



## EU-UK relations: Joint Committee adopts new Windsor Framework arrangements and Partnership Council looks to the future

London, 24 March 2023

The tenth meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee and the second meeting of the EU-UK Partnership Council took place in London today. Vice-President Maroš **Šefčovič** represented the European Union, while UK Foreign Secretary, James Cleverly, represented the United Kingdom. A joint statement following both meetings is available online [here](#).

### Joint Committee

The Joint Committee adopted today a decision laying down the arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework. This decision covers, amongst others, the arrangements for the movement of goods not at risk of entering the Single Market, the "Stormont Brake", and VAT and excise-related solutions, including the establishment of the Enhanced Coordination Mechanism for VAT and excise.

A series of Recommendations, Joint Declarations and Unilateral Declarations have also been published, clarifying how different aspects of the Windsor Framework will work in practice, e.g. State aid or market surveillance.

Both sides also discussed the issue of citizens' rights. They agreed on the importance of continuing to protect EU citizens and UK nationals and welcomed the efforts made over the past year to do so, including additional funding provided by both sides to external organisations. Solutions to all other relevant issues on citizens' rights will continue to be worked on.

### Partnership Council

In the Partnership Council today, the EU and the UK reaffirmed their desire to exploit fully the potential of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) in ways that benefit both parties. The two co-chairs discussed cooperation in a range of crucial areas, including energy, trade and security. They will remain in regular contact and will meet again to take stock of the work of the Committees under the TCA.

### Next steps

The Joint Committee decision and recommendations will enter into force tomorrow, 25 March. Certain parts will become applicable in a gradual way. For example, the new and expanded trusted trader scheme for freight will start applying on 30 September 2023, provided that the relevant safeguards are in place.

In order to fully implement the wide range of joint solutions announced in Windsor, the Commission tabled on 27 February three legislative proposals on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) rules, medicines and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs). The Commission is working closely with the European Parliament and the Council for their swift adoption over the coming months.

The EU and the UK will work closely together, in good faith, to ensure the full implementation of the Windsor Framework, including the full implementation of safeguards and facilitations.

### Background

On 27 February 2023, the Commission and the UK government reached a political agreement in principle on a new way forward as regards the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland – the Windsor Framework – a political declaration which includes joint solutions across different areas: governance, customs, agri-food products, VAT and excise, State aid, medicines and TRQs. EU Member States unanimously agreed to the Windsor Framework at [the General Affairs Council on 21 March 2023](#).

These new arrangements have been carried out within the framework of the Withdrawal Agreement of which the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland is an integral part. Within these pre-established legal parameters, a number of targeted amendments to the Protocol address, in a definitive manner, unforeseen challenges that have emerged since the start of the implementation of the Protocol.

## For More Information

[Opening remarks by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič at the meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee](#)

[Legal documents](#)

[Statement by President von der Leyen](#)

[Political Declaration](#)

[Press release on the Windsor Framework](#)

[Memo on the Windsor Framework](#)

[Factsheet on the Windsor Framework](#)

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## Quotes:

Today is an important moment, allowing us to open a new chapter in EU-UK relations. The Joint Committee has adopted a decision laying down the arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework, which will provide people and businesses in Northern Ireland with lasting certainty and predictability, while also protecting the integrity of the EU's Single Market. The full implementation of the Windsor Framework is now our joint priority. If the 25 years since the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement were about peace, the next 25 years should be about helping Northern Ireland complement that peace with increased prosperity. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight - 24/03/2023

## Press contacts:

[Daniel FERRIE](#) (+32 2 298 65 00)

[Tommaso ALBERINI](#) (+32 2 295 70 10)

General public inquiries: [Europe Direct](#) by phone [00 800 67 89 10 11](#) or by [email](#)