

# BREXIT BRIEF

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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](http://www.iiea.com))

## Introduction

A few days in June have posed direct challenges to political leadership in Brussels, London, Dublin and Belfast: Unilateral legislative action by the UK Government; resumed legal action and suggestions of 'doomsday legislation' by the EU Commission; and warnings of "a very serious situation" and "economic vandalism" by the Taoiseach.

These developments are set against the background of the state of the UK Conservative Party following Prime Minister Boris Johnson's survival of a confidence motion. Crucial parliamentary by-election campaigns – at Wakefield and Tiverton – are underway, with possible Tory losses posing a real threat to Johnson's leadership. The

resignation of the Prime Minister's ethics advisor – the second such departure in two years – represents a further weakening of Boris Johnson's standing within the party and the wider electorate. However, positive reaction to Johnson's performance in the Ukraine crisis must be taken into account.

In a statement that gives credibility to commentary arguing that "slowly but unmistakably, Ireland and Britain are growing apart, Taoiseach Micheál Martin told the European Parliament: "Unilateral action to set aside a solemn agreement would be deeply damaging. It would mark a historic low-point signalling a disregard for essential principles of law which are the foundation of international relations."

## Section One: State of Play

### UK Legislation Introduced

On 13 June 2022, the UK Government introduced the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill in the House of Commons. The Bill “aims to fix parts of the Northern Ireland Protocol, to restore stability and protect the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.” The UK Government accompanied the Bill with a formal statement of the Government’s legal position, which asserts that such legislation is lawful under international law and the doctrine of necessity.

The Government published a detailed explanatory document – ‘Northern Ireland Protocol: the UK’s solution’:

*Our preference is to negotiate solutions to the problems being faced by businesses, citizens and communities. Unfortunately, after eighteen months of talks we have not so far been able to agree on an outcome that provides a sustainable basis for operating the Protocol.*

*But we have made clear and comprehensive proposals which would deliver that sustainability, address the full range of issues raised by the Protocol and restore the balance of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. This document outlines those proposals. In short they would:*

- *establish new “green channel” arrangements for goods staying in the UK – fixing the burdens and bureaucracy caused by the application of EU customs and SPS rules to all goods at present*

- *establish a new “dual regulatory” model to provide flexibility to choose between UK or EU rules – removing barriers to trade and managing risks of future divergence between UK and EU rules*
- *ensure the Government can set UK-wide policies on subsidy control and VAT – overcoming constraints that have meant NI has not benefited from the same support as other parts of the UK*
- *deal with the Protocol’s unequal governance, removing the role of the CJEU in dispute settlement and providing the means for UK authorities and courts to set out the arrangements which apply in Northern Ireland*

*We have also been clear that there are elements of the Protocol which are operating well and which should be preserved—such as on the Common Travel Area and North-South Cooperation.*

*Given the urgency and seriousness of the problems in Northern Ireland, we will be bringing forward legislation that will enable the sustainable operation of the Protocol in line with these proposals. In parallel we will seek proactively to achieve the same objectives through a negotiated settlement. Our legislation allows us to implement a negotiated agreement. In all scenarios we will remain committed to avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland, and to respecting the EU’s legitimate interest to see its Single Market protected.*

The Bill will be taken at Second Reading in the Commons within the next few weeks and, if passed will proceed to the House of Lords. There is no clarity about timelines, but the Bill may take several months to become law, provided it obtains ratification by the two Houses.

## Remarks by Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, Monday, 13 June 2022

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss made comments as the Bill was published, arguing that it will support the Good Friday agreement, and that the measures contained in the Bill are both “reasonable and practical”.

