

News story: Brokenshire attends GAA Dr McKenna Cup Final

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Later this evening, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for NI, will attend the much anticipated 2017 Bank of Ireland Dr McKenna Cup final at Páirc Esler, Newry.

Tonight's game promises to be a fiercely contested match, with old rivals Derry and Tyrone gearing up for a win.

Mr Brokenshire's attendance at this prestigious event marks the first time a Northern Ireland Secretary of State has attended a GAA match played in Northern Ireland. Speaking ahead of the match, Mr Brokenshire said:

I am absolutely delighted to have been invited to attend the Dr McKenna Cup final this evening. You cannot fail to be struck by the sheer passion that GAA supporters have for their game, and the true community spirit that it generates.

The GAA promotes a strong community ethos and the support initiatives they offer to their wider communities must be congratulated. I encourage them to continue with this important work.

Speech: PM press conference with Turkish PM Yildirim: 28 January 2017

Introduction

Thank you very much. I am pleased to be here in Turkey today and to be able to meet Prime Minister Yildirim and President Erdogan just one day after meeting the new US President Donald Trump in Washington.

The relationship between Turkey and the United Kingdom has always been important, but it is arguably even more vital today.

For Turkey sits on the frontline of some of the most difficult and serious challenges we face.

This relationship is central to our capacity to tackle the terrorist threat to the UK. Turkey already does a huge amount to disrupt the threat posed to our countries by terrorists including foreign fighters leaving Syria.

And today we have agreed to strengthen our cooperation on security through a new strategic security partnership. This will help our 2 governments and security services to work even more closely together in important areas such as intelligence sharing, aviation security and domestic security.

This partnership will help Turkey as it grapples with the threat posed by heightened terrorist attacks in this country. We should never forget that in the last 18 months, over 1,500 Turkish civilians and security personnel have been killed by terrorist attacks.

Crucially it will also help to protect the 1.7 million British tourists who travel to Turkey from the UK every year.

It is therefore a vital new partnership for us both.

Regional security

We have also discussed a number of other important regional security issues today including:

Syria, where we are working together to fight Daesh and create the conditions for peace, the challenge of mass migration, where I pay tribute to Turkey's generosity in hosting more than 3 million refugees from surrounding countries, and where the United Kingdom is committed to doing all it can to help.

And Cyprus, where we are both committed to playing our full part in an effort to secure an early agreement.

Trade

Finally, I am delighted that we have today been able to mark the signing of a new agreement between TAI and the British business BAE Systems, that will see the companies collaborating on the pre-design phase of Turkey's new fighter jet, the TFX.

This is more than a trade deal – it is the start of a deep defence partnership that will contribute to our overall security.

At the same time, we are today announcing a new and unique government-to-government agreement between Turkey and the United Kingdom that sets a new framework for cooperation and dialogue between our governments including the

defence ministries and air forces.

And we have also agreed to establish a trade working group to explore ways in which we can improve Turkish-UK trade.

These initiatives stand as concrete commitments to a strengthened relationship between us, which will help to ensure the continued security and prosperity of both Turkey and the UK.

Conclusion

This is the first opportunity I have had to visit Turkey since the attempted coup of 15th July last year. On that day, the UK was clear that we supported those who stood up for this important democracy and its institutions. And we continue to hope that the values you stood for on that day will guide you in the months and years ahead.

So I would like to thank Prime Minister Yildirim for giving up his time today so that we might discuss these important issues.

On each one, Turkey is demonstrating its determination to live up to its historic role as a regional power, and its significance as a key member of the NATO Alliance.

I look forward to building on the commitments we have made today in order to strengthen the cooperation between our 2 nations in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Speech: PM statement following talks with President Erdogan: 28 January 2017

Thank you very much Mr President and thank you for the invitation to join you for these discussions that we have had today – and very fruitful discussions between us.

Turkey is one of the UK's oldest friends. Our relations stretch back over 400 years.

But there is much that we can do in the future to build on that relationship together.

I am proud that the UK stood with you on 15 July last year in defence of your democracy. Now it is important that Turkey sustains that democracy by

maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations as the government has undertaken to do.

We have discussed, as the president has said, a number of important issues today from Cyprus, where we are committed to playing our parts for an early settlement, to Syria, where we are working together to fight Daesh and create the conditions for peace.

We are also agreeing to step up our work together on aviation security with a programme of shared training and information exchange.

You mentioned, Mr President, the opportunities for enhancing trade between our two countries and we discussed that. We both want to build on our existing links and I believe that doing so will be to the benefit of both our countries and for the prosperity of both our nations.

And we have agreed we will have a joint working group to prepare the ground for our post-Brexit trading relationship.

So we have covered quite a range of subjects today. What has underpinned our discussions has been the opportunity for Turkey and the UK to build on our existing relations which, as I say, have stretched back many years, to our mutual benefit for the future.

So thank you and I look forward to maintaining these talks with your Prime Minister later today.

News story: Gender Pay Gap Reporting

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Guidance for employers published

From 6 April 2017 employers in Great Britain with more than 250 staff will be required by law to publish the following four types of figures annually on their own website and on a government website:

- Gender pay gap (mean and median averages)
- Gender bonus gap (mean and median averages)
- Proportion of men and women receiving bonuses
- Proportion of men and women in each quartile of the organisation's pay structure

To help employers, the Government Equalities Office and Acas have produced [guidance on managing gender pay reporting in the private and voluntary sectors](#).

News story: UK and Jordan standing shoulder to shoulder in fight against Daesh

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Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon has praised the crucial role Jordan plays in the fight against Daesh, following a meeting today with His Majesty King Abdullah II.

During a visit to London, where the King also met with the Foreign Secretary, Sir Michael discussed the UK's deep and longstanding support to Jordan, an important regional ally.

As a country on the front line in the fight against Daesh, Jordan is working closely with Britain and other Coalition members to defeat the terror group. Jordan was one of the earliest contributors to airstrikes against Daesh, operating four F-16 fighters, as well as other transporter aircraft.

Following the meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II, Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

Jordan is a longstanding and key ally of the UK and an important partner in countering the shared threats we face.

We stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight against Daesh, our militaries exercise together and we're assisting Jordan in the development to develop of its armed forces.

Through our global role we're committed to helping Jordan in sustaining its stability which in turn makes Britain safer and more secure.

Over the last financial year, the UK, through our Conflict Security and Stabilisation Fund (CSSF), has contributed over £32 million in helping Jordan's security, and next year we will aim to contribute a further £28 million. This funding, as well as longstanding defence engagement between the two countries, means that the UK and Jordan have a substantial defence relationship, including:

- Building up Jordan's border security, through helping develop their border surveillance capability.
- 200 UK forces last year participated in Exercise Shamal Storm 16, and this year British forces will work alongside a stepped up Jordanian force.
- The UK leads and helps to fund Jordan's Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The QRF is a Rapid Response force which has the ability to respond to threats at distance.
- Through NATO, Britain is providing financial support to developing Jordan's cyber defence, military exercises and information protection.