

UK/EU Summit: Outcomes for Northern Ireland

The Government is taking forward a new strategic partnership with the EU that will deliver greater prosperity and security for Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole. It will mean:

- Closer coordination on foreign policy and defence to enhance the UK's national security.
- Reduced costs to business and consumers, which will encourage growth, increase choice, and save money for working people – while protecting the UK internal market.
- Stepping up cooperation on the green energy transition, which will secure our energy supplies, drive growth, lower prices and decarbonise our economies.
- Jointly tackling irregular migration and crime, which will make our streets safer.

A new agreement on agrifood and plants with the EU will smooth flows of trade, protect the UK's internal market, reduce costs for businesses and improve consumer choice in Northern Ireland.

- The new agreement will remove a broad and wide-ranging set of requirements for goods and plants moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, because the same regulations will be followed across the UK. Where these new arrangements apply, there will be:
 - ✓ **No need for SPS paperwork** such as health certificates to move agrifood or plant products to Northern Ireland, whether moving them via freight or in parcels.
 - ✓ **No mandatory checks** on those goods.
 - ✓ **No need for Plant Health Labels** when moving plants for planting, seed potatoes, and used agricultural machinery – making a real difference in garden centres.
 - ✓ **No bans on 'high risk' plants** – like witch hazel, common honeysuckle, and sweet chestnut – delivering an important *Safeguarding the Union* commitment.
 - ✓ **No bans on chilled / frozen meats** moved outside the Windsor Framework, nor on goods that have been imported to GB and then moved to NI (the 'triangular trade').
 - ✓ **No more paperwork for agrifood goods moved for onward processing**, like milk and grain, enabling them to be easily sold across the UK and in the EU.

This will make a big difference for businesses, saving them hours of time and money by removing swathes of paperwork and numerous health certificates, checks, and processes.

- Businesses currently using the 'red lane' alone are expected to save close to £1 million per month, ending costly Export Health Certificates that cost £200 per consignment.

Consumers in Northern Ireland can expect to enjoy greater choice as a result – all whilst the benefits of the Windsor Framework will remain.

- These arrangements will benefit the vast majority of agrifoods, whilst protecting the facilitations under the Windsor Framework.
- The unique access Northern Ireland has to the EU's single market will continue, retaining a key competitive advantage for its economy.
- Northern Ireland goods will retain full unfettered access to the UK Internal Market, and benefit from the market access protections set out in law.
- The democratic mechanisms under the Windsor Framework will remain, so that Northern Ireland's elected representatives can continue to scrutinise the rules that apply.

The Government's renewed partnership with the EU will deliver a broader range of benefits for people and businesses in Northern Ireland and across the UK, including through:

- A security and defence partnership that will help us work together on threats to national security. This will support our defence industry, which stands behind more than 9,000 aerospace, defence, space, and security jobs in NI.
- A new closer law enforcement relationship which will help prevent crime and bring perpetrators to justice.
- Making it easier to travel to Europe by facilitating British passport holders to use eGates again.
- Linking Emissions Trading Schemes, which will help avoid hikes in bills and prices and save UK industry £800 million by 2030.

These new arrangements are a product of the Government's new partnership with the EU, and will now be developed into a legal text over the coming months.