CPTPP, and several countries in RCEP. In regards to RCEP, it was originally founded as a way for ASEAN countries to bring together some of their major FTA partners in the Asia-Pacific region into one collective agreement. Given as the UK was and is not a part of that close bloc, we had not joined the Partnership. However, as the UK applies to join the CPTPP, we may also seek to join RCEP as a way to further participate in multilateral trade agreements and to boost its own economy.

The United Kingdom's ambitions for joining the CPTPP have allowed the formation of new trade deals with member countries, such as with Japan recently. This Japan-UK deal has both international and domestic consequences. The effects on some sectors, which may not

necessarily benefit, are unknown, and the distance from Japan will increase expenses; these potential regional inequalities and economic impacts may press UK politicians and policymakers. Japan could benefit from UK accession as our membership would strengthen their current geopolitical aims in the Asia-Pacific. Other political impacts of these agreements may be that the United Kingdom would need to make more concessions, considering the number of applicants to the CPTPP, whose members would want to maintain their current provisions and image. For the United Kingdom, however, these negotiations could greatly impact domestic politics as the government seeks to affirm the UK's position and global image, following the departure from the EU.

As we, the United Kingdom, seek to join the CPTPP, we have been able to strengthen diplomatic relations between our country and other stakeholders. Currently, we have secured bilateral trade deals with seven of the eleven members; of the remaining four, we are currently negotiating with Australia and New Zealand.

Supply chains are currently suffering in Asia as countries are in various stages of recovering from pandemic setbacks. According to McKinsey's COVID-19 Global Manufacturing and Supply Chain Pulse Survey, common challenges across all industries include material shortages (particularly due to the geographical span of supply chains), a drop in demand for goods, worker shortages, cash-flow issues, and lack of planning and preparation for risks.

We, the United Kingdom, as of November 2020, generally have chief exports in cars, gas turbines, crude petroleum, packaged medicines, and commodities not otherwise specified. Conversely, chief imports include gold, cars, telephones, computers, and gas turbines. Specifically with China, our top export in 2019 was non-monetary gold, valued at £6.4 billion, followed by petroleum, vehicles, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, and power-generating

equipment. At that same time, our top import from China was Telecoms & sound recording equipment, valued at £7 billion, followed by unspecified manufactured commodities, office machinery, and electrical machinery. Within the region, the United Kingdom's chief export is petroleum to Ireland, Germany, and the EU in general. The chief imports are road vehicles from Germany and the EU, as well as medicinal and pharmaceutical products from Ireland and the EU.

The United Kingdom has mainly been an exporter of intermediate goods.

Wages for workers in the United Kingdom have fallen since the Brexit vote; the value of the sterling has been falling since the EU referendum, and because of the sterling exchange rate deprivation, there has been a rise in costs of UK imports. Due to this increase, there has been a reduction in hourly wages, and, it was estimated in March of 2020, UK consumer prices increased by 2.9%, denoting a £870 per year increase in the cost of living for the average UK household.

The United Kingdom Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, as well as his government administration hope to negotiate a post-Brexit free trade agreement (FTA) with China which would allow British businesses to grow. However, the United Kingdom also seeks to strengthen our overseas defense networks, support rules-based international order, and uphold freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Our goals to do such through establishing a greater presence in the Asia-Pacific region might be seen by China as a threat to its sovereignty, and thereby may jeopardize negotiations for a China-UK FTA.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only compounded the impacts following Brexit. In a 2020 report by Lockton, it was found that smaller businesses in particular have been struggling since the pandemic, as 30% stated that they have failed to put the necessary provisions in place to

prepare for supply chain risks, compared to 19% of large companies. Additionally, only 6% of all manufacturers in the United Kingdom with international supply chains say they have seen no impact on their Brexit preparations, due to the scale of the setback caused by the pandemic. Overall, the pandemic has created delays in the supply chain and anticipates an increase in costs for administration and consumers, as well as a need for alternative supply chains, in order to adapt to the new regulations following Brexit and to reach a status quo where they can maintain or grow their business.

Human rights have affected the conversation around trade deals. The United Kingdom parliament recently voted on an amendment which would empowered the UK High Court to make a preliminary determination that a genocide is happening in any given country and, in turn, force the government to revoke bilateral trade agreements with said country. This amendment lost by 11 votes and subsequently was not passed; however it is anticipated that more actions driven by human rights will impact UK trade and supply chains in the future. In addition, the United Kingdom has recently mandated fines for British companies should they find evidence of rights violations in their supply chains, targeting specifically forced Uighur labor in the Xinjiang region.

