

# UK UPDATE

UK Update Issue 173

14 June 2024

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The UK Update provides up-to-date information on UK-EU, and UK-Ireland relations, bringing together relevant statements and policy positions from key players in Ireland, the UK and the EU.

The Update 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.iea.com](http://www.iea.com))

## Introduction

### Elections – Ireland, Northern Ireland, UK, EU

Elections continue to dominate political life and discourse in Ireland, the UK, and across the European Union with the European Parliament elections, Irish local elections, the UK general election and even disagreements about the timing of an Irish general election. As the Irish polls, both local and European, provoke debate about the appearance of 'far right' candidates and the performance of the main opposition party, the French President, Emmanuel Macron produced a virtual '*Coup de Tonnerre*'. President Macron declared that he would dissolve the National Assembly and hold legislative elections after the far right National Rally took over 30% of the European Parliament vote, almost double that of his centrist alliance. In the UK, Nigel Farage, has yet again hit the headlines, this time in Northern Ireland, backing two DUP friends despite the TUV/Reform UK campaign agreement.

## Section One: State of Play

### UK Election Manifestos

The main UK political parties have produced their Manifestos for the general election on Thursday 4 July, replete with promises on tax, welfare etc. Each of the documents contain significant references to the future of the United Kingdom and, in particular, to Northern Ireland.

#### [Conservative Party Manifesto 2024](#)

The Conservative Party's manifesto highlighted the prevalence of "shared challenges" and the uniqueness of the Union. The Party's "bold actions" include the following:

- To support working people and secure a stronger economy;
- To provide young people with a secure future;
- To safeguard our borders and national security; and
- To strengthen our communities.

In reference to Northern Ireland, the Manifesto made it clear that Northern Ireland plays a large part in the Union and that they are determined to build a Northern Ireland that works for its people and respects the 1998 Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement, maintaining that any change in Northern Ireland's status requires majority consent.

*As Conservatives and Unionists, we continue to hugely value Northern Ireland's contribution to our Union. For us, the best future for Northern Ireland will always be as part of a strong, prosperous, and dynamic United Kingdom. We will never be neutral in expressing our support for it. At the same time, we respect those who seek a different constitutional outcome pursued by exclusively peaceful and democratic means. We will always govern in the interests of the whole community in Northern Ireland. Our aim is to build a Northern Ireland where politics works, the economy grows and society is stronger and more united. Our commitment to the 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in all its parts remains unwavering. Fundamental to the Agreement is the consent principle – that there can be no change to the constitutional status of Northern Ireland without the support of a majority of those who live there. Conservatives will always uphold the democratic wishes of the people of Northern Ireland. (p.76)*

In addition to this, the Manifesto also presented the ways in which the Conservative's UK government has supported Northern Ireland financially during its most recent term. This included the recent package deal that secured a return to Stormont, an annual block grant to the Executive and levelling up funding.

*We are committed to supporting Northern Ireland's communities and economy to thrive. At the last Spending Review, we provided the Northern Ireland Executive with a record £15 billion a year through the block grant. To underpin the restoration of devolution, we provided the incoming Executive with a £3.3 billion spending package and subsequently agreed an interim fiscal framework in May 2024. We are also delivering over £1 billion of levelling up funding, including £150 million to develop an Enhanced Investment Zone. We hosted an Investment Summit in Northern Ireland last year, showcasing its innovation and technological strengths. And cutting National Insurance again will benefit 800,000 working people in Northern Ireland. (p.76)*

The Manifesto remarked on the work of bringing into effect the Windsor Framework and the Command Paper, *Safeguarding the Union*, and the positives, according to the Party, that have come from them.

