



Developments in the NGT Regulation and the EU–UK SPS Agreement

A presentation by Rud Pedersen



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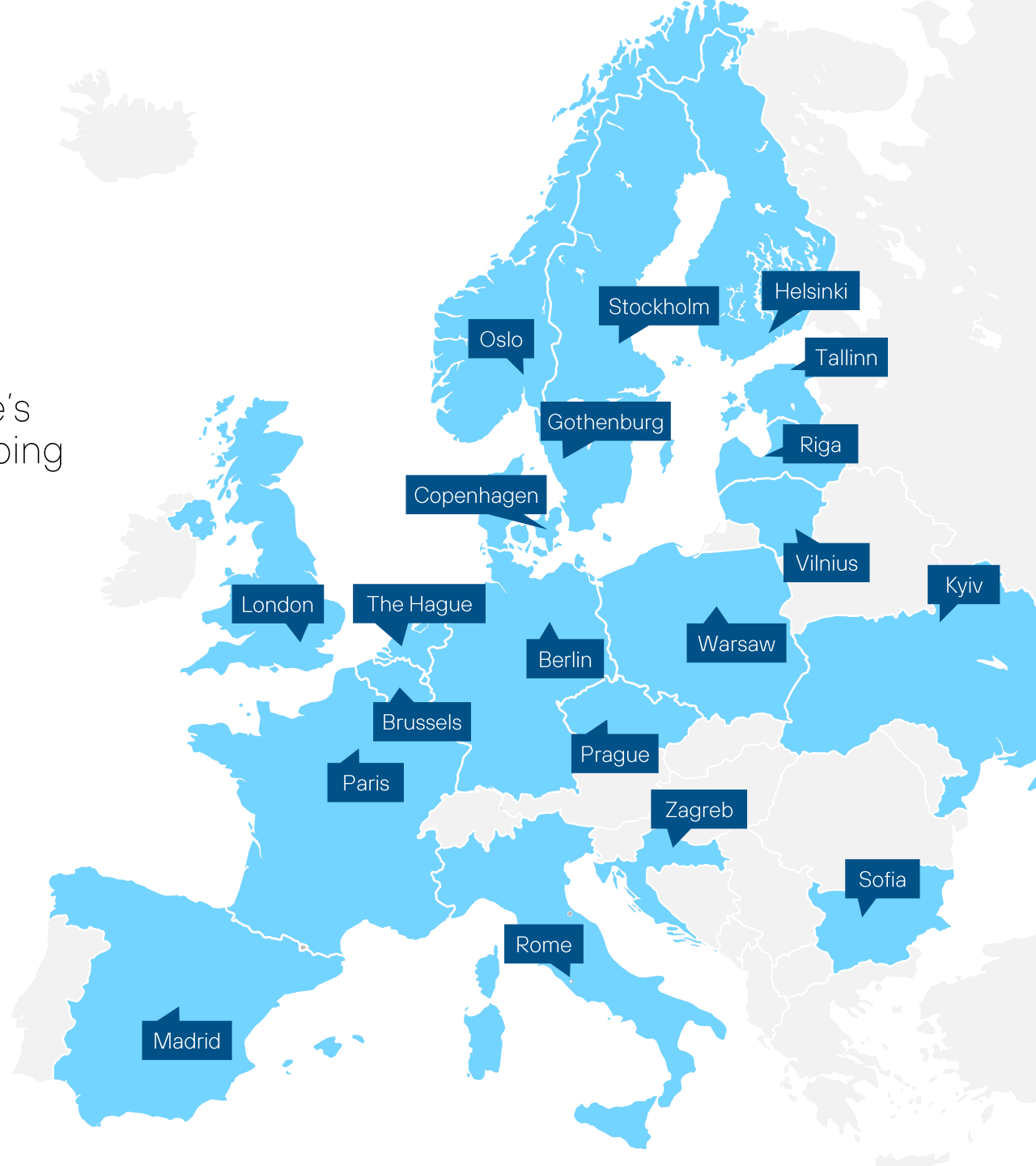
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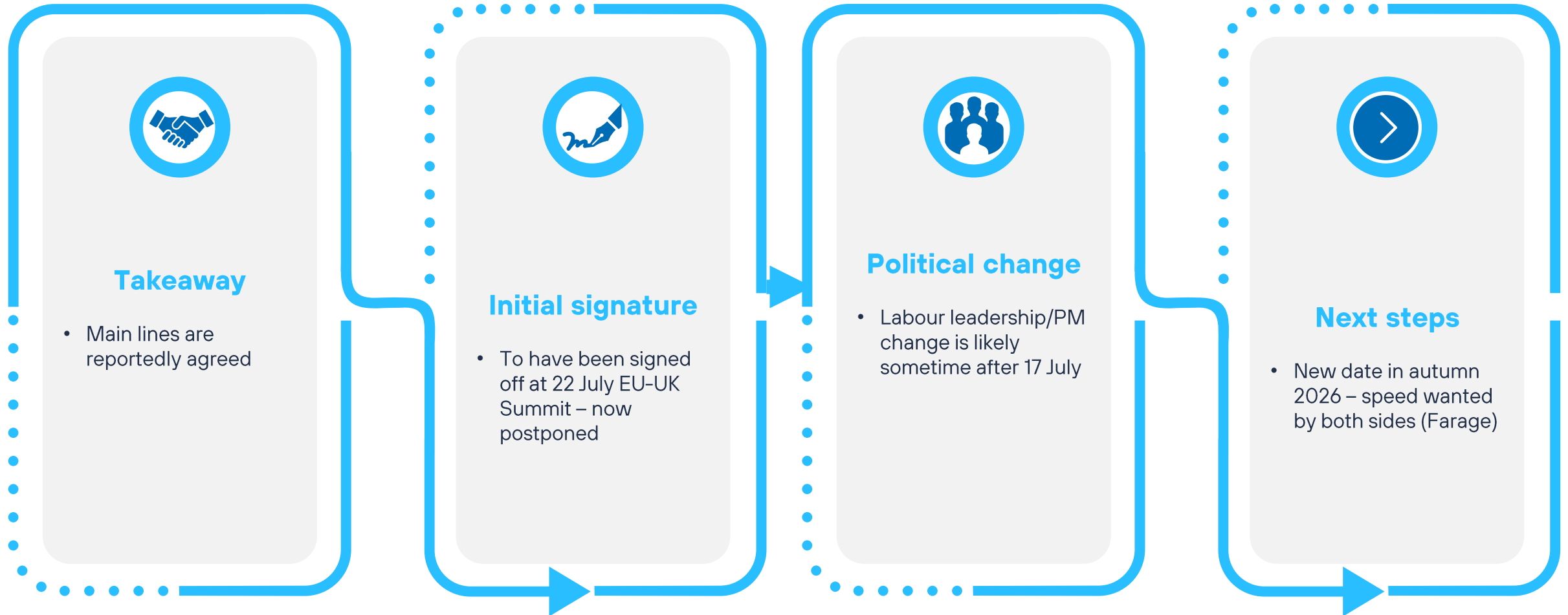




