



Rt Hon. Nick Thomas-Symonds MP
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By email:

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12 December 2024

Dear Maroš,

I write in my capacity as Co-Chair of the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee regarding a decision of the Northern Ireland Assembly on democratic consent on the continued application of Articles 5-10 of the Windsor Framework.

I can confirm that the Assembly reached its decision on 10 December, strictly in accordance with the process set out in Article 18, and that the Speaker has given the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland written notification of the result. The Government is pleased that the motion was passed by a majority of the Assembly Members voting, with these arrangements providing a basis for supporting stability and certainty for Northern Ireland and for businesses and traders in particular.

As the motion passed with a simple majority and not cross-community support, the next opportunity for democratic consent to be provided in Northern Ireland will be at the end of the continuation period in four years' time, in 2028. The UK will also now need to proceed to establish an 'independent review', reflecting the commitments made in its 2019 Unilateral Declaration on Consent, to ensure that the arrangements that apply in Northern Ireland command the broadest possible support.

I should assure you that the Government remains committed to giving effect to the Windsor Framework in good faith. This will remain our focus and the Government and I look forward to continuing to work with you and our colleagues in the Commission in that endeavour, at the start of this continuation period.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON NICK THOMAS-SYMONDS MP
MINISTER FOR THE CABINET OFFICE
HIS MAJESTY'S PAYMASTER GENERAL**