*The Windsor Framework and our Safeguarding the Union Command Paper have addressed the fundamental problems with the old Northern Ireland Protocol and provide Northern Ireland with unique advantages, including guaranteed unfettered access to the UK internal market and privileged access to the EU Single Market for goods. Through our UK internal market system, we have ensured that goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland that will only ever stay in the United Kingdom are subject to no checks, save for those conducted by UK authorities as part of a risk-based or intelligence-led approach to tackle criminality, abuse of the scheme, smuggling and disease risks. In addition, through the Stormont Brake we have addressed the democratic deficit in the old Protocol. A Conservative Government will faithfully implement all its commitments in the Windsor Framework and the Command Paper, including those measures to strengthen Northern Ireland's place in the Union. (p.76)*

Finally, in relation to Northern Ireland, the Manifesto commented on the Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act which was passed in 2023 and the progress that has been made in terms of security in Northern Ireland over the last three decades and commits to continuing such peace through supporting the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

*Through the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 we have established the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery with £250 million of funding to ensure victims and survivors can recover more information about what happened to their loved ones than has been available through established mechanisms. We will continue to implement this legacy legislation and support the Commission with the aim of providing more answers to those that want them and helping society to move forward.*

*While the security situation has been transformed for most people in Northern Ireland over the past three decades, there remains a very real threat from dissident republicans who retain both a capability and intent to cause harm. We will always give our fullest possible support to the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other agencies for the vital work they do to keep people safe and secure. We will continue our efforts to end all forms of paramilitary activity for good. (p.76)*

## [Labour Party Manifesto](#)

The Labour Party's Manifesto, split into 12 Chapters, outlines Keir Starmer's Party's plan to "change Britain". Chapter 11, entitled "Serving the Country" begins by stating that the Labour Party will serve Britain by introducing or carrying out the following:

- A new Ethics and Integrity Commission
- Modernise the House of Commons
- Immediate reform of the House of Lords
- A reset between Westminster and Holyrood, Cardiff Bay, and Stormont
- Votes at 16

Chapter 11 primarily focuses on resetting the UK Government's relationship with devolved governments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

*The Conservatives weakened our country by disrespecting the legitimate role of devolved governments and parliaments. We will ensure members of devolved legislatures have the same free speech protections enjoyed by MPs at Westminster, so elected representatives can hold power to account.*

*Labour will ensure the structures and institutions of intergovernmental working improve relationships and collaboration on policy. Labour will strengthen the Sewel Convention by setting out a new memorandum of understanding outlining how the nations will work together for the common good.*

*Labour will renew opportunities for the Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Government to collaborate with each other. As recommended in the Report of the Commission on the UK's future, we will establish a new Council of the Nations and Regions. This will bring together the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland, and Wales, the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and the Mayors of Combined Authorities.*

Labour also says in the Manifesto that it will prioritise working with the Executive and Assembly to improve public service and generate economic growth while also committing to the implementation of the Windsor Framework. The fiscal framework for Northern Ireland was discussed, as was their commitment to upholding the terms of the Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement. In complete contrast to the Conservative Manifesto, Labour has made it clear that they will repeal Legacy Act: "The Legacy Act denies justice to the families and victims of the Troubles. Labour will repeal and

replace it, by returning to the principles of the Stormont House Agreement, and seeking support from all communities in Northern Ireland.”

## [Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2024](#)

In part 22 of the Liberal Democrat’s Manifesto, they discuss their “international” commitments, one of them being to “Fix the UK’s broken relationship with Europe by following our four-stage roadmap”. This four-stage roadmap outlines the following steps:

1. Taking initial unilateral steps to rebuild the relationship, starting by declaring a fundamental change in the UK’s approach and improving channels for foreign policy cooperation.
2. Rebuilding confidence through seeking to agree partnerships or associations with EU agencies and programmes such as the European Aviation Safety Agency, Erasmus Plus, scientific programmes, climate and environment initiatives, and cooperation on defence, security, and crime.
3. Deepening the trading relationship with critical steps for the British economy, including negotiating comprehensive veterinary and plant health agreements and mutual recognition agreements.
4. Finally, once ties of trust and friendship have been renewed, and the damage the Conservatives have caused to trade between the UK and EU has begun to be repaired, we would aim to place the UK-EU relationship on a more formal and stable footing by seeking to join the Single Market.

In part 20 “Political Reform”, the Manifesto outlines how the Liberal Democrats would “[...] work constructively with the Northern Ireland Executive to build a permanently peaceful Northern Ireland, with a stable devolved government and a truly shared society”. According to part 20 they would do this by:

- Supporting policies and initiatives that promote sharing over separation and counter the cost of division.
- Helping to grow the economy in Northern Ireland, boost infrastructure and support local businesses.
- Fixing the UK’s broken relationship with Europe and accordingly reducing barriers to trade between Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland.

