



Prosperity-UK's Alternative Arrangements Commission responds positively to Prime Minister Boris Johnson's letter to President Juncker

2nd October 2010 – Greg Hands MP and Suella Braverman MP, the co-chairs of the Prosperity-UK Alternative Arrangements Commission, have responded positively to the publication of the letter from Prime Minister Boris Johnson to EU Commission President Juncker, outlining the UK's proposals to supersede the Irish Backstop.

Greg Hands and Suella Braverman said: "This is a very reasonable and carefully thought through compromise proposal from The Prime Minister. It respects the Belfast-Good Friday Agreement, respects the integrity of the EU's single market and allows Britain to pursue its own independent trade and regulatory policy.

"We are delighted that the UK Government has taken on board many of our ideas, such as trusted trader schemes and a single sanitary and phytosanitary zone for the island of Ireland, though it has gone further than we suggested on goods alignment."

"As it stands, we are confident that these proposals could pass the House of Commons and unblock the Brexit logjam. We urge the EU and the Irish Government to respond constructively so we can get a new withdrawal deal done."

To read the Alternative Arrangements Commission's recommendations in full, including the summary report, please go to: <https://www.prosperity-uk.com/aacabout/>

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Notes to editors

Prosperity UK is a politically independent, not-for-profit platform chaired by Sir Paul Marshall and Lord Hill of Oareford, bringing together business leaders, academics and policy-makers to seek solutions to Brexit issues and to look constructively at a future outside the EU and at how the UK can build an open, dynamic and balanced economy which maximises prosperity for all.



The Backstop, as drafted in the current Withdrawal Agreement text, is intended to avoid a hard border in Ireland but could permanently hive Northern Ireland into a separate regulatory and Customs jurisdiction from the rest of the UK. It is at the heart of the UK Parliament's objections to the existing Withdrawal Agreement and of particular concern to Unionist opinion in Northern Ireland.

While the existing Withdrawal Agreement says the parties, "agree to agree a replacement to the Backstop", our consultation has exposed how understandings of the Backstop, and how it will be replaced, vary vastly across policy makers and stakeholders.

Our cross-party parliamentary commission now consists of 48 parliamentarians. The latest to join include the Rt Hon Norman Lamb, MP (Liberal Democrat) and the Labour MPs Stephen Kinnock and Caroline Flint.