EN
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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.6.2026)

1. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed between the United Kingdom and the EU foresees some alleviations compared to normal trade rules with third counties. In the area of aviation, alleviations to standard rules concerning third country certification were only agreed for initial airworthiness, i.e. the initial approval of new aircraft and other aviation products.

2. Pilot licences issued by states that are not part of the EU aviation safety rules, can be validated under the conditions in Regulation (EU) 2020/723[1], which ensures that their training is at same level as that of EU-trained pilots and which also allows for specific short-term validations in case of need to cover sudden pilot shortages in some specialist tasks.

3. There are currently no changes foreseen to this agreement and the Commission is not aware of a particular shortage of pilots in the EU that would necessitate additional measures. The EU has a vibrant pilot training industry and has been able to cover any increase in pilot jobs.

[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R0723.