

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001969/25
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(15 May 2025)**

Subject: Redefining EU-UK relations

Despite its withdrawal from the EU, the United Kingdom remains a key geopolitical, economic and defence partner for the Union. However, important issues remain to be resolved, in particular as regards trade, security cooperation and the mobility of students and of citizens more generally.

Will the Commission take initiatives towards a more structured and strategic rapprochement between the EU and the UK, based on stability, cooperation and mutual respect?

Submitted: 15.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(4 July 2025)**

The Commission is committed to strengthening strategic cooperation between the EU and the United Kingdom (UK). The first EU-UK Summit held in London on 19 May 2025 marked the beginning of a new chapter in EU-UK relations and delivered several concrete outputs including an EU-UK Joint Statement, a Security and Defence Partnership, and a Common Understanding between the Commission and the UK.

The ‘Common Understanding — a renewed agenda for European Union — United Kingdom cooperation’ adopted at the Summit identified five broad areas of future work to strengthen EU-UK relations: (i) security and defence; (ii) people-to-people contacts; (iii) economy and sustainability; (iv) internal security and judicial cooperation; and (v) irregular migration.

The Common Understanding also consolidates existing cooperation between the EU and the UK. It notes the political agreement leading to full reciprocal access to waters to fish until 30 June 2038 and to extend the application of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement's energy title on a continuous basis. The necessary steps to formalise this political agreement will be finalised in the coming weeks.

Both sides will proceed swiftly on the commitments made in the Common Understanding in accordance with their respective procedures and legal frameworks.
