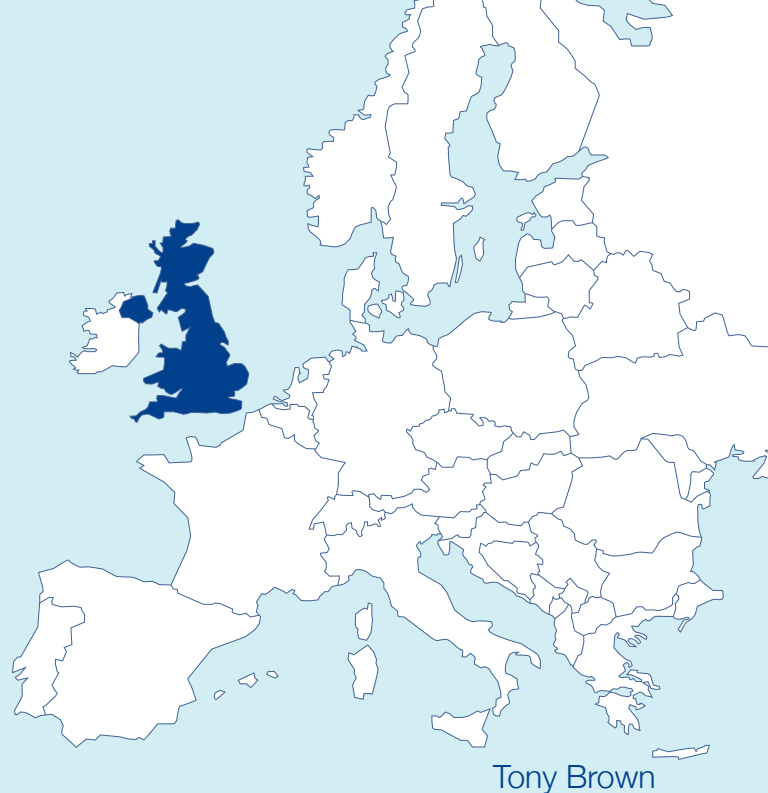


BREXIT BRIEF

Brexit Brief Issue 110
19 May 2021



Introduction

The Brief seeks to provide up-to-date information on the progress and content of the UK-EU negotiations, and bring together relevant statements and policy positions from key players in Ireland, the UK and the EU.

The Brief is part of a wider communications programme covering the work of the IIEA's UK Project Group – including commentaries, speeches, texts and event reports – which are highlighted on the Institute's website. (www.iiea.com)

Section One: State of Play

A 'win-lose' fight

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, has warned of "very serious harm" if people keep "trying to use Brexit to create points of dispute or by presenting every single issue as a zero-sum, win-lose fight". "When this approach is followed in relation to UK-EU relations the damage it causes is primarily economic", he lamented. Misrepresenting the arrangements for Northern Ireland has the potential for even graver damage, he warned.

He continued:

And this also gets in the way of understanding two basic points about the post-Brexit arrangement for Northern

Ireland. First, it leaves constitutional issues solely in the hands of the people. It has absolutely no implications for national identity or any other substantive issue. Second, and just as importantly, Northern Ireland now has the unique position of benefiting from free access to the markets of both the UK and the EU.

He also said the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland (the Protocol) "is a fair conclusion to attempts to limit the potential destructiveness of Brexit on this island", despite unionist demands for it to be scrapped.

Mr Martin said the Protocol "is complex, but it is nowhere near as complex as it is presented. It is not as complex as the thousands of Brexit issues remaining in relation to trade

and other contacts between Great Britain and the European Union. Rules and connections developed over half a century don't come apart easily. With good faith and co-operation, disruption can be limited and we can resolve outstanding issues. We've seen important progress in recent days".

Taoiseach and Prime Minister meeting, 14 May 2021

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson met at Chequers on Friday, 14 May 2021. Two Statements were issued following the meeting.

