

MORNING TRADE UK



[View in your browser or listen to audio](#)

March 18, 2022

Good morning and welcome to Morning Trade UK. Send tips, suggestions or encouragement via g_lanktree@politico.co.uk, ecasalicchio@politico.co.uk and swhale@politico.co.uk | Follow us on Twitter: [@g_lanktree](https://twitter.com/g_lanktree), [@e_casalicchio](https://twitter.com/e_casalicchio) and [@sebwhale](https://twitter.com/sebwhale). | Signal/WhatsApp: 07522122775, 07834782961 and 07734854417.

****Stay on top of all [Crisis in Ukraine](#) policy news and analysis on UK trade.****

BE MORE PACIFIC

The U.K. has until tomorrow to hand in its market access proposals for accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. It kicks off the meat of the negotiation on whether or not Britain will join the 11-nation pact.

What happens next: London will submit papers detailing what it wants from the bloc and what it has to offer. The 11 nations will then issue individual responses to the proposals, and a series of bilateral and multilateral talks will begin.

Big ambitions: There are hopes among CPTPP members that U.K. accession could ease a path to the U.S. joining the bloc too, which would make the trade group a superpower on the world stage.

Indeed: CPTPP doesn't have the economic might to match the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership of nations led by China. But U.S. accession would almost triple the size of CPTPP and see it span 40 percent of the global economy, according to the [Columbia Political Review](#).

Biden their time: Despite the U.S. being a founding member of the concept, former President Donald Trump pulled the nation out of the process and his successor Joe Biden hasn't shown interest in changing tack.

Thing is ... CPTPP states could be waiting a long time. Harry Broadman, a former U.S. trade negotiator under President Bill Clinton, said it was hard to work out Biden's trade priorities between enforcing existing agreements, pursuing a possible trade deal with China or negotiating new deals.

US ambivalence: Broadman said businesses were "increasingly more interested in Washington joining CPTPP than previously." He said if the U.K. were to join, "it might make doing so by the U.S. somewhat more appealing. But I doubt overwhelmingly so."

Others sound more positive notes: "Theoretically speaking, the U.K. joining CPTPP would certainly enhance the U.K.'s credibility and standing in the wider global trade area, including with the U.S.," said Emanuel Adam from the British American Business group.

Get in the queue: Of course, if the U.S. did attempt to accede it would have to get in the queue behind recent applicants Taiwan and China — the latter of which CPTPP nations don't expect to make the grade.