



Conference on the future relationship of Northern Ireland and the EU

24th of October 2024

10:00 – 13:00

Maldron Hotel, 20 Brunswick St, Belfast

Brexit and the ongoing uncertainty linked to the protocol and its delayed implementation have had profound legislative, social, and economic effects on Northern Ireland (NI). A unique status has been set for NI under the Windsor Framework, where NI remains part of the United Kingdom (UK) customs territory while enforcing the European Union (EU) Customs Code. NI will essentially remain in the EU single market and accordingly applies the necessary regulations and checks. In addition, all citizens of NI retain rights to Irish and consequently EU citizenship under the Good Friday agreement. There are further complications linked to the role of the European Court of Justice and the application of aspects of EU law in Northern Ireland.

This event is organised by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), Think Tank for Action on Social Change (TASC), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation (FES), and Queen Mary University, London.

This event will look at two central areas:

1. How to realise a positive vision for Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework?
2. What would a future relationship between Northern Ireland and the European Union look like?

The event will bring together local councilors, MLAs, NGOs and community organisations, academics, researchers, and representatives from the public sector.

The findings from research on the two central questions will be presented, followed by consultative workshop sessions. The aim of the workshop will be to generate discussion and produce recommendations.

Program

24th October 2023

Time: 10.00 – 13.00

REGISTRATION FROM 10.00 COFFEE/TEA IS AVAILABLE

10.15 – 10.25 Introduction from project partners

10.25 – 11.10 In conversation with secession, Including:

- **Matthew O'Toole, Leader of the Opposition in the Northern Ireland Assembly and SDLP MLA for South Belfast**
- **Kate Nicholl, Alliance MLA for South Belfast and former Lord Mayor of Belfast**
- **Pedro Silva Pereira, MEP S&D Group, and Vice President of the European Parliament**

11.10 – 11.20 Audience Q&A managed by MC

11.20 – 11.35 COFFEE BREAK

11.35 – 11.50 Presentation: The social and economic impact of Brexit uncertainty across NI,

Dr Sara Singleton – Think Tank for Action on Social Change, Dublin

11.50 – 12.05 Presentation: The Windsor Framework and its Implications for Britain, NI, and the EU
Professor Patrick Diamond and Dr Barry Colfer- Queen Mary University, London

12.05 – 12.45 Breakout sessions:

1. How to realise a positive position for Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework?
2. What would a future relationship between the EU and NI look like?

12.45 – 12.55 Summary of points from moderators

12.55 – 13.00 Closing note

13.00 – 1.30 LUNCH