The Taoiseach's Office stated:

The Taoiseach and Prime Minister had constructive engagement across a number of issues, including the COVID-19 response, support for peace and stability in Northern Ireland, and the broader British-Irish relationship.

Discussions focused on ways the two Governments can continue to work together to support all the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement and promote peace and prosperity on both a North/South and East/West basis. The two leaders, in particular, discussed the long journey of the Ballymurphy families for justice to vindicate the innocence of their loved ones.

They also discussed British-Irish relations, and both are ambitious for the development of the next phase of the bilateral relationship framed around a number of areas of common interest.

The Taoiseach and Prime Minister had a good exchange on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the value of working together. They agreed to remain in close touch over the coming weeks.

No 10 Downing Street issued the following statement:

The leaders reflected on the Coroner's report into the Ballymurphy massacre published this week. They agreed it was profoundly sad that the families of victims had to wait so long for the truth. The Prime Minister restated the UK Government's commitment to finding a way forward in Northern Ireland that delivers for victims, aids truth recovery and helps communities in the future.

The Prime Minister and Taoiseach discussed their shared ambitions for the future of the UK-Ireland relationship including further collaboration on science and technology, fighting climate change and cultural endeavours.

They agreed on the importance of working together to uphold the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and to maintain smooth trade between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The leaders resolved to continue to work together in our fight against coronavirus and to closely share information in order to enable a better recovery."

On his return to Dublin the Taoiseach said that Irish and British officials will seek to work together on subjects including legacy issues in Northern Ireland. He indicated that the two leaders had discussed the Stormont House provisions but agreed only that the two governments would "continue to exchange perspectives on it." On Ballymurphy, the Taoiseach said that the Prime Minister understands the situation. "I think it's something he will deal with in his way and in his own time", he stated.

Lord Frost in Northern Ireland, 11 May 2021

Lord Frost and Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis held a series of meetings with business and community representatives in Northern Ireland on a two-day visit, during which they also visited Larne Port, to see how checks and controls under the Protocol are currently being operated. They also met with Border Force and DAERA officials, and the EU Commission staff present under the Protocol arrangements. Subsequently, No.10 Downing Street issued a statement in which both Lord Frost and Brandon Lewis offered their perspectives on the visit.

Lord Frost, Minister of State at the Cabinet Office, said:

It's clear from my visit that the Protocol is presenting significant challenges for many in Northern Ireland. Businesses have gone to extraordinary efforts to make the current requirements work, but it is hard to see that the way the Protocol is currently operating can be sustainable for long.

We're committed to working through the issues with the EU urgently and in good faith. I hope they will take a common sense, risk-based approach that enables us to agree a pragmatic way forward that substantially eases the burdens on Northern Ireland.

Solutions must be found rapidly in order to protect the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in all its dimensions and to minimise disruption to the everyday lives of people in Northern Ireland - as

the Protocol itself requires. As the Prime Minister has made clear, we will continue to consider all our options in meeting our overriding responsibility for sustaining the peace and prosperity of everyone in Northern Ireland.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis said:

Over the past two days, I have had productive meetings with Lord Frost and representatives from across Northern Ireland, building on my extensive engagement since the start of this year.

It is vital that the experiences, opportunities and challenges faced by people and Northern Ireland are understood and at the heart of our approach. I will continue these constructive and practical discussions in the weeks ahead, supporting Northern Ireland's business needs and minimising the risk of disruptions at a crucial time."

During their visit to Belfast Lord Frost and Brandon Lewis held a meeting with the Loyalist Communities Council (LCC), representative of loyalist paramilitaries. Downing Street said that it was important to "engage widely" with communities in Northern Ireland. The LCC stated that "the delegation emphasised the need for significant change to the Protocol to bring it back into consistency with the Belfast Agreement and to ensure that the Prime Minister honoured his commitment to seek, and if necessary, unilaterally legislate to reach an agreement on a workable alternative.

