**Mairead McGuinness (PPE).** – Mr President, it is with rather more with relief than pleasure that we can say sufficient progress has been made on the Brexit negotiations. I fully supported this resolution, because it means we can move forward and in the new year we will face discussions on the transition phase and on a future partnership with the United Kingdom.

As has been said here in this House, we all want a good relationship going into the future with our UK neighbours and partners, but I will repeat my concerns around the ultimate solution to the Irish border question. Today, the United Kingdom is part of the single market and customs union and the situation on the border is invisible, as we want it to continue. It would be the best solution to the conundrum if the United Kingdom would remain in the single market and the customs union, although we know that if that is not the case they will still have to come forward with very unique solutions to solve this conundrum.