



Divergence in UK/EU environmental policy: The state of play.

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3 'Flirting' with regression

4 The need for change



The state of play, headlines:

- Since Brexit, a gradual divergence in environment and climate policy and law has been taking place both relative to the EU and across the four UK nations.
- The EU: a higher level of ambition than the UK.
- The UK: tended to move more slowly with a less stringent approach to regulation.

A gap in ambition

1

European Green Deal acting as a stimulus to EU environment and climate policy development.

2

Some positive signs in the UK: e.g., biodiversity net gain, deployment of renewable energy, shark fin trade ban and peat. *And*, keeping in step with major climate initiatives: ETS and CBAM.

3

But... gaps opening up in a variety of areas: water policy, climate, waste & circular economy, chemicals and pesticides, nature and industrial pollution.

2. A Party shall not weaken or reduce, in a manner affecting trade or investment between the Parties, its environmental levels of protection or its climate level of protection below the levels that are in place at the end of the transition period, including by failing to effectively enforce its environmental law or climate level of protection.

Article 391, 'Non-regression from levels of protection,' Trade & Cooperation Agreement.

The need for change



- Divergence often, but not always, comes with costs: Increased friction and distortions to trade, different standards often leads to costs for business and economy.
- Differing ambition and approaches emerging within UK
- A strategic and explicit government policy on divergence.

Thank you



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