The United Kingdom's total energy consumption has been decreasing. From 2018 to 2019, total energy consumption decreased by 1.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent (mtoe); petroleum fell by 0.9 mtoe while bioenergy consumption increased by 0.5 mtoe.

The United Kingdom's main source of energy is petroleum. We, the United Kingdom, have been a net importer of energy since 2004; in 2019, imports accounted for 54% of the total UK supply of gas. The United Kingdom exports about half of as much energy it imports.

Crucial resources which were identified to be scarce in the future are palm oil, fish, Rare Earth Metals, lead, and lithium. The United Kingdom depends on these resources, particularly the importation of palm oil, rare earths, and lithium, and businesses will suffer due to a lack in these products. Palm oil is a primary material used in cosmetics, and the demand for the market is growing, which may mean that there will be fewer exports in this sector than what meets the demand. Rare Earth Metals and Lithium are primary imports in automotive production. If these resources were scarce and unable to be imported, the United Kingdom's automotive industry would suffer, which in turn would mean that the United Kingdom would lose its current major export and thus negatively impact our economy.

VI. Committee on Development

The European Union's development policy fosters sustainable development and stability in developing countries, with the goal of eradicating extreme poverty. Focusing on effectiveness and coherence, the EU has 17 Sustainable Development goals laid out for countries to reach. Development assistance is very important to the EU to create peace and security.

The EU follows the sustainable development goals set by the UN in 2015. These include no poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Good Jobs and Economic Growth, Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and Partnership for the Goals. The UK in specific is focusing on trade development to stabilize its trade and economy following Brexit. In addition, the UK provided humanitarian relief and disaster risk insurance.

The UK and EU both receive little developmental aid. Instead, they are some of the biggest providers of foreign developmental aid for other countries in need. Britain is the third largest aid donor, following the USA and Germany, after having pledged to spend 0.7% of its national income on aid in 1970.

The UK does not receive development aid, and has not received little since the World Wars.

Under President Deng Xiaoping, China established an open-door policy which allowed an influx of foreign technologies and capital to benefit the economy, while still maintaining socialism. The average income of Chinese citizens increased by a factor of 14 from 1980 to 1998 due to the increase in foreign investment and the entrepreneurial boom. Industrial enterprises also benefited when freed from government control, as they could collect their own profit and help grow the economy. General Secretary and President Jiang Zemin pushed for the reform of state-owned enterprises, which were in severe deficit and thus negatively impacting the economy.

The open-door policy led to a quick increase in foreign investment and entrepreneurship in the Chinese socialist market economy. Coastal cities and ports accepted foreign goods and capital so their economy grew. The reform of state-owned enterprises brought about several new policies and structures, including the introduction of a joint-stock system, which over-time helped to relieve these enterprises of deficit. Financial system reforms were also made, particularly the establishment of state and regional banks to function in addition to the central bank, the People's Bank of China.

During his period of leadership, Deng Xiaoping made drastic reforms to multiple aspects of Chinese society. This was due to a belief in the CCP, as well as his belief in making individual economic decisions. He implemented material incentives as rewards for industry, and formed

panels of well-educated technicians in order to lead China's development. Xiaoping was so committed to reform in hopes of maintaining the CCP, which he has been an active member of for a period of time, and strengthening the infrastructure of China.

The EU/UK has benefitted generously from China's economic rise, due to the fact that China plays a major role in the infrastructure of the UK's economy. It is among one of the UK's top trading partners, and has multiple stakes in or has taken over companies and organizations throughout the UK. The economic rise of China allows these companies and organizations to prosper, therefore boosting the economy of the UK. China is also one of the UK's top ten export partners. Therefore, a boost in the economy of China would mean the UK would see a rise in exports, and would therefore see a rise in its economy.

China's economic rise indicates that it plays a larger role in the infrastructure of the United Kingdom, therefore forcing the United Kingdom to become more reliant on China. China has taken control of more organizations throughout the UK, and the UK has begun to conduct much business in China. With this, China has become an increasingly powerful influence on the economy of the United Kingdom, and with its economic rise, it has gained even more control over the economy of the United Kingdom.

Xi Jinping has reformed the economy of China with his policies in order to make it more self-sufficient. Policies put in place have focused on building China's consumption of its own products, and shifting its relationship with foreign countries on the subject of trade. This allows China to grow economically while becoming less dependent on other countries.

