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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	EU-UK Leaders Summit 2025 - Joint Statement

Delegates find attached the final version of the Joint Statement as considered acceptable at the level of negotiators as updated on Monday, 19 May.

UK-EU Summit 2025 - Joint Statement

19 May 2025, London

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1. We, the Leaders of the United Kingdom (UK) and of the European Union (EU), held our first UK-EU Summit in London on 19 May 2025.

2. Reaffirming our shared values and our commitment to deeper cooperation against the backdrop of an evolving and complex global geopolitical landscape, we agreed a **new Strategic Partnership** between the UK and EU. We agreed this would build on the stable foundation for our relationship set by the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Windsor Framework, and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and reaffirmed our commitment to their full, timely and faithful implementation.

3. We reflected on the need to develop an ambitious, dynamic relationship which meets the needs of our citizens. In this context, we welcomed a renewed agenda for European Union-United Kingdom cooperation - Common Understanding agreed between the United Kingdom and the European Commission, which covers our commitments on security, defence and development cooperation, to put people at the centre of our relationship, to strengthen our economies while protecting our planet and its resources, and on internal security, judicial cooperation, and irregular migration. We agreed to proceed swiftly with the undertakings set out therein, in accordance with our respective procedures and legal frameworks.

4. We also welcomed agreement on the EU-UK Security and Defence Partnership on the occasion of this Summit.

Global priorities for a new Strategic Partnership

5. We confirmed our steadfast dedication to the rules based international order, with the United Nations (UN) at its core, and the fundamental tenets of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. We discussed global and strategic priorities of joint concern and welcomed this agreement to strengthen our cooperation across a range of issues for the security, safety and prosperity of all people across the UK and EU.

6. We confirmed our shared principles of maintaining global economic stability and our mutual commitment to free, sustainable, fair and open trade, in line with our shared values, as well as noting the importance of cooperation with all of our trading partners in safeguarding our supply chain resilience and monitoring trade diversion. Recognising the role of the World Trade Organisation in promoting certainty, predictability and fair trade practices, we will continue to work together, and with other like-minded partners, on how we can mitigate the impact of fluctuations in the global economic order.

7. We recognised the importance of transatlantic cooperation in addressing global challenges, fostering economic growth, and ensuring peace and security.

8. We restated our resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter and international law, and we reaffirmed our firm and continued support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We also reconfirmed our unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed.

9. We join Ukraine and international partners, including the United States, in calling for a full, unconditional ceasefire and meaningful talks for genuine peace aimed at ending Russia's war of aggression and restoring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. As in the past, it is now for Russia to show its willingness to achieve peace.

10. We recognised the importance of UK and EU cooperation, as vital partners in continuing to support Ukraine, counter Russian aggression, and work closely to ensure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace that assures Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. We remain ready to continue to exert pressure on Russia, including through further sanctions and taking measures to prevent their circumvention, sectoral measures and caps on oil prices, and by ensuring that Russian Sovereign Assets remain immobilised until Russia ceases its war of aggression against Ukraine and compensates it for the damage caused by this war.

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11. We are committed to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and other serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression, including by the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. We also remain committed to supporting Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction. The Ukraine Recovery Conference in Italy in July 2025 will be particularly relevant in that context.[1]

12. We also expressed our support for the Republic of Moldova's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and its efforts in addressing the challenges it faces as a consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the Russian campaign of hybrid interference against Moldovan democratic institutions.

13. In line with our shared security interests, we attach particular importance to collaboration on defence. For the UK and those EU Member States who are NATO Allies, NATO remains the cornerstone of their collective defence. Our aim will be to help deliver on our capability targets, including through our defence industries, more quickly and economically and with enhanced interoperability in ways that deliver mutual benefit and reinforce the European contribution to NATO.

14. All of the above is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain EU Member States, and taking into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the EU Treaties.

15. We commended the agreement of India and Pakistan to a cessation of hostilities, taking an important step towards a sustained and enduring peace. We agreed on the importance of diplomacy to forge a permanent ceasefire, safeguard civilian lives and support the prosperity of both nations, as well as continuing the fight against terrorism.

16. We addressed the situation and the latest developments in the Middle East. We asserted our commitment to seeing an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza. We emphasised the importance of pursuing a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two state solution.

[1] We note the reservations of one Member State regarding the strategic direction of certain EU policies towards Ukraine.

17. We agreed that we continue to be deeply concerned by the dangerous expansion of Iran's nuclear programme, alongside its behaviour in the region and on European soil. We condemn Iran's unjust detention of foreign nationals and call on Iran to halt its practice of hostage diplomacy. We remain committed to maintaining regional stability and securing a negotiated solution to Iran's nuclear programme. We expressed our support for the people of Syria, as it works towards a peaceful, inclusive and stable political future. We reaffirmed our support to Lebanon's efforts towards stabilisation, reconstruction and reform agenda.

18. We reaffirmed our commitment to the stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans. We agreed to work together on initiatives, including the Berlin Process London Summit 2025, to offer our support to our Western Balkans partners in strengthening their internal reform agendas, including the rule of law, democracy, fight against corruption and organised crime, and promoting sustainable economic growth. We support advancing cooperation to reinforce European security, tackle irregular migration, as well as foreign information manipulation and interference. We reaffirmed commitment to addressing risks of instability in the region, including through coordinated efforts to uphold the security, territorial integrity and constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to advance the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

19. We recognised the shared challenge of irregular migration and the need to address it with a whole of route approach, including by working with countries of origin and transit, and to prevent irregular Channel crossings. We also recognised the need to do more to secure our respective external borders while remaining committed to ensuring international protection for those who need it. We agreed to work together to fight human trafficking and people smuggling, drugs trafficking, serious and transnational organised crime as well as terrorism and violent extremism, including in its online dimension.

20. We agreed that, in an increasingly contested and volatile world, our shared commitment to multilateralism is vital. We recognised the importance of upholding international law, and expressed our commitment to the UN Charter. We support the implementation of the UN Pact for the Future, and we will continue supporting the UN Secretary-General's UN80 initiative to deliver ambitious reform efforts; and upholding democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We also remain committed to the Helsinki Decalogue, and the subsequent Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe commitments and the European Convention on Human Rights.

21. We reaffirmed our commitment to international development as a key pillar of our relationship. We agreed on the importance of delivering the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide. We look forward to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville from 30 June to 3 July 2025. We recognise our shared commitment to climate security and will strengthen cooperation on international aspects of the issue. We recognise that the climate and nature crises are existential threats to global prosperity and security. We remain committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement and to implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. We also agreed the importance of building on progress made at recent COPs and looked ahead to working together to address pressing climate issues at COP30 in Brazil, later this year.

Moving forward

22. We underlined the importance of regular exchanges between EU and UK interlocutors, and agreed that high-level meetings–should take place regularly to consider our joint strategic interests, across the core aspects of our relationship, in particular in the areas of economy and trade, and justice and home affairs.

23. The UK Foreign and Defence Secretaries and EU High Representative have agreed to foreign and security policy dialogues every six months.

24. This summit is the first step in our **new Strategic Partnership**. We agreed to hold annual summits to strengthen our relationship: overseeing implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement; driving progress on a renewed agenda for European Union-United Kingdom cooperation - Common Understanding; and ensuring opportunities for future cooperation are maximised.

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