Joint Initiative of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe

September 2026

Joint Statement on the Importance of Including the United Kingdom as a Trusted Partner in the European Industrial Accelerator Act

To the Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné, the Cabinet of Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, MEP Christophe Grudler, MEP Pierre Jouvet, MEP Anna Cavazzini, Members of the European Parliament, Representatives of the Council of the European Union, and Member State Permanent Representations.

As organisations representing businesses engaged in trade, investment and industrial cooperation between the European Union and the United Kingdom, we welcome the European Commission's ambition to support Europe's competitiveness, industrial resilience and clean manufacturing capacity.

At a time of intensifying international competition, Europe is under increasing pressure to consolidate its industrial base, accelerate innovation, secure critical supply chains and reduce strategic dependencies. Strengthening industrial competitiveness, accelerating decarbonisation and enhancing economic resilience are therefore shared objectives across the continent. Businesses across the European Union and the United Kingdom are confronting many of the same challenges, from economic security and the energy transition to skills shortages and technological transformation. Achieving these goals will require policies that reflect the reality of modern industrial value chains and support cooperation with trusted partners.

The European Union and the United Kingdom remain among each other's largest trading and investment partners, with deeply integrated supply chains spanning manufacturing, energy, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, agri-food, aerospace and automotive industries. In that context, **the United Kingdom should not be viewed as a typical third country within the Made in Europe debate.** Decades of industrial cooperation, deeply integrated supply chains, comparable regulatory standards and robust commitments under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement have created uniquely interconnected industrial ecosystems. **For businesses operating across European value chains, a clear and durable recognition of the United Kingdom as a trusted partner and equivalent to EU-Origin remains the most effective and predictable way of supporting competitiveness, resilient industrial investment and long-term planning certainty.**

The European automotive industry operates a deeply integrated value chain with the UK, even post-Brexit. The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement contains comprehensive Level Playing Field provisions guaranteeing equivalent standards on competition, labour and environmental protection. Vehicles, components and batteries made in the UK should therefore hold the same status as those made in the EU27 — with equal access to every policy instrument. Similar patterns can be found across aerospace, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and advanced manufacturing. European competitiveness depends on these integrated value chains, and a trusted partner approach should recognise the contribution of UK-origin content within them.

We therefore welcome the recognition, in previous discussions surrounding the Industrial Accelerator Act, that **trusted international partners can contribute meaningfully to Europe's industrial objectives.** Such cooperation supports resilience, consolidates supply chains and enhances Europe's capacity to compete internationally.

We are concerned by indications that current discussions may move away from a clear framework recognising trusted partner countries and towards a product-by-product or sector-by-sector assessment approach. **A fragmented approach risks creating uncertainty across multiple sectors, increasing administrative complexity and reducing the planning certainty businesses require for long-term investment decisions**. It could discourage investment in precisely those cross-border industrial ecosystems that Europe seeks to reinforce.

The objective of a "Made in Europe" strategy should be to maximise European industrial strength rather than to impose unnecessary limitations on trusted and mutually beneficial partnerships. Recognising contributions from trusted partners such as the United Kingdom should be viewed as a means of improving Europe's competitiveness, resilience and investment attractiveness.

The recent strengthening of EU-UK relations reflects a shared recognition that cooperation delivers mutual economic and strategic benefits. Businesses on both sides of the Channel have welcomed efforts to reduce friction, reinforce collaboration and provide greater certainty for investment. Against this backdrop, it would be unfortunate if the implementation of Europe's industrial strategy were to create new obstacles for EU and UK businesses, **potentially limiting some of the economic benefits that both sides are seeking to achieve through the broader reset of the relationship.**

A restrictive interpretation of "Made in Europe" risks undermining the very objectives of the Industrial Accelerator Act. By increasing costs, generating unnecessary administrative burdens and limiting the contribution of integrated EU-UK value chains, such an approach could weaken competitiveness, discourage investment and reduce industrial resilience. The success of Europe's industrial strategy should ultimately be judged by its ability to support competitiveness and resilience, not by the number of borders a component crosses during production.

We therefore respectfully encourage the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to ensure that the final legislative framework:

1. **Recognises the United Kingdom as a trusted partner in the Made in Europe framework, reflecting the close integration of EU-UK supply chains, comparable standards, longstanding industrial cooperation and the mutual economic benefits created by these value chains.**

2. **Allows UK-origin industrial content to contribute towards relevant European value chain, industrial policy and procurement requirements where appropriate.**

3. **Provides certainty through a clear and predictable framework for trusted partners, rather than a fragmented product-by-product assessment model.**

We also encourage policymakers to include discussions on trusted partners and the future implementation of "Made in Europe" principles within the broader EU-UK dialogue. **It is for this reason we are collectively calling for the upcoming EU-UK Leaders' Summit of this year to focus not just on delivery of the objectives of the Common Understanding but also to develop the framework needed for cooperation on industrial policy and economic security.**

To conclude, we believe that Europe's industrial strategy will be strongest when it reflects the reality of integrated value chains and embraces cooperation with trusted partners that contribute to Europe's economic security, prosperity and resilience.

A competitive Europe and a competitive United Kingdom are not mutually exclusive objectives. On the contrary, they are mutually reinforcing.

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