



**Unilateral Declarations by the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland and the European Union in the Withdrawal
Agreement Joint Committee on the democratic consent
mechanism in Article 18**

24 March 2023

**UNILATERAL DECLARATION
BY THE UNITED KINGDOM
IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT
ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY
of 24 March 2023**

on the democratic consent mechanism in Article 18 of the Windsor Framework¹

The United Kingdom notes that the joint solutions announced in Windsor are intended to constitute a series of practical and sustainable measures to address, in a definitive way, deficiencies and situations unforeseen that have emerged since the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland ('the Protocol') entered into force.

The United Kingdom recognises the importance of ensuring that these arrangements are always able to command the broadest possible support across the community in Northern Ireland, in line with its responsibility to uphold the Good Friday or Belfast Agreement of 10 April 1998, including its subsequent implementation agreements and arrangements, in all its parts – and with regard to its specific responsibilities to respect the identity, ethos and aspirations of both communities. The democratic consent mechanism in Article 18 of the Windsor Framework provides an ongoing and important safeguard in that respect, alongside which the United Kingdom is committed to commissioning an independent review in the circumstances set out in its Unilateral Declaration on consent². In any such circumstances, whether following the first exercise of the democratic consent mechanism or thereafter, the United Kingdom commits to bring the recommendations of the review to the Joint Committee, recognising the responsibility of the Joint Committee under Article 164 of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community to consider any matter of interest relating to an area covered by the

¹ See Joint Declaration No 1/2023.

² [Declaration by Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the operation of the 'Democratic consent in Northern Ireland' provision of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.](#)

Windsor Framework, and to seek appropriate ways and methods of preventing problems that might arise in areas covered by the Windsor Framework.

**UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY THE UNION IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED BY THE AGREEMENT ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FROM THE
EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY**

of 24 March 2023

taking note of the Unilateral Declaration by the United Kingdom in the Joint Committee established by the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community of 24 March 2023 on the democratic consent mechanism in Article 18 of the Windsor Framework³

The Union takes note of the United Kingdom's declaration on the democratic consent mechanism in Article 18 of the Windsor Framework, recalling the tasks of the Joint Committee under Article 164 of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

³ See Joint Declaration No 1/2023.