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EU-UK SPS Agreement: Timeline



EU-UK SPS Agreement: Content

Alignment

Will align UK food and feed – and drink regulation (which only diverged slightly since Brexit) fully with EU, also ‘dynamically’ on MRLs, labelling, packaging.

Customs

Will remove costly customs controls and veterinary Health Certificates at both sides of Channel and allow free movement of all food and feed products between UK and EU and Northern Ireland – hitherto controls needed also on processed products including animal-derived substances

Lifting bans

Will remove EU ban or strict controls on certain UK products (fresh and processed meat, milk products, seeds, plants)

EU-UK SPS Agreement: Implications



While direct imports from Japan will continue to be checked in UK, the SPS agreement should make it easier to supply both markets from a single European distribution centre, and reducing costs and delays at customs.



Need to watch MRLs of EU banned PPPs where UK will need to align to (also recently agreed) stricter EU rules.



Novel foods and NGTs: UK (English – regions devolved) regulation hitherto freer than EU rules recently agreed, so alignment may make exports to UK slightly more difficult

EU New Genomic Techniques Regulation

The NGT Regulation introduces new authorisation rules and requirements for plants that are considered equivalent to conventional breeding.



Content

- + Establishes a dedicated EU framework for NGT plants, with **two categories**:
 - Category 1 plants considered equivalent to conventional plants, and
 - Category 2 plants remaining largely under GMO rules.
- + Category 1 plants must meet **equivalence criteria**, including a limit of 20 genetic modifications per monoploid genome, and must not include **excluded traits** such as herbicide tolerance or production of a known insecticidal substance.
- + Category 1 status is confirmed through a **verification procedure** before deliberate release or market placement; verified plants are listed in an EU database.
- + Plant reproductive material containing Category 1 NGT plants must be **labelled** "NGT-1" with the relevant identification number.
- + The Regulation does not ban **patents** on NGT plants, but introduces patent-transparency obligations and a Commission expert group to assess the impact of NGT plant patenting.



Next steps

- + The Regulation applies from **17 July 2028**, with patent-related provisions applying from 16 July 2026.
- + Next steps include implementing verification procedures, databases, guidance and controls.



Thank you!

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