

## Enhanced engagement with Northern Ireland stakeholders

Engagement with stakeholders in Northern Ireland is of paramount importance for the European Union to ensure that their voice is heard as regards the limited set of Union law that applies in Northern Ireland.

The European Commission has, therefore, introduced enhanced measures to deepen engagement with people and businesses in Northern Ireland. These arrangements will ensure that stakeholder perspectives can be taken into account in a timely and meaningful manner, recognising that stakeholders have valuable insights on Northern Ireland's unique circumstances.

These measures come on top of existing as well as new engagement tools. They will be guided by the principles of participation, openness, and accountability. They will be complemented by minimum standards regarding clarity, publication, sufficient time limits and acknowledgements of feedback.

The enhanced measures are as follows:

### Annual presentation by the Commission on upcoming policy initiatives and legislative proposals

- **Every year, Commission representatives will engage with Northern Ireland stakeholders on the Commission Work Programme for the following year.** This will highlight relevant proposals of particular interest for Northern Ireland stakeholders enabling timely engagement with them.
- The Work Programme will also be discussed beforehand in the Joint Consultative Working Group<sup>1</sup>.
- A list of new, upcoming EU initiatives of relevance to Northern Ireland will be **published on the Protocol [webpage](#)**.

### Specific Northern Ireland information sessions on new EU initiatives and additional workshop(s) for Northern Ireland stakeholders

- If requested by Northern Ireland stakeholders, the Commission will organise information sessions and/or workshops on new initiatives.

### Including Northern Ireland relevant public consultations on the Protocol webpage

- **Relevant public consultations** and/or involvement of Northern Ireland stakeholders in **targeted consultations for specific cases** will be included on the Protocol webpage.

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<sup>1</sup> The Joint Consultative Working Group on the implementation of the Protocol was established by Article 15 of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland and serves as a forum for the exchange of information and mutual consultation.

Northern Ireland overview in relevant impact assessments accompanying new EU policy initiatives

- In relevant impact assessments for new EU policy initiatives, there will now be a **dedicated overview of Northern Ireland stakeholders' input**. This will set out their views on the implications of the initiative for Northern Ireland and how they have been taken into account in the final proposal.