Joint statement by the co-chairs of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee, European Commissioner, Maroš Šefčovič and the UK Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and European Relations, Hamish Falconer, on the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee meeting, 10 November 2026

The European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) today held a meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee in Brussels. The Joint Committee co-chairs took stock of the state of play of the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement since the last meeting on 2 February 2026. They reaffirmed the EU and UK's shared commitment to the full, timely, and faithful implementation of the Agreement in all its parts and agreed to undertake all the necessary action to reflect that in practice.

The co-chairs reiterated their joint commitment to protecting citizens' rights, which are of utmost priority for both sides, noting that almost 6 million EU citizens and 1 million UK nationals are protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. They highlighted the importance of ensuring a smooth transition for citizens from temporary to permanent residence over the course of 2027, so that citizens can fully enjoy the protections provided by the Agreement. The co-chairs expressed their strong joint commitment to step up work with a view to finding solutions to all structural issues impacting everyday lives of citizens, so they can fully enjoy their rights to live, work and travel, their benefits and safeguards, now and for the decades to come. The co-chairs also underscored the importance of the work on social security coordination for the full protection of citizens on both sides of the Channel.

The co-chairs recalled the fundamental role of the Windsor Framework in avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland and ensuring the protection of the EU Single Market, to which Northern Ireland has a unique access, and the integrity of the UK's Internal Market. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to implementing all the elements of the Windsor Framework, for the benefit of people and businesses in Northern Ireland and for the protection of the EU Single Market. They welcomed the progress made which delivers new benefits across areas, including in facilitating the movements of consumer parcels delivered to Northern Ireland, the protected access to steel for Northern Ireland traders under new measures and the simplifications in the operation of duty-related schemes for goods that stay in the UK. They agreed to accelerate the delivery of the safeguards for the protection of the EU Single Market in all areas. In particular, they agreed to strengthen efforts in the implementation of the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, with a view to ensuring that all agri-foods are moved to Northern Ireland in accordance with the Windsor Framework rules. They underscored the importance of respecting existing agreements and commitments, including in the SPS area, as the EU and the UK work to strengthen their bilateral partnership, which would also bring additional benefits to Northern Ireland.

The co-chairs discussed the progress made at technical level under the auspices of the Specialised Committee on the Protocol relating to the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus and agreed that it is important to finalise the work by the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

The co-chairs adopted three Joint Committee decisions relating to Social Security Coordination, Artificial Intelligence and Forced Labour. They welcomed an EU-UK declaration on the application of Windsor Framework provisions, which clarifies that handling fees for consumer parcels would be treated like customs duties, thus ensuring that they would not be paid on goods staying in the UK and any fees would be collected and kept by UK authorities for goods at risk of entering the EU. As regards the addition of the Cyber Resilience Act to the Windsor Framework, the co-chairs agreed to examine all possibilities to maintain the good functioning of the Framework and take the needed decisions in the future to this effect. Finally, they adopted the Joint Committee Annual Report for the year 2025.

The co-chairs agreed to continue working at pace on implementing the Withdrawal Agreement, which constitutes, together with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the recent Agreement in respect of Gibraltar, a solid foundation for strengthening bilateral relations in view of the EU-UK Summit on 20 November 2026.