



Thematic dossier « Brexit »

The impact of Brexit on international data transfers

(updated version of 1 July 2021)

This thematic dossier aims to offer guidance to companies, public bodies and associations in Luxembourg that may transfer personal data to the United Kingdom and intend to pursue such transfers in 2021.

Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU on 1 February 2020, the transition period which started on that date, concluded on the 31 December 2020.

Following negotiations, the United Kingdom and the European Union concluded the [EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) on 25 December 2020.

On 28 June 2021, the European Commission adopted two adequacy decisions and found that the United Kingdom ensures an adequate level of protection for transfers of personal data, in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation](#) and [the Law Enforcement Directive](#) and with regards to national security.

Such a decision means that the UK's personal data protection regime offers safeguards that are "substantially equivalent" to those of the European Union and that transfers of personal data to the UK can be made as if it was a transfer within the European Economic Area (EEA).

This was already the case for other third countries, namely Andorra, Argentina, Canada (for processing activities subject to the "Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)), the Faroe Islands, Guernsey, Israel, the Isle of Man, Japan, Jersey, New Zealand, Switzerland and Uruguay.

In any event, organisations must always respect the [key principles of the GDPR](#) and take them into account when transferring personal data to the UK (inter alia, the lawfulness of processing, compatibility of the disclosure of the data to a third party with the original purpose, information to data subjects).

For more information:

- [Transfers towards a country outside the European Economic Area with an adequate level of protection](#)