



The Consumer Voice in Europe

**Which?**

Mr Maroš Šefčovič  
Commissioner for Trade and Economic  
Security

Mr Christophe Hansen  
Commissioner for Agriculture and Food  
European Commission

The Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP  
Minister for the Constitution and  
European Union Relations  
UK Government

BEUC-X-2026-008

11 February 2026

**Subject: Consumer priorities for a positive outcome in the EU-UK SPS negotiations**

Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,  
Dear Commissioner Hansen,  
Dear Mr Thomas-Symonds MP,

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) and Which? welcome the recent positive developments in EU-UK relations, including the launch of negotiations on a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) area. The discussions are an opportunity to deliver concrete benefits for consumers while supporting smoother trade between the EU and the UK.

An ambitious SPS agreement would benefit consumers through greater choice, reduced prices and improved availability of products, which is especially relevant for healthy food, while also maintaining consumer confidence in safety

The Agreement is important to address immediate issues affecting consumers in Northern Ireland, who have noted issues with shorter shelf-life products arriving in a less favourable state due to delays in transport, and negative impacts on access and availability of food products.

At the same time, it is crucial that trade facilitation preserves the ability of the EU and the UK to regulate in the consumer interest. We understand that the ongoing negotiations foresee the possibility of exceptions to dynamic alignment, provided these do not restrict or negatively affect cross-border trade. Depending on how the final agreement is crafted, there is a risk that progressive measures, such as improved food information or stronger animal welfare requirements, could be perceived as obstacles to trade. Ultimately, this could prevent the

implementation of policies that would support consumers in making well-informed food choices and tackle specific national public health challenges, such as obesity.

It is also vital that both parties place sufficient emphasis on the importance of effective enforcement when a new agreement is implemented to ensure consumer safety and confidence is maintained.

We would also highlight the importance of maintaining channels through which evidence and expertise from UK consumer organisations can be considered in EU legislative development and scientific assessment processes.

We therefore encourage careful drafting of the SPS agreement to ensure smoother trade in food products while fully preserving the right of both parties to maintain and strengthen consumer protection standards.

We thank you for considering our views and wish you every success in achieving a positive outcome to these negotiations, for the benefit of consumers across the EU and the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Agustín Reyna  
Director General, BEUC

Rocio Concha  
Director of Policy and Advocacy, Which?