Under the same section their Manifesto also commits to ensuring reliable funding for the Union and outlines their support for the creation of a UK Constitutional Convention

*Support the creation of a UK Constitutional Convention, with the aim of drafting a new Federal Constitution that sets out the powers of the government at each tier, founded on the principles of democratic engagement, liberal values, and respect for diverse identities, underpinned by a fair distribution of resources based on respective needs. The Convention will establish an inclusive approach for determining the structure of government in England.*

## **Rishi Sunak visits Northern Ireland on 24 May**

Prime Minister Sunak arrived in Northern Ireland on Friday, 24 May for the fourth leg of his election tour of the UK. He visited an advanced maritime manufacturing facility in Belfast’s Titanic Quarter, where he spoke to apprentices and rode on a small zero-emission boat, manufactured by Artemis Technologies, a company that has received government funding to support its work.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris, and later in the day he met with local Conservative party members. Mr Sunak then spoke to the media about energy prices, television debates and legislation now being hurried through Parliament at Westminster.

The Conservatives' Campaign Manager for Northern Ireland, James McGeehan, welcomed Mr Sunak and Mr Heaton-Harris, who expressed their gratitude for McGeehan's campaigning efforts in Northern Ireland. Mr McGeehan stated that the Party was happy with progress on their campaign: "We are pleased to be the only party to run in all four nations across the United Kingdom [...] We are following our plan, and the positive results are becoming increasingly evident to voters. We are confident in our campaign's success, and we are confident that we will be able to bring about a more prosperous future for the United Kingdom."

During his visit to Belfast, Mr Sunak defended his party's record in government and said the Conservatives had a track record in delivering for Northern Ireland. He stated that his party cares "deeply" about the Union and denied his visit was just a tick-box exercise.

See photos from Prime Minister Sunak's visit to Northern Ireland [here](#).

## Keir Starmer on Ireland

In a recent *Irish Times* article, author Mark Paul reported on Keir Starmer, the Labour Party leader's comments on his engagement with Ireland if (and when) he becomes the UK Prime Minister. Sir Keir has committed to "respectful engagement" with Ireland, this follows recent disagreements between the Conservative government including over immigration, the Troubles Legacy Act, and Brexit.

When Mr Starmer spoke to the *Irish Times*, he noted that his experience as a human rights adviser to the Police Service in Northern Ireland would serve him well in improving relations between the two governments:

*He highlighted the five years that he previously spent as a human rights adviser to the Police Service of Northern Ireland and indicated that he would be able to lean on this experience to improve relations between the two governments if Labour wins the election on July 4th. He said that "It's very important that we work closely with our near neighbours in Ireland. "I've always found that respectful engagement is the way forward in our relations, so I think with that approach we can make some real progress."*

According to the article, and in the author's opinion, the key issue in terms of Anglo-Irish relations after the general election will come with the recent legal action taken by the Irish Government to revert the Troubles Legacy Act. Of course, and as mentioned in Labour's 2024 Manifesto, the party has promised to repeal the act should they have a majority government.

The article also highlights Mr Starmer's further links to Ireland and Northern Ireland:

*In addition to his time working in the North, Starmer's closest advisers have significant Irish links. His campaign director and top aide is Macroom man Morgan McSweeney, while Labour's campaign coordinator is Pat McFadden MP, the Glaswegian son of Irish speaking parents from Falcarragh in Donegal.*

You can read the full *Irish Times* article [here](#).

## Gavin Robinson DUP Leader

The Democratic Unionist Party confirmed Gavin Robinson MP as party leader at a meeting on Wednesday, 29 May. He had been fulfilling the role of party leader on an interim basis since the former leader Jeffrey Donaldson stood down in late March. Mr Robinson was endorsed as leader at a meeting of the party executive, which is comprised of elected representatives and party officers.

[RTÉ's report](#) on Mr Robinson's speech stated that "Mr Robinson said he will bring strong candidates to 16 of the 18 Northern Ireland constituencies."

Mr Robinson also said that the DUP will not contest a seat in the North Down constituency. This in turn will leave room for independent unionist Alex Easton to challenge the seat of Alliance MP Stephen Farry. Mr Robinson also announced that he was asking DUP voters in the Fermanagh South Tyrone constituency to back the Ulster Unionist Party's (UUP) candidate in the marginal constituency.