She said:

*This bill will uphold the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and support political stability in Northern Ireland. It will end the untenable situation where people in Northern Ireland are treated differently to the rest of the United Kingdom, protect the supremacy of our courts and our territorial integrity.*

*This is a reasonable, practical solution to the problems facing Northern Ireland. It will safeguard the EU Single Market and ensure there is no hard border on the island of Ireland. We are ready to deliver this through talks with the EU. But we can only make progress through negotiations if the EU are willing to change the protocol itself – at the moment they aren't. In the meantime the serious situation in Northern Ireland means we cannot afford to allow the situation to drift.*

*As the government of the whole United Kingdom, it is our duty to take the necessary steps to preserve peace and stability.*

## Remarks by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday, 13 June 2022

Prime Minister Boris Johnson commented on the introduction of the Bill:

*What we have to respect, and this is the crucial thing, is the balance and the symmetry of the Belfast/Good Friday agreement. We have to understand there are two traditions in Northern Ireland, broadly two ways of looking at the border issues, and one community at the moment feels very, very estranged from the way things are operating and very alienated. And we just got to fix that.*

*And it is relatively simple to do it. It's a bureaucratic change that needs to be made. Frankly, it's a relatively trivial set of adjustments in the grand scheme of things. I think our higher and prior legal as commitment as a country is to the Belfast/Good Friday agreement, to the balance and stability of that agreement, and that means respecting the concerns of unionists.*

## Remarks by Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, Monday, 13 June 2022

*It is with significant concern that we take note of today's decision by the UK government to table legislation disapplying core elements of the Protocol. Unilateral action is damaging to mutual trust. The Commission will now assess the UK draft legislation.*

*Our aim will always be to secure the implementation of the Protocol. Our reaction to unilateral action by the UK will reflect that aim and will be proportionate.*

*The European Commission recalls that the conclusion of the Withdrawal Agreement was a pre-condition for the negotiation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Today's decision by the UK government undermines the trust that is necessary for bilateral EU-UK cooperation within the framework of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. We call on the UK government to engage with us on joint solutions. The Commission stands ready to play its part – as it has from the outset.*

## **Remarks by Commission Vice President Šefčovič, Wednesday, 15 June 2022**

On 15 June 2022, Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič spoke at a Commission Press Conference:

*On Monday, the UK government tabled legislation, confirming its intention to unilaterally break international law. More precisely, to break an agreement that protects peace and stability in Northern Ireland – an agreement that we reached together only two years ago.*

*Let there be no doubt: there is no legal, nor political justification whatsoever for unilaterally changing an international agreement. Opening the door to unilaterally changing an international agreement is a breach of international law as well.*

*Let's call a spade a spade: this is illegal.*

*That is why the Commission has today decided to take legal action against the United Kingdom for not complying with significant parts of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland. We have been withholding this legal action over the last year because we wanted to create a constructive atmosphere to find solutions. The UK government's decision has left us with no choice but to act.*

*First, we are proceeding a step further with the infringement process we launched in March 2021 regarding, for instance, the movement of agri-food. If the UK does not reply within two months, we may take them to the Court of Justice.*

*Second, we are launching two new infringements against the UK: One for failing to carry out the necessary controls at border control posts in Northern Ireland, by ensuring adequate staffing and infrastructure. And one for failing to provide the EU with essential trade statistics data to enable the EU to protect its Single Market.*

## **Conversations on 13 June 2022**

The publishing of the Protocol Bill led to conversations between key players:

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss Tweeted:

*Spoke to Simon Coveney about the Bill we're announcing today to protect peace and stability in Northern Ireland and uphold the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. We remain open to negotiation with the EU but we cannot*

*wait to fix the issues facing the people of Northern Ireland.*

*Spoke to Vice President Maroš Šefčovič to discuss the legislation we are announcing today to fix the problems with the NI Protocol and restore political stability. Our preference is a negotiated solution but EU must be willing to change the protocol itself.*

Vice President Šefčovič tweeted:

*Spoke to Liz Truss earlier where she informed me of legislation to unilaterally disapply the Protocol. The EU has always paid utmost attention to the impact Brexit has on Northern Ireland, offering workable solutions. Unilateral action is damaging to mutual trust and a formula for uncertainty.*

Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney tweeted:

*Spoke to Liz Truss. UK government now proposing to set aside international law, reject a partnership approach, ignore majority in NI and deliberately ratchet up tension with an EU seeking compromise. We remain open to dialogue to find agreement but this approach adds to instability and is no fix.*

*Spoke to Maroš Šefčovič. We're on the same page. EU remains keen to find a negotiated solution to Northern Ireland Protocol through partnership and compromise, but we need a partner that is willing to meet us half way. Instead UK Government moves ahead with unilateral action to breach an international agreement.*

## **The Taoiseach in Dail Eireann, Tuesday, 14 June 2022**

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, replied to a Parliamentary Question on proposed UK legislation:

*The publication of this legislation yesterday by the British Government and the contributions of various British Government Ministers who have attempted to justify it have amounted to a profoundly dispiriting moment. I was in government when the Good Friday Agreement was sanctioned by our Government. I was there during the early stages of the Good Friday Agreement and I was a Member of this House before the Good Friday Agreement.*

*Reflecting on the transformation of the British-Irish relationship as well as on the involvement of the European Union and the United States in facilitating the Good Friday Agreement, what transpired yesterday is a profoundly damaging moment for the Good Friday Agreement itself. More importantly, it demonstrates the degree to which the British Government now seems oblivious to the various sets of relationships in which it has engaged as well as to an international agreement to which it itself has signed up, whose ratification it promoted in the Westminster Parliament, and which it now has decided unilaterally potentially to upend.*

*I want to reiterate one key point, which is that the European Union has been flexible right throughout these negotiations. The European Union came forward proactively with proposals,*

*having listened to parties in Northern Ireland and having listened to industry. We asked them to go to Northern Ireland to engage, and they did. This was not a fait accompli in terms of the proposals that were published last October, but as a basis for the resolution of legitimate issues that were raised by unionism and others around the operation of the protocol. With substantive negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom Government, those issues could have been resolved and still can be resolved.*

## **The Taoiseach at the European Parliament, Wednesday, 8 June 2022**

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, addressed the European Parliament on 8 June 2022, reflecting on fifty years of Irish membership in the European Communities/Union. He spoke in specific terms on Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol:

*It is one of the many harsh realities of the Brexit vote of 2016 that no serious consideration was given to the implications for Northern Ireland and the agreement which underpins peace and reconciliation.*

*The Good Friday Agreement provides a clear framework for protecting different identities and interests in Northern Ireland. It is a triumph for democratic politics and it has been a model for conflict resolution in many parts of the world. I can think of no more solemn agreement than one which has ended a deadly conflict, has been democratically ratified, and has been in operation for a quarter of a century. Because of this a very detailed deal was negotiated*

*and adopted to limit the damage on Northern Ireland caused by Brexit.*

*I want to pay tribute to the European Parliament which was absolutely clear in its support for the Good Friday Agreement, and on the need to find a unique solution that would work for Northern Ireland. That solidarity mattered. That solidarity continues to matter.*

*The unique solution was, of course, the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland that is an integral part of the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK. It is perfectly reasonable to look for ways to improve the operation of the Protocol – but unfortunately what we have seen are bad-faith efforts to undermine a treaty freely entered into.*

*Instead of trying to create a constructive atmosphere for all to engage, we have actually seen efforts to block agreements or introduce new problems. In contrast, the EU has worked hard to find ways to ensure that where there is a negative impact on businesses and citizens in Northern Ireland it is minimised as much as possible. Vice-President of the Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, and his team have done remarkable work in listening to businesses and communities throughout Northern Ireland. They have a deep and practical understanding of the operation of the Protocol.*

*Last October, the Commission proposed a package of measures that would result in a significant reduction in border-linked checks. This Parliament has also been incredibly constructive. For example, in April you overwhelmingly approved legislation to help safeguard the supply of medicines to Northern Ireland.*

