

Unilateral declarations by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on meat products

17 December 2020

UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The United Kingdom notes its commitment to fully implement the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland to the Withdrawal Agreement ('the Protocol'). The United Kingdom also recalls its commitment to uphold the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement in all its dimensions.

Regulatory requirements under EU law made applicable in respect of Northern Ireland by the Protocol include prohibitions and restrictions with regard to:

- minced meat of poultry, of ratites and of wild game-birds, frozen or chilled,
- chilled minced meat from animals other than poultry,
- chilled meat preparations,
- any unprocessed meat produced from meat initially imported in Great Britain from the EU's SPS area.

For the purpose of this statement, these products are hereafter designated as "meat products".

Between 1 January and 1 July 2021, meat products will be brought from Great Britain into Northern Ireland under the following conditions:

- The meat products enter Northern Ireland through a designated place as defined in point (38) of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and they are subject to a channelling procedure applicable from the designated place to the destination supermarket in Northern Ireland,
- They are sold exclusively to end consumers in supermarkets located in Northern Ireland, and they are not to be sold to other operators of the food chain,
- They are accompanied by official certificates issued by the UK competent authorities (based on similar models already existing for fresh meat, minced meat and meat preparations), and
- They are packed for end consumers, and they bear a label reading "*These products from the United Kingdom may not be sold outside Northern Ireland*".

During this period, which will be used by supermarkets in Northern Ireland to adjust, the United Kingdom remains fully aligned to Union law applicable to meat products and listed in Annex 2 to the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland.

UNILATERAL DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE JOINT COMMITTEE

The European Union takes note of the United Kingdom's declaration setting out the practice it intends to put in place as regards imports of these meat products from Great Britain into Northern Ireland during the first six months after the end of the transition period. This practice will inform the position of the Union as regards recourse to the exercise of the powers referred to in Article 12(4) of the Protocol.