

The Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Llywydd

25 May 2022

Dear Elin,

The UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

It was a great pleasure to represent the Senedd at the first meeting of the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA) in Brussels on 12-13 May 2022. As you are aware the PPA was established under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement to bring together parliamentarians from the UK and the EU to discuss implementation of the agreement and the status of UK-EU relations more broadly.



It was important that we, as Members of the Senedd along with colleagues from the Scottish Parliament, were able to attend the meeting along with colleagues from the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The meeting was addressed by Commissioner Sěčovič and by Michael Ellis MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office. Whilst the differences on implementation of the Protocol and other issues were stark, the meeting also provided the opportunity for honest dialogue between parliamentarians of the issues facing Northern Ireland and possible solutions that might allow for the implementation of the Protocol.



Discussion was also held on security and foreign policy cooperation between the UK and the EU and in particular on the collective efforts to support the Ukrainian Government in the war in Ukraine. The Director General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Stefano Sannino and the Rt. Hon James Heapey, Minister for the Armed Forces, addressed the meeting and



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took part in a detailed debate on what the war means for UK-EU cooperation in these fields, areas of possible future collaboration and the investigation of possible war crimes.

The exchange of views on energy security, climate change, innovation and research demonstrated the extent of the areas of common interest between the delegations and a range of possible areas where the Assembly could have a collective impact in future.

Discussion was also held on future ways of working of the Assembly itself. Whilst having Members of the Senedd present in the room was invaluable in terms of building relationships with UK and European colleagues, the opportunity for representatives of devolved legislatures to contribute to the meetings on areas pertinent to devolved matters should be further explored. This would enrich the discussions and ensure that devolved legislatures are able to set out their views on the areas they have a responsibility to implement.

It was important that the proceedings were broadcast live by the European Parliament so that stakeholders and citizens could follow the discussions taking place and we hope that this transparent approach continues for all future meetings of the Assembly.

One issue which you may wish to consider is how the Senedd is informed of the outcome of these meetings by those participating. This letter aims to start that process and we hope will be useful as part of the discussions due to take place this week at the Chairs' Forum on future representation on the PPA.

Yours sincerely,



Alun Davies MS

Member of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee



Sam Kurtz MS

Member of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