*I have said many times that there are solutions to practical problems under the Protocol if there is a political will to find them. But that requires partnership. It requires the UK Government to engage with good faith, seriousness, and commitment. Unilateral action to set aside a solemn agreement would be deeply damaging. It would mark a historic low-point signalling a disregard for essential principles of laws which are the foundation of international relations. And it would, quite literally, be to the benefit of absolutely no one.*

The Taoiseach met Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič during his visit to the European Parliament. Šefčovič tweeted:

*As always, a very good conversation with Taoiseach Micheál Martin on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. We're on the same page. Only joint solutions –not unilateral action – will work for Northern Ireland. The EU Commission is playing its part. Important words by Micheál Martin at European Parliament. Unilateral action to set aside a solemn agreement would be damaging and to the benefit of no one. Thanks for continued support for our work on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. Ireland's interests are also EU interests.*

## **Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) under Pressure**

London has made clear its wish that Northern Ireland's political parties should return to power sharing at Stormont "as soon as possible", with Foreign Secretary Truss urging the DUP to "get on with it." The DUP responded that its actions would

depend on the outcome of Parliament's consideration of the Protocol Bill. One academic observer commented that the DUP have been "suckered too often" by Boris Johnson and will watch the progress of the Bill "like hawks" to ensure it is not watered down. There is speculation that the DUP will return to the Assembly after the summer recess and agree to the election of the Speaker, but will continue to "hold out" on the formation of an Executive.

## **Majority of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) reject Protocol Bill**

A letter signed by 52 of the 90 members of the Northern Ireland Assembly said that the UK Government Bill "flies in the face of the expressed wishes of not just most businesses but most people in Northern Ireland." Assembly members from Sinn Féin, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) and the Alliance Party had signed the letter MLAs stated:

*Our parties collectively represent a majority inside the Northern Ireland Assembly and received a majority of votes cast in the recent Assembly election.*

*We reject in the strongest possible terms your Government's reckless new Protocol legislation, which flies in the face of the expressed wishes of not just most businesses, but most people in Northern Ireland.*

*The Protocol is itself a product of the hard Brexit you personally championed and a withdrawal deal you personally signed. Whilst not ideal, the protocol currently represents the only available*

*protections for Northern Ireland from the worst impacts of that hard Brexit. The Protocol also offers clear economic advantages to our region, and the opportunity for unique access to two major markets.*

*The fact that you have removed this advantage from businesses in Great Britain, at a clear economic cost, does not justify doing the same to businesses in Northern Ireland.*

*While we share a desire to see the arrangements work as smoothly as possible, the way to achieve this is through engagement with the European Union. It is clear that solutions are available and deliverable – as have already been delivered in the area of medicines – but this must be on the basis of trust and the rule of law rather than law breaking and unilateral abrogation of treaty obligations.*

*It is also deeply frustrating that you and your ministers continue to misrepresent our desire to see smooth implementation as an endorsement of your Government's reckless actions on the Protocol – it is categorically not. Finally, we strongly reject your continued claim to be protecting the Good Friday Agreement as your Government works to destabilise our region.*

*To complain the Protocol lacks cross-community consent, while ignoring the fact that Brexit itself – let alone hard Brexit – lacks even basic majority consent here, is a grotesque act of political distortion. Your claims to be acting to protect our institutions is*

*as much a fabrication as the Brexit campaign claims you made in 2016.*

*The way to build trust and consent in our arrangements is to engage seriously with the EU on making them work, and to be honest with all parties about the inevitable consequences of leaving the Single Market and Customs Union. Sadly, trust and honesty are not words readily associated with you or your Government. We will resolutely oppose this reckless Bill and continue to promote post-Brexit solutions on the basis of trust and honesty.*

## **Keir Starmer in Ireland, 9-10 June 2022.**

The UK Labour Party Leader, Sir Keir Starmer, visited Belfast and Dublin on 9-10 June 2022, meeting President Michael D Higgins, political leaders, and business representatives in both the Republic and Northern Ireland. In Belfast, he met the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Constable, Simon Byrne. Sir Starmer had met DUP leader, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, and Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) leader, Doug Beattie, in London earlier.