According to a [BBC Report](#), Mr Robinson has accepted that his party oversold the deal with the London Government which restored power sharing in Northern Ireland.

The report highlighted that Mr Robinson's statements have contradicted previous remarks by former DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson. Mr Robinson also stated that "there should have been more cautious realism."

*Speaking after his ratification as the DUP party leader he appeared to contradict previous messages delivered by the DUP leadership. He told party members that, despite the deal negotiated with the government, the Irish Sea border remained in place. This was at odds with previous statements made by the former leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, who insisted the Irish Sea border had been "effectively" removed as a result of the Safeguarding the Union deal, he secured with the government.*

## Ben Lowry on DUP Mistakes

The editor of the Newsletter, Ben Lowry, commented on the DUP's return to power sharing in an editorial on Saturday, 1 June. According to Mr Lowry the DUP had made two big mistakes since returning to Stormont, those mistakes were:

1. "the DUP made a serious mistake in massively over selling the deal earlier in the year."
2. "the DUP made a terrible blunder when Paul Givan, and then Gordon Lyons, turned so viciously on Jim Allister on the first day of the recalled assembly."

You can read the full Newsletter editorial [here](#).

## TUV and Reform UK

[The BBC has reported](#) on the formal "partnership" between Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) and Reform UK ahead of the UK general election on 4 July. The TUV leader Jim Allister made the announcement at the TUV's annual conference with the then Reform UK leader Richard Tice in attendance. The conference allowed for the leaders to sign a "memorandum of understanding" in public and to discuss candidates for government in Northern Ireland and Westminster. The two leaders both spoke at the conference, sharing their priorities and outlook for the election.

*Mr Allister, the TUV's sole MLA in the Stormont assembly, argued there "ought to have been a fresh assembly election", but the DUP's "acceptance of the Irish Sea border" will come under scrutiny at the next general election.*

*Speaking at the conference, Reform UK leader Richard Tice outlined his party's priorities including healthcare, immigration, and defence. Concluding his speech, he said: "I believe in the United Kingdom. I believe with the right leadership we can truly make the United Kingdom great again."*

In an interview after the conference, Mr Allister said that the TUV/Reform UK alliance is the "authentic voice" of opposition to post-Brexit trading barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

However, with the reintroduction of Nigel Farage as Reform UK leader, the TUV/Reform relationship does not seem as solid as before. [The Belfast Telegraph reported](#) on Mr Farage's endorsement of DUP candidates in the general election:

*Following his arrival as Reform UK leader, Nigel Farage indicated that he will be personally endorsing two DUP candidates in the General Election – despite his party's alliance with the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV). The TUV had formed an electoral alliance with Reform UK ahead of July's poll and is standing in 14 constituencies in Northern Ireland.*

*Mr Farage told the PA news agency: "As far as the Northern Ireland thing is concerned, I want to make it clear that whilst there have been negotiations going on in previous times, I will personally be endorsing Ian Paisley and Sammy Wilson."*

When Mr Farage was asked about Reform's alliance with the TUV he responded: "Well, new leadership brings change [...] I wish the TUV well, but I'm going to stand up to support Sammy Wilson and Ian Paisley as people I fought with all through the Brexit years."

TUV leader Jim Allister released a [statement on the TUV website](#):

*TUV entered an electoral arrangement with Reform UK in good faith. We have kept faith with that agreement. The comments by Mr Farage today are, of course, disappointing, and not compatible with the content of a conversation I had with him last week. The endorsement that TUV seeks in this election is that of ordinary voters who know who has from the start told them the truth about the Union-dismantling Protocol, while the DUP tried to hoodwink them with false claims that they had got rid of the Irish Sea border.*

## UUP and Northern Ireland Health Services

Sam McBride, Northern Ireland Editor of the Belfast Telegraph wrote on Saturday, 8 June on Northern Ireland's health system and the challenges that lie ahead, particularly when it comes to the role of the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP).

*What looms ahead of Northern Ireland's health system is potential carnage — but what was once the most staid of political parties is considering something close to fiscal anarchy to save it. The Ulster Unionist Party is the party which built Northern Ireland. It's instinctively traditional, conservative, and cautious. But it is moving steadily closer to something which could see its sole minister overruled by the High Court and forcefully excluded from the Executive in a vote of MLAs.*

The article explained that Robin Swann, Health Minister at the time, voted against the Executive's budget and then resigned to run as a candidate for South Antrim. Mike Nesbitt, former leader of the UUP replaces him as Minister for Health. The UUP, according to Sam McBride, appears to be negotiating "to get more money" but cuts to the healthcare system seem imminent.

