

Today, as you will know, the UK and EU negotiating teams issued a [joint report](#) on the progress they have made on the first phase of negotiations. It sets out:

- a **fair deal** on [citizens' rights](#) that allows for UK and EU citizens to get on with their lives broadly as now in the country they live
- a **financial settlement** that honours the commitments we undertook as members of the EU - as we said we would. It is a fair delivery of our obligations, in light of the spirit of our future partnership
- and an [agreement on the border](#) between Ireland and Northern Ireland that preserves the territorial integrity of the UK and the stability that has been brought about by the Belfast Agreement. The solution will see no hard border or physical infrastructure at it.



The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has agreed that this report represents **sufficient progress** and that we should now move on to the talks about our future partnership.

As a result, Donald Tusk, the President of the EU Council, has recommended that the December Council allows the **next stage of negotiations** to proceed and that there should be quick progress on agreeing an implementation period.

We welcome the Commission's conclusion. This is an important **step forward** for both sides and demonstrates the interests we share in managing our exit smoothly, and in moving the negotiations on.



We hope and expect the EU27 leaders will agree with the Commission's recommendation when they meet next week, and will agree that we can move to start negotiations on the

detail of **implementation and the future partnership**.

It is in all our interests to move the talks on. We want to focus our efforts now on quickly agreeing the detail of a time-limited implementation period that gives further certainty to people and businesses, and to settling the terms of a future partnership that delivers **prosperity and security** for the UK and the EU alike.

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