

OFFICIAL



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Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office

By email: committee.executive@niassembly.gov.uk

3 March 2021

Dear Colin,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February regarding the joint UK-EU engagement with Northern Ireland business groups and civic society.

As you'll know, this engagement took place in the context of ongoing work between the United Kingdom and the European Union to find pragmatic solutions to individual issues that have arisen with the Northern Ireland Protocol since the end of the transition period. The co-chairs of the UK-EU Joint Committee agreed on 11 February to underpin this work through joint engagement with business groups and civic society in Northern Ireland, which took place on 18 February.

Since then, the co-chairs of the Joint Committee convened on 24 February to take stock of the implementation of the Protocol and continue work on finding pragmatic solutions to these individual issues. This was a constructive meeting where both sides indicated there would be further engagement with business groups and other stakeholders in Northern Ireland, as well as a further Joint Committee in due course. As per our commitment in *New Decade, New Approach*, representatives of the Northern Ireland Executive were invited to the Joint Committee meeting.

The attendees for the meetings on 18 February were agreed by the co-chairs of the Joint Committee. Selection was based on the need to listen to a diversity of views and interests in Northern Ireland, to ensure that the Protocol works for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely,



Madeleine Alessandri
Permanent Secretary
Northern Ireland Office



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Executive Office



Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
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BT4 3SH

25 February 2021

Dear 

EUROPEAN COMMISSION MEETING

At its meeting on 24 February 2021, the Committee for the Executive Office received an oral briefing from Junior Minister Kearney and Junior Minister Middleton on the latest events relating to EU exit.

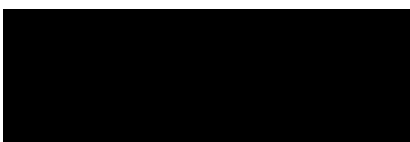
The Committee heard how the European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, met with Northern Ireland business and community leaders on 18 February 2021 to discuss post-Brexit trading arrangements.

The Executive Office has made the Committee aware that neither Executive Ministers or officials were involved in this meeting.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to request information on these meetings, to detail the organisations that the European Commission Vice-President met and to indicate how these were selected.

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Colin McGrath MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office

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