*On Wednesday, Nesbitt said he was "not looking for a fight" but made clear that he will not implement the current budget. The following evening, his party leader, Doug Beattie, told Mark Carruthers he "won't implement catastrophic cuts" of around £400m, even though he will implement cuts of about £200m which will themselves hit healthcare. Others think the UUP is still negotiating to get more money, some of which it will get in 'monitoring rounds' where unspent or additional cash is redistributed between departments, and will then adopt a more orthodox stance of grumbling but going along with the cuts.*

However, the author with backup evidence believes this is more than just 'electioneering'. Mr McBride's first reason is as follows: "the Department of Health has already built into its calculations an expectation that it will get £100m during monitoring rounds, so it needs much more than that to put off what health trusts say will be a "catastrophic" loss of health services." Secondly, the all-important figures are being debated:

*[...] about £188m saved through “low- and medium-impact actions” and about the same through “high and catastrophic”-impact actions — do not include a pay increase for staff. A 3% pay increase would cost around another £150m. Without that, strikes, such as that by junior doctors which continues today, will recur, exacerbating the crisis. Other staff will simply leave, burnt out and browned off.*

The *Economist* also commented on the status of the Northern Ireland health system, reporting on “the grim reality”. In a sarcastic tone, the article began: “If you are ever in Northern Ireland, pray that you never need a gallbladder removal, a neurology appointment, or a hip replacement. For these treatments, patients routinely face waits of several years to be seen.” The *Economist* also noted that part of the reason for this is Northern Ireland’s failure to reform the healthcare system.

Read the full editorial article [here](#).

## Narrow Water Bridge

On Tuesday, 4 June, Taoiseach Simon Harris, Tánaiste Micheál Martin, Minister Malcolm Noonan, and Northern Ireland Minister for Infrastructure John O’Dowd MLA visited the site of the Narrow Water Bridge in County Louth to announce that construction is commencing.

[A Government Statement](#) was issued explaining the project and the benefits. In summary, the Narrow Water Bridge project, with a €102 million plus VAT allocation from the Shared Island Fund, will link Cornamucklagh in Co. Louth to Narrow Water near Warrenpoint in Co. Down. This 195-meter cable-stayed bridge will enhance connectivity for vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians and aims to boost local tourism and economic development by increasing employment and visitor numbers, supporting recreational activities, and providing a vital connection between the Mourne Mountains and the Cooley Peninsula.

Both Taoiseach Simon Harris and Tánaiste Micheál Martin made statements:

Taoiseach Simon Harris:

*The Shared Island Unit was set up by the coalition for this very reason - to bring about visionary projects for the whole island that had long been sought after but not yet realised. I want to pay tribute to the communities and politicians from all parties and none in both Ireland and Northern Ireland who campaigned for a Narrow Water Bridge for decades. The mountains meet the sea all along this stretch of stunning coastline and this bridge will be a game-changer for commerce, daily life, and tourism in this part of our shared island.*

Tánaiste Micheál Martin said:

*When I first established the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach, there was one project that was always front and centre of my mind - the Narrow Water Bridge. This project is a clear physical manifestation of the philosophy underpinning Shared Island. It embodies our ambition for reconciliation, a closer relationship between North and South, and progress. Today is the realisation of a vision long shared across this stretch of water, delivering on the desire of both communities to reach out, to connect and to grow together.*

## Section Two: The Evolving Debate

### Irish Times Editorial 28 May 2024

According to the *Irish Times* the UK general election is a chance for a fresh start for Northern Ireland. In an editorial on Monday, 27 May the author outline how the election could act as a “reset button between political parties in Northern Ireland and Westminster.”