Coveney-Šefčovič Meeting

Speaking after a meeting with European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney said that there is pressure to find solutions to the issues surrounding the Northern Ireland Protocol before the loyalist marching season in July. The Commission and the UK Government shared this concern.

The Minister expressed the hope that the EU-UK Joint Committee on the Protocol could meet in the first week of June which would offer the possibility of both sides working together “technically, legally and politically” to reach an agreement on the crucial issue of veterinary standards which could “reduce the need for the majority of inspections at ports in Northern Ireland”.

Northern Ireland Party Leadership Elections

On Friday, 14 May 2021 the Northern Ireland Agriculture Minister, Edwin Poots MLA, was elected Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). He narrowly beat Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP, the DUP leader in the House of Commons - by 19 votes to 17 in an electorate comprised of the eight DUP MPs and the 28 Stormont MLAs. He will succeed First Minister Arlene Foster as party leader.

Mr Poots said that he would not take on the role of First Minister but would appoint a party colleague to that position so that he could concentrate on opposing the Northern Ireland Protocol and restructuring the DUP, while retaining the Agriculture portfolio. He urged fellow unionists to work with him to oppose the Protocol, saying that he would meet the Northern Ireland Secretary, Brandon Lewis, within days to discuss the Protocol.

Mr Poots is from the socially conservative wing of the DUP but the position of Deputy Leader was won by Paula Bradley MLA, considered to be the party’s, most socially liberal MLA, who defeated Gregory Campbell MP, also by a two vote margin.

Mr Poots said before returning to cross-Border ministerial co-operation, he wanted to meet with the Irish government “to set out what the issues are because they have hugely damaged North-South relations in their conduct over the protocol, the demands they have made and their aggressive nature”. They claim to be protectors of the Belfast Agreement, yet they have allowed a coach and horses to be driven through it, he argued. He called on the Irish Government “to recognise the unacceptability of that”.

As Edwin Poots takes over as DUP leader the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) must prepare for new leadership also. Resigning as leader, Steve Aiken told the party chair, Danny Kennedy, that “to achieve our goals we now need new leadership [...] to represent the brand of unionism that builds on hope and not fear, and provides a clear, modern alternative that will be both the future of our party and Northern Ireland, will require strong leadership.” On Monday, 17 May, it became clear that Doug Beattie would stand uncontested. He assumes his new role pending party ratification on Thursday, 27 May,

Joint Statement by Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and Minister Simon Coveney

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence Simon Coveney met in Dublin on 5 May 2021. Following their meeting, they released a Joint Statement:

Today we met to discuss a range of issues. We agreed on the need to work together in close partnership to protect and uphold all aspects of the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement in all circumstances. We have also agreed to convene a meeting of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference in June, to discuss matters of mutual interest within the competence of both Governments as the Agreement intended.

We are aware that there are sincerely held concerns in different communities in Northern Ireland in relation to a number of issues and firmly agree that the best way forward is through dialogue and engagement. We recognise the responsibility we all bear to enhance the confidence of everyone in Northern Ireland in all the institutions of the Agreement to help realise its vision for reconciliation, equality, respect for rights and parity of esteem.

EU Ambassador Issue Resolved

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and EU High Representative and Vice-President of the Commission Josep Borrell met in the margins of the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers Meeting in London on Wednesday, 5 May 2021. In a Joint Statement, they said:

We are pleased to have reached an agreement together, based on goodwill and pragmatism, on an Establishment Agreement for the EU Delegation to the UK. The EU Ambassador will have a status consistent with heads of missions of states, including agrément and presentation of the credentials to the Head of State. EU Delegation staff will have the privileges and immunities needed to function effectively, while allowing for

effective administration of justice, and we look forward to moving ahead and tackling global challenges together.

