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ECIPE PRESS RELEASE — NEW POLICY BRIEF

What Does the UK's Trade Policy Report Card Look Like?

By Stuart Harbinson, Senior Fellow at ECIPE

Brussels, Belgium, 30th August 2022 - Three years ago, as the first cloud of ash began to settle after the Brexit eruption, there were grounds for thinking that the UK would emerge as a new and significant player on the international trade stage.

The UK had a lot going for it. It was 'open for business'. It was a strong supporter of the rules-based trading system. It had a track record of playing a very constructive role in formulating EU trade policy. It also had considerable soft power through its substantial development assistance programme.

In short the UK had a high reputation. It was not unreasonable to hope that as an independent player it might have an even more positive impact – pragmatic, law abiding, open, and bridging to the developing world.

So, three years on, how has the UK fared?

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