

## **JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIRS OF THE SÉNAT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

On Tuesday 23 June 2026 the Committee on European Affairs of the French Senate hosted a delegation from the European Affairs Committee of the UK House of Lords, led by its Chair, Lord Stirrup, to the Palais du Luxembourg.

This visit, which took place exactly ten years to the day after the referendum on UK membership of the EU, is part of the close ties forged between the Senate and the House of Lords, spearheaded by Senate President Mr. Gérard Larcher and the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords, the Rt Hon Lord Forsyth of Drumlean. On 13 May 2026 the President of the Senate had the honour of attending the State Opening of the parliamentary session and the speech by His Majesty King Charles III.

The meeting held on Tuesday 23 June at the Palais du Luxembourg followed an initial visit to London on 28 October 2025, by a delegation from the Senate's Committee on European Affairs, led by its Chair, Mr. Jean-François Rapin, at the invitation of the House of Lords.

During our joint meeting, members of both committees highlighted the intensification of relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom, on the one hand, and between France and the United Kingdom, on the other.

They first discussed the current state and future prospects for relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union, in light of the commitments made at the 19 May 2025 UK-EU Summit and with an eye toward the upcoming Summit originally scheduled for 22 July 2026, but which had been postponed to a later date following the announcement of the Prime Minister's resignation. The chairs welcomed the revitalisation of relations, as exemplified in particular by the conclusion last April of the agreement on Erasmus+, which will help to strengthen student exchanges. The committees also discussed progress on other commitments, notably regarding sanitary and phytosanitary standards, carbon emissions trading systems, access to the European electricity market, on issues related to the dynamic alignment of UK legislation with European regulations, and on youth mobility, as well as on security issues and the United Kingdom's access to the SAFE program.

Members of both committees also exchanged views on the UK-France relationship, particularly in the wake of the "Lancaster House 2.0" agreement aimed at further developing defence and security relations, and on the implementation of the agenda adopted at the bilateral summit in July 2025.

Both delegations underlined the importance of France, the UK and the EU's continued support for Ukraine.

Cooperation on preventing and combating illegal crossings of the English Channel, at both the European and bilateral levels, was also discussed during the meeting, as well as the impact of social media on young people.

This meeting served to reinforce the long-standing and deep bonds of friendship between France and the United Kingdom and to strengthen the close cooperation between the Senate and the House of Lords.

Jean-François Rapin, Chair of the Sénat Committee on European Affairs

Lord Stirrup, Chair of the House of Lords European Affairs Committee