Ambassador João Vale de Almeida, welcoming the development, commented that the EU will not be 'bureaucratic' as it seeks urgent solutions to the Brexit border issue. "We have a political and even an emotional commitment. And we are definitely committed to finding solutions", he added. He said that talks between London and Brussels to implement the Protocol were now in a better position and that the "ideal situation" to reduce border friction on trade from Great Britain to Northern Ireland would be for the UK to agree to mirror EU legislation on plants and animal health. The UK, however, continues to insist on its sovereignty.

North South Ministerial Council, 5 May 2021

A North South Ministerial Council Transport meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh and by videoconference on 5 May 2021. The meeting was attended by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Transport, Nichola Mallon MLA, Minister for Infrastructure, and Rt. Hon. Arlene Foster MLA, First Minister. Minister Ryan chaired the meeting.

Ministers welcomed the continued co-operation between the Department for Infrastructure and the Department of Transport on EU funding related matters and the potential for significant funding opportunities for North/South Cooperation in the Transport sector.

The meeting discussed a wide range of Transport issues: Cross Border Greenways; A5 Western Transport Corridor; High-Speed Rail Connectivity; Narrow Water Bridge; renewed Air Services; Sustainable Mobility Policy Review; Sustainable Transport and Travel.

The meeting further considered the Safefood Business Plan and Budget and the North South Language Body Corporate Plan and Business Plan 2021. A number of appointments to the boards of Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency.

Section Two: The Evolving Debate

United States urged to appoint Special Envoy

The Biden administration has been urged to appoint a Special Envoy to Northern Ireland. At a congressional hearing on the Belfast Agreement the House Foreign Affairs Committee heard a plea from the former Northern Ireland Envoy, Mitchell Reiss, who spoke of the “real need” for an envoy. “I believe that the United States can once more play a crucial role in helping the people in Northern Ireland. The United States brings a long track record of proven diplomatic success, has the ability to help the political parties and leaders in London and Dublin with the challenges facing the region”, he added.

Mitchell Reiss’ remarks were supported by Professor Monica McWilliams of Ulster University and former Northern Ireland Assembly Deputy Speaker, Jane Morrice who gave evidence to the bipartisan Committee.

The position of Special Envoy to Northern Ireland has been unfilled since the departure of Mick Mulvaney who was appointed by President Trump.

Michel Barnier Brexit Book

Michel Barnier has published, initially in the French – with an English translation due in October - a 500-page diary of his time as Chief EU negotiator: *La Grande Illusion: Journal secret du Brexit (2016-2020)*.

Barnier expresses bewilderment at the British approach to the talks process, highlighting his astonishment when former Prime Minister Theresa May, in her Lancaster House speech laid out the UK ‘red lines’, including leaving the single market and the customs union. “Have the consequences of these decisions been thought through, measured, discussed [...] Does she realise this rules out almost all forms of cooperation we have with our partners? I am amazed at the way the Prime Minister has shown her hand”, he writes.

Of his UK counterparts, Barnier describes David Davis as “warm, truculent and very self-assured”, Dominic Raab as “almost messianic”, Theresa May as “direct, determined and rather rigid, in her figure and in her attitudes” and Boris Johnson simply “baroque”.

Praising the competence of British civil servants, Barnier remarks that “they have above them a political class who, in part, simply refuse to acknowledge today the direct upshot of the positions they adopted a year ago”. He is surprised again and again by the incompetence and self-delusion that informed London’s negotiating strategy.

Warnings and Calls for Action

The former DUP leader and First Minister, Peter Robinson, has warned that the DUP risks not being the largest political party in Northern Ireland if it “sheds elements of its support base” and that “leading from the centre” is critical for maintaining support for the Union. “Move to the edges and you lop off an important portion of people at the other end of the party spectrum. This is the route to minority status.”

Unionist leaders who negotiated the Good Friday Agreement - including David Trimble, Ken Maginnis, Reg Empey and John Taylor

- have written an open letter to the Prime Minister, the Taoiseach and Commission Vice-President Šefčovič, calling for the suspension of the the Protocol. The letter states that unionists had secured community support for the Agreement on the basis that the constitutional position of Northern Ireland would not be changed without their consent.

