

# REMOVING BARRIERS – CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

The DTI has a number of services to help remove barriers to trade worldwide and to assist those encountering problems when exercising their Internal Market rights in Europe.

This is a brief introduction to the instruments located within the Europe and World Trade Directorate (EWT) of DTI which work closely with our European Commission colleagues to help open up more opportunities for UK companies and individuals by creating a more level playing field within Europe and beyond.

If you are encountering a particular trade barrier at present then you should contact us as follows:

- **SOLVIT Centre** – for barriers within the EU
- **Market Access Centre of Excellence** – for barriers in the Rest of the World

## UK SOLVIT Centre

The Internal Market is based on the four fundamental freedoms of goods, persons, services and capital and therefore depends on the removal of barriers.

There is no doubt that the creation of the Internal Market has brought huge benefits to business and citizens across Europe and many have taken advantage of the improved conditions in Europe. The inclusion of ten new Member States makes this the largest single market for trade, investment etc and therefore increases the benefits and opportunities available to all.

While the Internal Market generally works well, sometimes business and citizens run into problems resulting from possible misapplication of Internal Market rules by public administrations in other Member States. Resolving such problems by formal procedures can often take a long time and may lead to serious consequences.

SOLVIT was set up to try and resolve such problems as efficiently and effectively as possible. This online database aims to try and resolve cases of misapplication of EU Rules informally and speedily without the need for legal proceedings and is free of charge. If you feel that your Internal Market rights have been infringed, contact the Action Single Market/UK SOLVIT Centre. Contact details below.

Information on the Internal Market and other sources of help can be found:  
<http://www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/diff.htm>

For further information on SOLVIT please click:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/solvit/](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/solvit/)

## Market Access Centre of Excellence

The Centre is responsible for policy advice and co-ordinating action on combating barriers to trade.

Trade barriers come in all shapes and sizes. There are the straightforward traditional tariff barriers - still some very discriminatory tariffs and taxes – despite 50 years of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the WTO and 9 trade rounds.

There are new and increasingly significant non-tariff barriers which are varied, difficult and complex as they can touch on sensitive cultural and social issues and can sometimes appeal to very legitimate concerns. They all need different approaches and the Centre has built up expertise and best practice in dealing with a range of such problems.

We work closely with our FCO colleagues overseas and with our European Commission colleagues in Brussels.

To help remove barriers we need to know about them as fully and as soon as possible from industry and industry in turn needs a professional and speedy service from us. The Centre is there to provide such a service and is the first port of call for UK exporters facing trade barriers in their markets.

Further information on the Centre can be found at: [www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/access.htm](http://www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/access.htm)

### UK SOLVIT Centre

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### The Market Access Centre of Excellence

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### Other useful contacts for companies:

**UK Trade & Investment:** the Government organisation that both supports companies in the UK doing business internationally and overseas enterprises seeking to locate in the UK.  
[www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk](http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk)

**HMRC - Revenue and Excise:** for issues relating to taxes, duties or tariffs etc,  
Tel: 01702 366 077 [www.hmce.gov.uk](http://www.hmce.gov.uk)

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