

Association between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Central America

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On December 18, 2019, Decree number 11-2019 of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala was published in the Official Gazette, which approves the Association Agreement signed between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Central America (the "**Agreement**").

The Agreement signed seeks to maintain the commercial relationship with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under the same conditions as with the countries of the European Union when the United Kingdom ceases to belong to this economic bloc.

The Agreement maintains its commitments that were acquired by Central America and the United Kingdom in the Association Agreement with the European Union, related to the access of industrial products, food, agricultural and fishery products, modifying the defined volume of import of agricultural products that enjoy a special tariff treatment, among others.

With the entry into force of the Agreement, companies and consumers would continue to benefit from differentiated prices on imported products.

Purpose of the Agreement

The Agreement includes the following objectives:

- a. Strengthen relations between States parties;
- b. Develop a privileged political association;
- c. Improve regional cooperation in all areas of common interest;
- d. Expand and diversify the bi-regional trade relationship of the States parties in accordance with the WTO Agreement;
- e. Strengthen and deepen the progressive process of regional integration in areas of common interest;
- f. Strengthen good neighborly relations and the principle of peaceful conflict resolution;
- g. Maintain and improve the level of good governance; and,
- h. Encourage the increase in trade and investment among the States parties.

Under Section 10 of the Agreement, it will enter into force as soon as the official withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union is formalized, which is estimated for early 2020.

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