They write that:

The imposition of the Northern Ireland Protocol has breached all of the core guarantees and safeguards of the Agreement. The status of Northern Ireland is not what it was prior to the Protocol taking effect, therefore it has changed and changed without the consent of the people of Northern Ireland. We expect you to now suspend the Northern Ireland Protocol forthwith and engage with the representatives of the people of Northern Ireland to agree new arrangements which are consistent with the guarantees and provisions of the Belfast Agreement...

Four former Northern Ireland Secretaries – Peter Hain, Peter Mandelson, Paul Murphy, Shaun Woodward – together with former Archbishop of Armagh, Robin Eames and Chief Constable Hugh Orde have written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling for urgent action to deal with the evolving situation in Northern Ireland.

They state:

There is a strong sense within loyalist and unionist communities that no one is listening to them, and nobody in authority I Whitehall has been honest with them about the consequences of Brexit. The most immediate step is, therefore, for the government at the highest level to be

seen to take an interest. As a matter of urgency, the government must address the outworking of the protocol, with Brussels.

The signatories further argue that there is a need “to rebuild trust with Dublin which has been badly damaged and to breathe fresh life into the British Irish intergovernmental process which is a key part of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.”

Unionist Court Case Commences

A legal challenge by unionist parties against the Northern Ireland Protocol commenced in Belfast High Court on Friday, 14 May 2021. The judicial review has been taken by the DUP, the UUP and the Traditional Unionist Voice party.

Speaking ahead of the hearing, the applicants said the protocol infringes their constitutional and economic entitlements under the Acts of Union and the assurances of the Belfast Agreement. They said it also undermines their democratic entitlement to be governed only by laws made by those we elect.

Minister Byrne at Centre for European Reform, 12 May 2021

Speaking at the Centre for European Reform think tank, Minister Byrne emphasised the importance of making the EU-UK relationship work and the political decisions that must underpin this:

Truly investing in the EU-UK partnership is indisputably in the interest of our citizens and businesses. The political signals we give about how we value the EU-UK relationship have a direct impact on their welfare, now and into the future.

Both the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Protocol, must be fully implemented through joint action in the appropriate channels. It is only by doing this that their full potential can be realised as the connective tissue supporting partnership and prosperity into the future.

The Minister has welcomed the results of the 2021 Eurobarometer poll for Ireland, published by the European Commission Representation in Ireland which showed continuing high levels of public support for, and trust in the EU. Positive perceptions of the EU in Ireland are at their highest level since 2004 (currently 75%). A similarly high number of Irish people (74%) also maintain trust in the EU's institutions. Commenting on the findings, Minister Byrne said: "With this latest poll, the Irish public has once again demonstrated its unwavering support for the EU which is now at its highest level in 15 years. I was especially pleased to see that 77% of Irish people – more than any other EU nationality – believe the EU is responsive to their concerns."

Economic Issues and Concerns

The fishing dispute centred on Jersey has seen threats to power supplies, British and French naval forces deployed and ports blockaded. The Financial Times commented:

War footing aside, fishing's supposedly crucial status in the Brexit process has not done it much good. On almost every measure Brexit reality has failed to live up to the rhetoric. The headline 25 per cent uplift in quotas over five and half years actually equates to a 16 per cent rise in the UK share of quota in its own waters. The value of that is debatable given that certain stocks Independence has not

yielded much, other than the warm glow of our sovereign right to negotiate.

A survey of 190 companies by Manufacturing NI has shown that Brexit and the Irish Sea border continues to cause difficulties for Northern Ireland manufacturers who purchase materials and parts from Great Britain. It found that the Northern Irish firms' greatest issues relate to the unpreparedness or unwillingness of supplies in Great Britain to adopt Brexit regulations. A fifth of businesses surveyed said that suppliers are unwilling to engage with the new requirements.