In Belfast, the Labour leader made it clear that his party will vote against the proposed legislation in parliament and, in government, would scrap the legislation. Jeffrey Donaldson said that Labour should use its influence in Westminster to get the best outcome for Northern Ireland and argued that it was reckless to press ahead with the protocol despite the universal opposition of unionists. The SDLP leader, Colum Eastwood, remarked that it was “quite refreshing” to see a “grown-up in



leadership in London engaging properly with political parties here and with the Irish government."

After a meeting with the Taoiseach, Keir Starmer dismissed claims by Prime Minister Boris Johnson that proposed UK legislation is defending the Good Friday Agreement and argued that Mr. Johnson "is involved in destruction politics." He said that "what I've been struck by when I was in Belfast and here in Dublin is that levels of trust in the British Prime Minister are very, very low." He further stated that problems with the protocol, "which I completely understand and which I think everyone understands", could be resolved "around the negotiating table if there is statecraft, graft, goodwill and trust."

Keir Starmer told Irish business leaders: "Now is not a time for games but for practical solutions, based on trust. And because this is how business operates, it is vital that you are round the table, and your voice is heard."

## Section Two: The Evolving Debate

### Unionist Opinion

According to a *LucidTalk* opinion poll for the *Belfast Telegraph*, three quarters of unionist voters believe the DUP should not return to government at Stormont until there are at least "significant changes" to the Northern Ireland Protocol. However, whilst DUP and Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) supporters overwhelmingly back the stance taken by Sir Jeffrey Donaldson's party, only a third of Ulster Unionists do. Of those who voted for the three main unionist parties, 76% said the DUP should not return to Stormont until the protocol is either "removed" or "significantly changed". This figure accounts for 92% of

DUP voters and 99% of TUV voters, but only 33% of UUP voters. Furthermore, 76% of TUV supporters said there should be no return to government until the protocol is totally scrapped.

By contrast, just 7% of unionist voters - 19% UUP, 3% DUP, 0% TUV - said that the DUP should immediately enter a power-sharing Executive because changing the protocol was less important than dealing with other issues, such as the cost-of-living crisis and problems in the health service.

### Northern Ireland Business Groups

Northern Ireland business representatives have warned that scrapping the Protocol could damage them. The food industry insists that the protocol is "vital to trade", while the dairy sector says that the protocol is working for local producers. The dairy industry is deeply integrated with the Republic, with large quantities of milk moving south for processing. Meat exporters say the current system provides a workable platform for trade "between these islands and beyond."

The Head of Manufacturing Northern Ireland, Stephen Kelly, stated that the business community has been forced to "step in" to the protocol debate because politicians have "exited the stage" in respect to the protocol's impact on business.

A *Newsletter* article quoted a Craigavon manufacturer claiming that the 'public narrative' on the Protocol does not accurately reflect the difficulties being experienced by Northern Ireland businesses.

## European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

The UK Government has indicated that it will set out wide ranging plans to override the influence of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights, following a judgement of the ECHR blocking the deportation of asylum seekers from Britain to Rwanda.

The abolition of the UK Human Rights Act, including reducing the influence of the ECHR will be introduced in what the government describes as a restatement of Britain's sovereignty. Campaigners and leading lawyers immediately decried the move, arguing that the government was eroding people's rights in an attempt to make itself "untouchable" by the courts.

This development has produced a response from the Alliance Party deputy leader, Stephen Farry MP, who insisted that the ECHR was "hardwired" into the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. The agreement, for which the Prime Minister Johnson regularly expresses support, provides for fundamental UK commitment to the Convention. Withdrawal from the ECHR would represent a serious threat to the Good Friday Agreement. The UK further agreed to include ECHR commitments in the Brexit withdrawal deal with the EU.