China's "going out" initiative is a policy which encourages its enterprises to invest overseas in order to become more globalized. It looks to do away with China's focus on inward investments, and build on relationships with foreign entities. This initiative is extremely

important for the reason that it completely changes pre-established international order. This policy changes the foreign policy which China has with the world, and therefore will change a pre-established foreign policy in the world. This initiative also changes the economy of China a great deal, opening it up to more relationships with other countries.

The belt and road initiative is a modern-day Silk Road, in that it is a route intended to go through both Asia and Europe, reaching millions. This has aided China in its intent to spread its principles of economic development because it has allowed China to much more easily reach millions of people. Similarly to the Silk Road, a long-distance route allows China to easily spread its ideas of economic development through word of mouth. This initiative also gives China more access to foreign countries, which would also allow it to more easily spread its principles of economic development, as with this heightened accessibility, the country gains more power.

The BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) had planned to become a marketing tool to build a reputation of expanding commerce. However, after Xi Jinping's second mandate, sought out to regain its progressive relationship between China and Europe. The BRI's investments in railway and port infrastructure plan to improve trade relations between China and Europe by lowering transportation costs and increasing trade volumes. For example, COSCO has invested massively in the Mediterranean part of the BRI (Port Piraeus) and became the first Chinese company to be the majority shareholder in an EU member's port ownership. The BRI has also sparked internal division within the EU/UK, due to lack of commitment to centralize industries and progressing competition.

China is the EU's second-biggest trading partner behind the United States. The EU is China's biggest trading partner. The EU is open to trade with China, however, the EU wants to

ensure that China trades fairly. As well as respecting property rights and meeting its obligations as a WTO (World Trade Organization) member. In 2013 the EU and China created an investment agreement. Their goal was to provide investors with access to EU and Chinese markets and protect investments. Some other goals were to improve investment for European and Chinese investors by creating investment rights, anti-discrimination rules, improve transparency, licensing and authorisation procedures, and issue rules on environmental and labour sectors of foreign investment.

The development in the EU/UK has been impacted by the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events causing threats for physical energy infrastructure and substations or transformers. The uncertain weather patterns have led to a decrease in production of renewable energy. Climate change has negatively affected business operations including, damaged property, supply chains and infrastructure leading to increased costs for businesses.

The importance of securing trade deals has accelerated since the pandemic started, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the country's deepest recession in more than three centuries. The various shutdowns have caused economic turmoil for the U.K., more than other members of the Group of Seven economies because of its dependence on consumer spending, which plummeted during one of Europe's deadliest Covid-19 outbreaks. Economic growth in the U.K. was already weak before the pandemic because of frail business investment, lack of productivity, and hardly any growth in incomes. When the pandemic first arose, the British economy lessened by more than the other G-7 members for the first 9 months of 2020.

The UK has been discussing a negotiation that will determine the future relationship between the European Union. This negotiation could potentially harm the national security and

defenses of the UK. The UK has also been reviewing a new plan for strategies in terms of alliances and military. London has relied on the EU and other allies for flexibility and deals within their defense and foreign policy. Additionally, Boris Johnson has refused to respond to negotiations of defense and security after he decided the UK is no longer a member of the EU. Essentially, the future security of the United Kingdom is reliant on the relationship between the European Union.

VII. Committee on Governance, Human Rights and Social and Economic Justice

The United Kingdom is a parliamentary system. We are currently governed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is a member of the Conservative (Tory) Party. The United Kingdom is generally very majoritarian meaning that many decisions do not necessarily (legally) need to take minority rights into account. Tradition, however, is very strong in the United Kingdom, which keeps politicians in check. The European Union is a supranational organization that involves itself in trade and economic matters, justice and home affairs, and foreign and security policy across its 27 member-states. The EU has a fair amount of control over many areas, such as usage of a common currency and the usage of the same professional licenses across member-states.

We in the United Kingdom as well as in the European Union are proud to have a fantastic record on human rights. Since the EU is a supranational organization, this record of course varies from country to country, but is overall very strong. Both the United Kingdom and the European Union view both economic justice and human rights as extremely important and try to promote both to an equal degree.