The survey demonstrated a mixed picture of how NI businesses are coping with the new situation. Almost a third of businesses said they are now on top of the issues after initial difficulties. However as many as 36% of respondents said they were struggling with issues that are likely to persist. Most companies believe that the Protocol is here to stay but that it needs improvement.

UK goods exports to Ireland fell by 13% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period. There were signs of recovery in March. Trade across the Irish Sea has become more difficult as the Brexit transition period came to an end.

The EU has moved to lessen some red tape in respect of movement of livestock and plants – and to ease the movement of guide dogs – between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. What were described as "workarounds" emerged from EU-UK talks in recent weeks which took place in an "improved atmosphere" with determination to calm the rising tensions arising from the implementation of the Protocol.

Section Three: Background Material and Further Reading

Background Material

Government of Ireland Taoiseach meets British Prime Minister, 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/bb044-taoiseach-meets-british-prime-minister/>

GOV.UK PM meeting with Irish Taoiseach, 14 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-meeting-with-irish-taoiseach-14-may-2021>

GOV.UK Lord Frost calls on EU to show pragmatism on the Protocol, 11 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-frost-calls-on-eu-to-show-pragmatism-on-the-protocol-after-meetings-with-a-number-of-business-and-community-representatives-in-Northern-Ireland>

GOV.UK Joint Statement by Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and Simon Coveney, 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-secretary-of-state-brandon-lewis-and-simon-coveney>

GOV.UK Foreign Secretary's meeting with EU High Representative and Vice President of the Commission Josep Borrell, 5 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-meeting-with-josep-borrell-eu-high-representative-and-vice-president-of-the-commission-5-may-2021>

Government of Ireland Minister Thomas Byrne. The Future EU-UK Relationship: an Irish Perspective, 12 May 2012. <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/31111-minister-byrne-gives-irelands-perspective-on-the-eu-uk-relationship-at-centre-for-european-reform/>

Government of Ireland Minister Thomas Byrne welcomes poll showing high public support in Ireland for the EU, 13 May 2021. <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/press-release-archive/2021/may/minister-thomas-byrne-welcomes-poll-showing-high-public-su...>

North South Ministerial Council Joint Communique Transport Meeting, 5 May 2021. https://www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org/sites/northsouthministerialcouncil.org/files/publications/Transport%20Joint%20Communique%C3%A9%205%20May%202021_0.pdf

The Irish Times Taoiseach and British PM remain divided on major issues after summit. *IT*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/taoiseach-and-british-pm-remain-divided-on-major-issues-after-summit-1.4565614>

Belfast Telegraph Lord Frost calls on EU to 'stop point-scoring' over NI Protocol. *Belfast Telegraph*, 16 May 2021. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/lord-frost-calls-on-eu-to-stop-point-scoring-over-ni-protocol-40431208.html>

The Telegraph Northern Ireland Protocol 'dead in the water', senior ally of Boris Johnson says. *The Telegraph*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/15/northern-ireland-protocol-dead-water-senior-ally-boris-johnson>

Irish Examiner David Frost and Brandon Lewis met loyalist paramilitary representatives. *Examiner*, 12 May 2021. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/and-40287854.html>

The Guardian Britain warns EU that Northern Ireland protocol unsustainable. *Guardian*, 11 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/11/britain-warns-eu-that-northern-ireland-protocol-unsustainable>

The Irish Times NI protocol 'not sustainable for long' says UK cabinet minister. *IT*, 12 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/uk/ni-protocol-not-sustainable-for-long-says-uk-cabinet-minister-1.4562362>

Belfast Telegraph Lord Frost: Government 'committed' to working through NI Protocol issues. *Belfast Telegraph*, 11 May 2021. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/lord-frost-government-committed-to-working-through-ni-protocol-issues-40415965.html>