The UK Attorney General, Suella Braverman, made the remarkable statement that "I think what is clear is it's a very frustrating situation that we find ourselves in ... Many people will have assumed that we took control back of our borders when we left the European Union." (The Convention and the European Court of Human Rights were created after World War II and are not related to EU membership.)

## US urges UK to keep talking on Protocol Plan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has urged his British counterpart, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, "to continue good faith negotiations with the EU to reach a solution that preserves the gains of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement." The State Department pointed out that the US welcomed the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, viewing them "as a way to manage the practical challenges of preserving distinct EU and UK markets while preventing the return of customs infrastructure on the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland."

## Northern Ireland in Referendum Campaign

In a survey by *King's College London* analysing 350,000 print and online articles from the 2016 Brexit referendum campaign, Northern Ireland did not register as an issue. The intervention by former Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair who warned of the impact of Brexit on the balance of peace in Northern Ireland led the news for less than 24 hours. A Guardian comment on the campaign saw Northern Ireland as "exactly the kind of serious, complicated and historically knotty subject that referendum coverage swerved to avoid."

## Section Three: Background Material and Further Reading

### Background Material

**UK Parliament** Northern Ireland Protocol Bill, 13 June 2022. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0012/220012.pdf>

**UK Parliament** Northern Ireland Protocol Bill. Explanatory Notes. 13 June 2022. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0012/en/220012en.pdf>

**Oireachtas** Leaders' Questions, 14 June 2022. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2022-06-14/3/>

**GOV.UK** Government introduces bill to fix the Northern Ireland Protocol, 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-introduces-bill-to-fix-the-northern-ireland-protocol>

**GOV.UK** Northern Ireland Protocol Bill: UK government legal position, 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-ireland-protocol-bill-uk-government-legal-position/northern-ireland-protocol-bill-uk-government-legal-position>

**GOV.UK** Northern Ireland Protocol: the UK's solution, 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-ireland-protocol-the-uks-solution/northern-ireland-protocol-the-uks-solution>

**European Commission** Statement by Vice-President Maros Sefcovic on the UK government's decision to table a bill disapplying core elements of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, 13 June 2022.. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT\\_22\\_3698](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STATEMENT_22_3698)

**European Commission** Remarks by Vice-President Maros Sefcovic at the press conference on the Protocol of Ireland/Northern Ireland, 15 June 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH\\_22\\_3758](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_22_3758)

**European Commission** Commission launches infringement proceedings against the UK for breaking international law. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_3676](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3676)

**GOV.IE** Speech by the Taoiseach Micheal Martin at Plenary of the European Parliament, 8 June 2022. <https://www.gov.ie/speech/b2559-speech-by-the-taoiseach-micheal-martin-at-plenary-of-the-european-parliament>

**Irish News** 52 of 90 MLAs sign letter to PM rejecting legislation to amend NI Protocol, 13 June 2022. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2022/06/13/news/majority-of-mlas-sign-letter-to-boris-johnson-stating-opposition-to-protocol-amends-2741823/>

**Irish News** Newton Emerson: Tight deadlines bring risks for DUP. *Irish News*, 18 June 2022. <https://www.irishnews.com/opinion/columnists/2022/06/18/news/newton-emerson-tight-deadlines-bring-risks-for-dup-2745735/>

**Newsletter** EU drafting legislation to prepare for 'doomsday' Northern Ireland Protocol legislation. *Newsletter*, 19 June 2022. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/eu-drafting-legislation-to-prepare-for-doomsday-northern-ireland-protocol-legislation-3736986>

**RTE** 'Serious situation' if UK enacts

protocol bill - Taoiseach. *RTE*, 19 June 2022. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2022/0619/1305729-brexit/>

