



European
Commission

THE BENEFITS OF THE PROTOCOL ON IRELAND/ NORTHERN IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND UNIQUELY WELL POSITIONED

11 March 2022

- 1 Goods produced in Northern Ireland have a unique access to the EU's Single Market** – the biggest and most powerful trading bloc in the world. **Access to the EU's Single Market is free.** Northern Ireland does not have to pay for this.
 - A. No import duties, no customs formalities, no regulatory compliance checks or controls on goods moving from Northern Ireland to the EU.
 - B. No Value Added Tax (VAT) is to be paid for movements of goods from Northern Ireland to the EU.
 - C. Companies established in the rest of the UK have to deal with customs, VAT formalities and regulatory compliance checks or controls when trading with the EU. They also have to present a certificate of preferential origin to benefit from zero-duty treatment on their goods exported to the EU.
- 2 Northern Ireland is part of the UK's internal market.** The Protocol does not prevent the UK from ensuring unfettered market access for goods moving from Northern Ireland to other parts of the UK's internal market.
- 3 Northern Irish goods** have access to both EU and UK markets - representing a market of more than 500 million consumers with unparalleled purchasing power.
- 4 Northern Ireland has access to the UK's free trade deals.**
- 5 Northern Ireland is guaranteed continued access to EU energy markets** and, therefore, a secure supply of energy, thanks to the Single Electricity Market.

This unique market situation, an advanced legal system, some of the best universities in Europe, advanced telecoms infrastructure, a pro-business environment, competitive operating costs and proximity to major markets make Northern Ireland a unique place to invest in.

© European Union, 2021

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders. All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated.

