

The Northern Ireland Protocol

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Notes that:

- the Northern Ireland Protocol offers a means to manage the impact of Brexit on a shared and interdependent society, and to protect the Good Friday Agreement;
- the United Kingdom agreed to and signed the Northern Ireland Protocol (NIP) in October 2019;
- former UK negotiator Lord Frost has admitted that he intended to 'push the deal through [...] and sort out the detail with the EU later';
- on 17 May 2022, UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced a forthcoming law allowing the UK to unilaterally disapply aspects of the NIP Protocol.

Believes that:

- the UK Government's actions are unnecessary, counterproductive, and damaging to the interests of the people of Northern Ireland;
- such an approach would constitute an egregious breach of international law and breach of a mutually-agreed treaty;
- progress can only be made on the basis of pragmatic, trust-based discussions, and not through ideological grandstanding.

Calls for:

- the UK Government to scrap these plans for domestic legislation overriding aspects of the NIP, and to respect its international legal commitments;
- the UK and the EU to work together to re-establish trust and create a solid footing for close and friendly EU-UK relations;
- UK-EU discussions on genuine, workable solutions, building upon existing agreements and establishing new ones as desired.

Resolution:

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Year and Congress:

Dublin, June 2022

Category:

Urgency

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