

# Joint Communique for the Meeting between HH Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and PM Boris Johnson

Press release

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, met today in London.



The leaders discussed the strength of the UK-UAE bilateral relationship, the long-standing friendship and shared history between our two countries and peoples. Both leaders emphasised their ongoing commitment to develop a UK-UAE partnership for the future and an enhanced Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

The leaders agreed to further cooperation on trade and investment, research and development, climate change, and strengthening both economies, including cooperation across priority areas such as life sciences, healthcare, future technologies and digital innovation, renewable energy, space, infrastructure, education, tourism, food security, and financial and professional services.

The two leaders highlighted the importance of cooperation in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both leaders expressed their commitment to strengthening multilateral institutions and the rules-based international system in order to promote security, stability, and prosperity. They noted the historic impact of the Abraham Accords signed between the UAE and the State of Israel and acknowledged the importance of finding peaceful solutions to ongoing conflicts in the region. The meeting also agreed upon the importance of shared values, including tolerance, peaceful co-existence, and respect for all cultures and religions.

The two leaders looked forward to the UAE's 50th National Day celebrations, Expo 2020 Dubai, and meeting again next year to continue to develop the UK-

UAE partnership for the future.

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## [London Plan: letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#)

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has written to the Mayor of London today (10 December 2020). The letter sets out an agreed approach to 11 policy Directions issued to the Mayor in March 2020 and issues two new Directions for the Mayor to amend his London Plan before it can be published in its final form. The letter invites the Mayor to re-submit his draft London Plan for final approval, as soon as is practical.

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## [Command Paper sets out the UK Government's delivery of its commitments to the people of Northern Ireland](#)

The Government has today (Thursday 10 December) published a [Command Paper](#) setting out details of an agreement in principle on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol between the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, and the EU Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič. The agreement in principle draws on months of UK Government engagement with businesses and technical engagement with the EU and the Northern Ireland Executive.

The paper outlines how this meets the Government's three key commitments to the people of Northern Ireland as the Protocol takes effect:

- Unfettered access guaranteed for Northern Ireland businesses to the rest of the UK market – with no export declarations required as goods move from Northern Ireland to Great Britain.

- Northern Ireland's place in the UK customs territory secured – with a new UK Trader Scheme to ensure there are no new tariffs for businesses and consumers on internal UK trade, and the means to maintain the UK's VAT area.
- Smooth flow of trade from Great Britain to Northern Ireland maintained – with critical flexibilities to maintain the flow of food supplies and medicines, and avoid the need for any new physical customs infrastructure.

The UK Government is also launching a new element of its Comprehensive Support Scheme for Traders. The Movement Assistance Scheme (MAS) will complement the existing Trader Support Service, which now has over 19,000 businesses enrolled. The MAS will provide assistance for traders moving food or agricultural products for which specific SPS controls apply – meaning the Government will cover, for example, reasonable costs for obtaining Export Health Certificates. Businesses can be assured that despite the new requirements of the Protocol, businesses will be supported to deal with new direct costs.

The deal means the whole of the United Kingdom will be able to make the most of the freedoms that come with the end of the Brexit transition period, including giving the Northern Ireland Executive the scope it needs to support its agricultural and fisheries producers outside the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). It also provides a solution to the inadvertent risk of “reach back” of the Protocol's state aid provisions to companies in Great Britain, requiring a “genuine and direct link” to commercial operations taking place in Northern Ireland.

This agreement in principle means the Protocol can be implemented in a pragmatic and proportionate way – protecting the territorial and constitutional integrity of the United Kingdom, upholding the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and helping to ensure there is no hard border on the island of Ireland.

The Chancellor the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Michael Gove, said:

This agreement with the EU provides stability and security for the people of Northern Ireland. We have guaranteed unfettered access for Northern Ireland businesses to the whole of the UK market, protected Northern Ireland's place in the UK customs territory and ensured the smooth flow of trade from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

The UK Government has been working closely with ministers and officials from the Northern Ireland Executive on the implementation of the Protocol. And we have listened to the concerns raised by Northern Ireland businesses in designing our Trader Support Service, and the complimentary Movement Assistance Scheme we are launching today.

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Brandon Lewis, said:

The Government's top priority has been to protect the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and the gains made through the peace process. Our approach has been guided by this principle as we delivered against the commitments set out in our May Command Paper.

The agreement announced this week provides certainty to businesses in Northern Ireland, protects their interests and recognises Northern Ireland's integral place in the United Kingdom.

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## **[Detailed guide: Export or move live animals and animal products to the EU or Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021](#)**

What you need to do to export or move live animals, products of animal origin and animal by-products to the EU or Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021.

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## **[Detailed guide: Export or move composite food products to the EU or Northern Ireland from 1 January 2021](#)**

What counts as a composite food product, and the rules you'll need to follow to export or move these products to the EU or Northern Ireland (NI) from 1 January 2021.