**The Guardian** The government is picking a fight with reality with its NI protocol bill, *Guardian*, 14 June 2022. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/14/ni-protocol-bill-brexit>

**RTE** NI business leaders says politicians 'exited the stage'. *RTE*, 18 June 2022. <https://www.rte.ie/news/brexit/2022/0618/1305636-brexit-northern-ireland-protocol/>

**Irish Times** Who is Liz Truss? Politician taking hard line on NI protocol with 'explosive' legislation. *IT*, 18 June 2022. <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-style/people/2022/06/18/who-is-liz-truss-politician-taking-hard-line-on-ni-protocol-with-explosive-legislation/>

**Belfast Telegraph** EU will be ready for a battle – though maybe not with Boris. *Belfast Telegraph*, 15 June 2022. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/eu-will-be-ready-for-a-battle-though-maybe-not-with-boris-41754067.html>

**Irish Times** DUP will watch protocol Bill 'like hawks' amid growing wariness of Johnson, says leading academic. *IT*, 18 June 2022. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2022/06/16/dup-will-watch-protocol-bill-like-hawks-amid-growing-wariness-of-boris-johnson-says-leading-academic/>

**Newsletter** Northern Ireland Protocol: Maros Sefcovic's comments 'very unhelpful' says UUP leader Doug Beattie. *Newsletter*, 28 June 2022. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/northern-ireland-protocol-maros-sefcovics-comments-very-unhelpful-says-uup-leader-doug-beattie-3736602>

**Newsletter** NI Protocol: Presbyterian Church says Protocol has 'unbalanced the delicate settlement' of Good Friday Agreement. *Newsletter*, 17 June 2022. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/northern-ireland-protocol-presbyterian-church-says-protocol-has-unbalanced-the-delicate-settlement-of-good-friday-agreement-3734763>

**Politico** On the farms and high streets of Northern Ireland, the protocol is more than a political row. *Politico*, 17 June 2022. <https://www.politico.eu/article/on-the-farms-and-high-streets-of-northern-ireland-the-protocol-is-more-than-a-political-row/>

**Belfast Telegraph** Northern Ireland firms face being kicked out of EU single market if Protocol Bill becomes law, warns Sefcovic. *Belfast Telegraph*, 16 June 2022. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/northern-ireland-firms-face-being-kicked-out-of-eu-single-market-if-protocol-bill-becomes-law-warns-sefcovic-41761574.html>

**RTE** US cross-party committee strongly criticises UK on protocol plans. *RTE*, 17 June 2022. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2022/0617/1305362-adhoc-committee-good-friday-agreement-northern-ireland-protocol>

**Irish Times** DUP will watch protocol Bill 'like hawks' amid growing wariness of Johnson, says leading academic. *IT*, 17 June 2022. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2022/06/16/dup-will-watch-protocol-bill-like-hawks-amid-growing-wariness-of-boris-johnson-says-leading-academic/>

**Irish News** British withdrawal from European Convention on Human Rights would represent 'fundamental threat' to Good Friday Agreement. *Irish News*, 17 June 2022. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2022/06/17/news/british-withdrawal-from-european-convention-of-human-rights-would-represent-fundamental-threat-to-good-friday-agreement-2745792/>

**Newsletter** NI Protocol: Manufacturer challenges 'pervading narrative' and statistics. *Newsletter*, 15 June 2022. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/brexit/northern-ireland-protocol-manufacturer-challenges-pervading-narrative-and-statistics-3733425>

**Irish News** Taoiseach urges UK to re-engage with EU after legal action over protocol move. *Irish News*, 16 June 2022. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2022/06/16/news/taoiseach-urges-uk-to-reengage-with-eu-after-legal-action-launched-over-unilateral-protocol-move-2744545/>

**Irish Times** The intractable problem is that Britain does not understand the EU. *IT*, 16 June 2022. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2022/06/16/the-intractable-problem-is-that-britain-does-not-understand-the-european-union/>

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## Further Reading

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