Irish News Simon Coveney: Pressure to find NI Protocol solutions before marching season. *Irish News*, 11 May 2021. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2021/05/11/news/simon-coveney-pressure-to-find-ni-protocol-solutions-before-marching-season>

RTÉ EU rejects UK compromise over Northern Ireland Protocol. *RTE*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2021/0507/1215936-northern-ireland-protocol/>

The Financial Times The UK and EU must find a new equilibrium. *FT*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/5476c5d3-2f2f-42bf-aaba-bd933949fa1a>

BBC Brexit: UK gives EU ambassador full diplomatic status. *BBC*, 5 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-57002735>

The Financial Times EU envoy says bloc is committed to resolving N Ireland dispute. *FT*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/ff595a81-b577-4909-bc5e-6add958d62a7>

The Guardian Tory quarrels determined UK's post-Brexit future, says Barnier. *Guardian*, 5 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/05/tory-quarrels-betrayals-uk-post-brexit-future-barnier-eu>

The Irish Times Michel Barnier details bewilderment with British approach to Brexit talks. *IT*, 6 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/world/europe/michel-barnier-details-bewilderment-with-british-approach-to-brexit-talks-1.4556519>

The Financial Times Boris Johnson's 'madman' strategy dumbfounded Brussels' Brexit chief. *FT*, 6 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/xbf06a87-bb6a-4159-ba6a-0f14e34f3c70>

The Observer Labour wants to move on from Brexit, but English voters just won't let them. *The Guardian*, 9 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/09/labour-wants-to-move-on-from-brexit-but-english-voters-just-wont-let-them>

The Telegraph Jacob Rees-Mogg. Parliament cannot blame Brussels any longer. *Telegraph*, 10 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/10/parliament-cannot-blame-brussels-longer/>

RTÉ Unionist negotiators of Good Friday Agreement want NI Protocol suspended. *RTE*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.rte.ie/news/regional/2021/0507/1217659-unionists-letter-protocol/>

The Guardian Edwin Poots elected DUP leader to succeed Arlene Foster. *The Guardian*, 14 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/14/edwin-poots-elected-dup-leader-to-succeed-arlene-foster>

The Telegraph Edwin Poots vows to 'undermine' Northern Ireland protocol after being elected DUP leader. *The Telegraph*, 14 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/2021/05/14/dup-leadership-election-result-edwin-poots-appointed-first-minister/>

The Telegraph The election of Edwin Poots sends a warning to Westminster and Brussels. *Telegraph*, 14 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2021/05/14/election-edwin-poots-sends-warning-westminster-brussels/>

BBC Edwin Poots: PM leads reaction to DUP leadership election. *BBC*, 14 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-57122832>

BBC Edwin Poots and DUP facing big questions after smash and grab. *BBC*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-57126309>

The Telegraph Unionist leaders write open letter calling for suspension of Northern Ireland Protocol. *The Telegraph*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/05/07/unionist-leaders-write-open-letter-calling-suspension-northern/>

Belfast Telegraph Peter Robinson warns Union at risk if new DUP leader appeals to 'extremes'. *Belfast Telegraph*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/peter-robinson-warns-union-at-risk-if-new-dup-leader-appeals-to-extremes-40397028.html>

Financial Times Northern Ireland adds to pressures on the UK union. *FT*, 5 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/92ccf835-6ead-43c9-8fd1-2bcded163885>

The Telegraph Treasury prepares for bonfire of EU red tape. *The Telegraph*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/05/15/treasury-prepares-bonfire-eu-red-tape/>

BBC Irish Sea Border: UK exports to Ireland drop since Brexit. *BBC*, 12 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-57084803>

BBC Brexit: Irish Sea border 'still causing difficulties'. *BBC*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-57014342>

The Financial Times In the Brexit battle of fish and finance, everybody lost. *FT*, 7 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/d78a8b5e-153e-450b-a2ed-bb7cfced3833>