The ASEAN region is a dynamic and highly important market to the EU. Our relationship with ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, has continued to grow

since we first became formal dialogue partners in 1972. We have a strong trade relationship and engage in regular Business Summits. Although we disagreed with them on the topic of human rights in the 1990s, those disputes have since ceased, and we have joined forces on various issues, such as climate change and signing a Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism in 2003. We have also provided them with funding (scholarships, relief aid, etc.). We in the UK, too, are dialogue partners of ASEAN, and have a dedicated ambassador to the organization. We plan to continue strengthening our relations with East Asia and discussing the COVID-19 pandemic and terrorism, among other issues.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an international organization comprising various Asian nations, including China, Russia, India, and Pakistan. They cooperate on matters of economics and politics, namely security and trade.

Although we do not currently have a formal relationship with the SCO and differ in some of our stances regarding human rights, we do have an interest in Central Asia and recognize that the SCO is likely to continue to play a significant role in various areas of interest, such as security, economic development, and energy. We also value our relationships with the member countries of the SCO, such as China and Russia.

ASEAN values economic development, peace and stability, as well as respect for national identity and territorial integrity. The association was created based on a common fear of communism and its membership is composed of Southeast Asian countries. The SCO values regional security and countering terrorism, and is now made up of eight Eurasian member states interested in cooperating with regard to these goals. It was originally founded by the Shanghai

Five (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan), who signed the Treaty on Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions.

The United Kingdom uses a unitary system, but has devolved some power to the governments of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in recent years. After leaving the European Union, we will regain sovereignty in areas such as trade and immigration that was lost as a result of our membership. The European Union, which is NOT a country, and therefore does not retain the same type of sovereignty as the United Kingdom and others does have a lot of control over a fair amount of areas in member countries.

Since Hong Kong is one of the former colonies of the British empire, the United Kingdom is in a unique position when it comes to the issues they are facing. When we returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, we made sure that Hong Kong had some (albeit minimal) sovereignty. British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt summed up our views on the matter, saying “It is imperative that Hong Kong’s high degree of autonomy, and the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people, are fully respected. We have made our position on this clear to the Chinese Government, both publicly and in private, and will continue to do so.” In November of 2020, the European Union joined the United Kingdom in condemning the Chinese government’s harsh treatment of the protesters in Hong Kong. Referring to a resolution by the Chinese government that gave them veto power over who could be on Hong Kong’s legislative council, the EU released a statement saying "This latest arbitrary decision from Beijing further significantly undermines Hong Kong 's autonomy under the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle. These latest steps constitute a further severe blow to political pluralism and freedom of opinion in Hong Kong," they said.

A lot of activists from Hong Kong Have fled to the UK. This is mainly because of China's strict laws. There are many of these activists coming to the UK to avoid going to jail.

We in the EU and in the UK value public debate and the voices of our citizens, and we respect their right to peaceful assembly. We condemn the use of violence against peaceful protestors.

The European Union strongly condemns the way in which the Chinese government has treated the Uighur Muslim population and other Muslim minority groups within China, especially reports of the horrifying exploitation that they have suffered. The United Kingdom likewise condemns the actions of the Chinese government with regard to their treatment of Uighur Muslims people and has taken concrete steps to combat the atrocities that have been revealed. Neither the United Kingdom nor the European Union disputes China's sovereignty in Tibet.

European citizens are guaranteed the right to privacy under Section 1 Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. We take the privacy of our citizens very seriously, but will continue to explore technological options that we believe will ensure greater safety to our citizens. The United Kingdom has a history of using "surveillance" tactics on our citizens and have been reprimanded for doing so during our time in the European Union. The 2016 Investigatory Powers Bill granted the state the ability to keep a database of citizens' web history and gives large amounts of power to UK spies. While this may seem drastic to outsiders, we believe that it is necessary to take these steps in order to further secure the safety of our citizens.

Importation of surveillance technology is not uniform throughout the European Union, but some countries such as Germany do import monitoring equipment from China. Monitoring equipment from China is also used in the United Kingdom. It is difficult to avoid buying this

type of equipment from Chinese companies at this point in time, due to China's domination in this area.

The United Kingdom does not engage in excessive censorship of its citizens. As is the case with all countries, some necessary restrictions on Freedom of Speech as well as Freedom of the Press do exist. For example, restrictions prohibiting slander/libel, obscenity, hate and harassment, and breaches of national security are a part of UK law. While the European Union does not have quite the tradition nor culture of practically unrestrained free speech present in other countries, we are nevertheless committed to ensuring that our citizens feel free to speak their minds. Freedom of Expression is guaranteed to citizens in Section 1 Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.