Since 2016 relations have been under some stress with the Conservative government post-Brexit. According to the Irish Times the relationship has showcased a game between the two governments:

*The Tories played a cynical game with Northern Ireland during Brexit negotiations. Boris Johnson, the former prime minister, gave a pledge to unionists that he would never accept a border between Britain and Northern Ireland before he signed a deal in October 2019 to put customs and regulatory checks down the Irish Sea. [...] Overall, Brexit has been a source of significant instability, which is underlined by the fact that the Stormont government was shuttered for a total of five years on two separate occasions since the 2016 vote.*

It has also become apparent that a lack of “consideration for Northern Ireland” has made its way onto their campaign trail. Putting it bluntly the author wrote: “It has said that its idea of introducing mandatory national service for 18-year-olds will include Northern Ireland. Suggesting that people from a nationalist background sign up for the British army shows an astonishing lack of sensitivity.”

On the other hand, the Labour party, set to win a majority on 4 July, is prepared to engage with both nationalists and unionist to ensure stability in Northern Ireland and improve relations with the EU:

*According to all credible polls, the Labour Party will win a thumping majority on July 4th. Hilary Benn, who is the shadow secretary of state for Northern Ireland, has shown a willingness to engage with both communities, and the growing non-aligned middle ground. Labour would not reverse the Brexit vote, but it would take a much more constructive approach to relations with the EU. That would be a positive development for the outworking of the Windsor Framework, which gives Northern Ireland access to the UK internal market and the EU’s single market for goods.*

The article also looks at the difficulties that the DUP will face and that Sinn Féin are set to win the highest number of MP seats in the election.

Read the full *Irish Times* Editorial [here](#).

## Hilary Benn in Belfast

Labour’s Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Hilary Benn’s has continued his role as part of Labour’s campaign by visiting Ulster University. Mr Benn met with law, politics, and social policy students to discuss his role and share his insights on politics in the UK and Northern Ireland ahead of the general election.

Student Karen McGuigan was interviewed after the event: “It was fantastic to meet and hear from Hilary Benn MP today during his visit to Belfast. To have the opportunity to question the Shadow Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and hear more about his political career was a valuable opportunity and great exposure to political life. Particularly with a General Election due to take place in the next year it was great to hear Mr. Benn’s perspective on the political picture and challenging issues of the day.”

Read the full report on Hilary Benn’s visit to Northern Ireland [here](#).

## Section Three: Background Material and Further Reading

### Background Material

**Belfast Telegraph** DUP candidates say Farage's personal endorsements of them are very embarrassing for Jim Allister. *Belfast Telegraph*, 10 June 2024. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/dup-candidates-say-farages-personal-endorsements-of-them-are-very-embarrassing-for-jim-allister/a1051223912.html>

**Irish Times** Moderate Ireland seems to be bucking trends towards the extreme elsewhere in Europe. *IT*, 10 June 2024. <https://www.irishtimes.com/politics/2024/06/10/analysis-the-centre-holds-as-sinn-fein-slump-was-a-standout-story-this-weekend/>

**Irish Times** Bobby McDonagh. The only thing the European far right hates more than the centre and the left is each other. *IT*, 12 June 2024. <https://www.irishtimes.com/opinion/2024/06/11/the-only-thing-the-european-far-right-hates-more-than-the-centre-and-the-left-is-each-other/>

**RTE** Tony Connelly. European elections 2024: What happens next? *RTE*, 10 June 2024. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/0610/1453949-euro-analysis/>

**Guardian** Why is nobody talking about Brexit in the UK election? *Guardian*, 12 June 2024. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/jun/12/why-is-nobody-talking-about-brexit-in-the-uk-election>

**RTE** Tony Connelly. Far-right gains in EU election as France calls snap vote. *RTE*, 10 June 2024. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/0610/1453910-euro-elections/>

**Politico** European Election Results The far right had a good night. Others not so much. *Politico*, 10 June 2024. <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-election-results-emmanuel-macron-ursula-von-der-leyen-giorgia-meloni-far-right-socialists-peter-magyar-roberta-metsola-olaf-scholz-greens-viktor-orban-matteo-salvini/>

**Belfast Telegraph** Farage backed his old beer buddies Paisley and Wilson says Ben Habib. *Belfast Telegraph*, 12 June 2024. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/politics/farage-backed-his-old-beer-buddies-paisley-and-wilson-says-ben-habib/a1916572444.html>

### Further Reading

**Thomas Hennessy** *The First Northern Ireland Peace Process*. Palgrave Macmillan

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The IIEA acknowledges the support of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the European Union



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