The Irish Times EU and UK to ease protocol rules on guide dogs, plant declarations, animal tags. *IT*, 4 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/eu-and-uk-to-ease-protocol-rules-dogs-plant-declarations-animal-tags-1.4554422>

The Financial Times France threatens to cut power to Jersey as fishing tensions rise. *FT*, 5 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/d5de83a9-9da8-48b3-bca4-730c60658fc7a8b>

The Guardian Post-Brexit trade deals mean firms will miss out on Freeport benefits. *The Guardian*, 10 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/may/10/post-brexit-trade-deals-mean-firms-will-miss-out-on-freeport-benefits>

The Financial Times UK's services sector starts to count the real cost of Brexit. *FT*, 10 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/d0c10195-0e2e-4913-af74-3b7057163e3f>

The Financial Times Brussels signals flexibility on post Brexit rules for N Ireland. *FT*, 5 May 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/00c3dce0-704a-46cc-bac9-198b4892206e>

The Guardian 'Complex Identities' of Northern Ireland being undermined, says ex-official. *Guardian*, 2 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/02/complex-identities-of-northern-ireland-being-undermined-says-ex-official>

The Irish Times Belfast Agreement not a post-dated cheque for Irish unity. *IT*, 3 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/belfast-agreement-not-a-postdated-cheque-for-irish-unity-1.4553658>

The Guardian Northern Ireland's unionist movement in turmoil as UUP leader steps down. *The Guardian*, 8 May 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/may/08/ulster-unionist-party-leader-announces-resignation>

The Irish Times A decade after queen's visit, where are Anglo-Irish relations heading? *IT*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/a-decade-after-queen-s-visit-where-are-anglo-irish-relations-heading-1.4565292>

The Irish Times 'Slightest spark' could risk peace in NI, Barnier warns in new book. *IT*, 6 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/slightest-spark-could-risk-peace-in-ni-michl-barnier-warns-in-new-book-1.4556305>

BBC Failure to attend north-south meeting 'unacceptable' – Irish PM. *BBC*, 6 May 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-56996202>

The Irish Times United States urged to appoint special envoy to Northern Ireland. *IT*, 6 May 2021. <https://irishtimes.com/news/politics/united-states-urged-to-appoint-envoy-to-northern-ireland-1.4556287>

The Irish Times Trust between Ireland and UK is in short supply. *IT*, 8 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/trust-between-ireland-and-uk-is-in-short-supply-1.4558286>

The Irish Times Ireland is set to be a member of the awkward squad in Brussels. *IT*, 8 May 2021. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/cliff-taylor-ireland-is-set-to-be-a-member-of-the-awkward-squad-in-brussels-1.4558540>

RTÉ Four things we have learnt from the British Elections. *RTE*, 9 May 2021. <https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2021/0509/1217801-uk-elections-analysis/>

RTÉ Scotland, Independence and the EU: the High Road or the Hard Road? *RTE*, 15 May 2021. <https://www.rte.ie/news/analysis-and-comment/2021/0515/1221711-brexit-scotland-independence-eu/>

Further Reading

Centre for European Policy Studies The EU in the 21st Century

The Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) is Ireland's leading international affairs think tank. Founded in 1991, its mission is to foster and shape political, policy and public discourse in order to broaden awareness of international and European issues in Ireland and contribute to more informed strategic decisions by political, business and civil society leaders.

The IIEA is independent of government and all political parties and is a not-for profit organisation with charitable status. In January 2021, the Global Go To Think Tank Index ranked the IIEA as Ireland's top think tank.

© Institute of International and European Affairs, May 2021

Creative Commons License

This is a human-readable summary of (and not a substitute for) the license.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike/4.0/> 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

You are free to:

- Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material
- The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms.

Under the following terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.



The IIEA acknowledges the support of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union



The Institute of International and European Affairs,

8 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

T: +353-1-8746756 F: +353-1-8786880

E: reception@iiea.com W: www.iiea.com