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*The Lord Stirrup KG GCB AFC
Chair
European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
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*The Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE KC
Chair
Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee
House of Lords
SW1A 0PW*

10 February 2026

Dear Lord Stirrup and Lord Carlile,

UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee and Trade and Cooperation Agreement Partnership Council - 2 February 2026

I am writing to inform you that the meetings of the Withdrawal Agreement (WA) Joint Committee, and Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) Partnership Council, took place in London on 2 February 2026, with delegations attending in person and by video conference.

The European Commissioner, Maroš Šefčovič and I co-chaired the meetings. A Joint Statement was agreed and published on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and the European Commission website.

The Commissioner and I both welcomed the new Strategic Partnership between the UK and the EU and reaffirmed our commitment to implementing the outcomes announced at the UK - EU Summit in May last year in a timely manner.

Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee

During the Joint Committee meeting, there was a stocktake of the activity of the Specialised Committees since its last meeting on 29 April 2025 and a discussion of the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

On citizens' rights, both sides reiterated our commitment to the protection of the rights of UK nationals in the EU, and EU citizens in the UK. The Joint Committee

reviewed the progress made in ensuring eligible citizens can effectively access their rights, particularly regarding the transition from temporary to permanent residence. I expressed that since the last Joint Committee meeting in April 2025, the UK has taken a number of steps to improve and enhance the rights of EU nationals in the UK, including the passing of legislation in December 2025 to resolve outstanding concerns on the 'true' and 'extra' cohorts issue. I also highlighted that concerns with implementation remain across the EU and that we hope to continue working with the Commission to resolve these, including providing guidance on how UK nationals can secure the correct documentation to acquire permanent residence.

Regarding the implementation of the Windsor Framework, the UK and EU welcomed the significant progress made on compliance, noting the delivery of work on IT systems to facilitate the operation of the freight and parcels facilitations and separately the reduction of agrifood checks from 10% to 8%. Our efforts on these issues are ultimately designed to support businesses and traders moving goods within the UK. I further noted the Government's response to the Independent Review, including the £16.6m package agreed at the last Budget that will enhance the available support for businesses trading through the facilitations under the Framework, as well as the steps we are taking to improve our engagement with stakeholders on the Framework.

We also emphasised the importance of continued cooperation in the field of trade, recalling our shared commitment to free, sustainable, fair and open trade as set out in the Common Understanding published following the UK-EU Summit last May.

The Committee adopted a decision to add the EU Act on Non-road Mobile Machinery to the Windsor Framework, on which I have made a statement to Parliament alongside an accompanying [Explanatory Memorandum](#). We also welcomed the work on the ongoing exchange of views on the Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Resilience Acts and agreed for those to continue to progress.

Finally, the Joint Committee discussed the Protocol relating to the Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus. I made clear that the UK was engaging positively and in good faith to resolve outstanding concerns regarding the effective implementation of the Protocol and stood ready to hold further technical talks.

TCA Partnership Council

Meeting for the first time since the UK-EU Summit in May 2025, the Partnership Council welcomed the positive progress and the announcement of the Common Understanding setting out an agenda for strengthening UK-EU cooperation. The Commissioner and I highlighted key achievements since the last meeting, including the conclusion of the Competition Cooperation Agreement and decisions stemming from the UK-EU Summit to extend the TCA's energy chapter beyond its scheduled end date and to roll over reciprocal arrangements on fishing access, securing long-term stability and continued access for both parties.

The Partnership Council also welcomed the agreement for the UK's association to Erasmus+ in 2027 and the conclusion of exploratory talks and agreement to proceed swiftly towards formal negotiations on the UK's participation in the EU's internal electricity market. We also reaffirmed our aim to conclude negotiations on the Youth Experience Scheme, establishing a common Sanitary and Phytosanitary Area, and on linking our Emissions Trading Systems, by the time of next UK-EU Summit.

We discussed the commitment under Article 776 of the TCA to jointly review the implementation of the agreement after five years. We acknowledged the evaluation work that had already taken place by both sides, including the UK Government's implementation report published in September last year, as well as the on-going role of the Specialised Committees in considering and addressing new or outstanding points of implementation, the enhanced cooperation agreed via the Common Understanding, and the agreement to hold annual summits. We also agreed on the on-going importance of input from stakeholders, including the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly and the Domestic Advisory Groups. In this context, we would like to thank the European Affairs Committee (EAC) and the Northern Ireland Scrutiny Committee for their scrutiny work, including the EAC's recent report on the UK-EU reset, and we look forward to future contributions.

The Partnership Council welcomed the third UK-EU dialogue on Cyber issues in December 2025, discussed cooperation on cyber security in line with Articles 704–707 of the TCA, and looked forward to deepening the UK-EU partnership across these areas to address shared threats.

In the area of trade and economic security, both sides exchanged views on global challenges, including measures relating to global steel overcapacity, economic and supply chain security, and industrial policy measures. We also discussed the development and implementation of our respective Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms. I welcomed the publication of the EU's recent implementing acts, noting in particular the recognition of the UK's Carbon Price Support and the positive impact this will have on the electricity sector. It was noted that both the UK and the EU appreciate continued constructive dialogues to discuss technical considerations and shared issues. Negotiations remain underway on an ETS linking agreement, which will secure mutual exemptions from our respective CBAMs.

I also noted the importance of agreeing pragmatic Cathode Active Materials guidance, in a timely fashion, to support the automotives industry with upcoming 2027 electric vehicles rule changes.

We also welcomed continued cooperation on security of supply and on clean energy technologies.

Finally, the Partnership Council took stock of the relationship on fisheries, acknowledging successful bilateral consultations on catch limits for shared fish stocks, and considering UK-EU cooperation in coastal state forums and on upcoming fisheries management measures

Under any other business I raised my desire for us to conclude an MoU on intellectual property as soon as possible.

Both sides agreed that the joint bodies should continue to work rapidly to take forward these priorities and reaffirmed their commitment to fully exploiting the potential of the TCA.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, and UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, and I will also place a copy of the letter in the library of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Thomas-Symonds', written in a cursive style.

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**