

Press release: Alun Cairns: “Cross-border collaboration is key to capitalising on North Wales’ economic aspirations”

- Alun Cairns will also speak at the CBI North Wales dinner in Deeside, where he will reinforce his commitment to protecting the UK’s internal trade market.

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns will explore the opportunities that Britain’s EU exit presents at a meeting with local authority leaders in Wrexham later today (Thursday 29 March).

The Welsh Secretary is set to gather leaders of North Wales’ councils at Wrexham Council’s Guildhall to update them on the latest EU Withdrawal Bill developments, and invite views on how the Shared Prosperity Fund should operate in the area.

The meeting comes ahead of the Secretary of State’s keynote speech to the CBI in Deeside this evening, where he is expected to reinforce his commitment to protecting the internal trade market as Britain leaves the EU, given that 80% of Welsh exports go to the rest of the UK.

The North Wales Growth deal will also feature on the agenda, as Mr Cairns seeks views from leaders on the best ways to further strengthen the region’s economy, improve rural digital connectivity and capitalise on connections to the Northern Powerhouse.

The proposals received from the region aim to create 5,300 jobs and attract £1bn of private sector investment to the area over the next 15 years.

Today’s meeting follows similar discussions with South Wales’ local leaders last year, as part of ongoing engagement by the UK Government with Wales’ most prominent economic sectors and authorities as Britain prepares to leave the EU.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:

Effective working relationships between the UK Government, the Welsh Government and local partners will provide the building blocks for economic growth in North Wales as the UK leaves the European Union.

This means grabbing the benefits of the Northern Powerhouse, ensuring growth and prosperity is felt right across a region known for its cross border collaboration.

The UK Government is supporting North Wales in every way it can; taking clear and decisive action to roll out superfast broadband, reforming and modernising the prison estate via HMP Berwyn, creating Industrial Strategy sector deals based on the area's strengths and backing local leaders to create jobs and generate growth via the North Wales Growth Deal.

I look forward to listening the thoughts of the leaders present and taking those views back to Westminster so that all voices in Wales are heard as we negotiate our exit from EU.

The message will be echoed in Mr Cairns' evening keynote speech to the CBI in North Wales, where he will highlight the value of Welsh trade and provide an update on the UK Government's EU exit arrangements.

Alun Cairns added:

Welsh exports are worth over £16 billion a year, but the vast majority of Welsh production stays within the rest of the UK.

That's why it's vital that we find routes to new markets outside of the European Union, but also work together to protect our thriving internal market in the UK.

The UK Government is committed to finding a deal that works for everyone, gathering the views from a broad range of sectors and areas in the UK to ensure everyone benefits.

ENDS

[Speech: Foreign Secretary's Lord Mayor's Easter Banquet speech at Mansion House, Wednesday 28 March](#)

My Lord Mayor, Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

I'm going to talk about Britain's global role and our work with our allies around the world but I turn first to the events of this remarkable week because never before has there been a collective expulsion of Russian diplomats on the scale that we have seen over the last few days.

As I speak there are now 27 countries that have themselves taken the risk of kicking out people whose presence they deem to be no longer conducive to the

public good.

Of course there are many more that have chosen to act in other ways, countries that have issued powerful statements or downgraded their representation at the World Cup.

But by your leave my Lord Mayor and without wishing to be in any way invidious I want to remind you of the full roll of honour:

Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United States.

And NATO has either expelled or denied accreditation to 10 Russian officials.

And it seems clear that the Kremlin underestimated the strength of global feeling: if they thought that the world had become so hardened and cynical as not to care about the use of chemical weapons in a peaceful place like Salisbury, if they believed that no one would give a fig about the suffering of Sergei and Yulia Skripal or that we would be indifferent to the reckless and contemptuous disregard for public safety that saw 39 others seek medical treatment, if they believed that we had become so morally weakened, so dependent on hydrocarbons, so chronically risk averse and so fearful of Russia that we would not dare to respond, then this is their answer, because these countries know full well that they face the risk of retaliation and frankly there are countries that have taken action that are more vulnerable to Russia than we are, whether through geography or their energy needs, and I pay tribute to them because they know that their own Russia-based diplomats, and their families, must now deal with the possibility of their own lives being turned upside down.

That is a huge commitment and sacrifice for one country to make – let alone 27 – and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

But of course I know that these thanks are in a sense impertinent because I do not for one moment believe that this global wave of revulsion has been prompted solely by Salisbury, let alone a sentimental love or affection for the UK, though I don't exclude the possibility of such feelings somewhere in the mix.

It wasn't about us: it was about all of us and the kind of world we want to live in.

Because I believe these expulsions represent a moment when a feeling has suddenly crystallised, when years of vexation and provocation have worn the collective patience to breaking point, and when across the world – across 3 continents – there are countries who are willing to say enough is enough.

After the annexation of Crimea, the intervention in the Donbas, the downing of MH17, the cyberattacks, the attempted coup in Montenegro, the concealing of chemical weapon attacks in Syria, the hacking of the Bundestag, the interference in elections, there are now just too many countries who have

felt the disruptive and malign behaviour of the Russian state.

And Salisbury has spoken not just to Salisbury in South Australia and Salisbury in Pennsylvania, in North Carolina, in Maryland, but to all the tranquil cathedral cities across Europe that could have suffered a similar fate and where people deserve to live free from fear and after all these provocations, this week was the moment when the world decided to say enough to the wearying barrage of Russian lies, the torrent of obfuscation and intercontinental ballistic whoppers.

First they told us that Novichok never existed, then they told us that it did exist but they had destroyed the stocks, then they claimed that the stocks had escaped to Sweden or the Czech Republic or Slovakia or the United States.

And the other day they claimed that the true inventor of Novichok was Theresa May.

In the last few days we have been told that Sergei Skripal took an overdose, that he attempted suicide and therefore presumably tried to take his daughter with him, that his attempted murder was revenge for Britain's supposed poisoning of Ivan the Terrible, or that we did it to spoil the World Cup.

In fact the Foreign Office has so far counted 24 such ludicrous fibs – and so I am glad that 27 countries have stood up to say that they are not swallowing that nonsense any more.

It is rather like the beginning of Crime and Punishment in the sense that we are all confident of the culprit – and the only question is whether he will confess or be caught.

And in these last few days it is our values – and our belief in the rules based international order – that have proved their worth.

Not only has there been a strong and speedy multilateral response from NATO and the EU Council but countries that are members of neither have come forward to show that this country is blessed to be part of a broader community of ideals.

And I believe there are many British people who have found it immensely reassuring to learn we may be leaving the EU in exactly a year but we will never be alone, and in part that commitment to Britain reflects Britain's reciprocal commitment to our friends, whether through the work of our peerless intelligence agencies or our armed forces or our development budgets.

And that is what I mean by Global Britain, and so I repeat the prime minister's unconditional and immovable commitment: that we will stand by you as you have stood by us.

We will continue to work with you – bringing as we do 20 per cent of EU defence spending, 25 per cent of the aid budget, 55 per cent of the tonnage of the supply and replenishment vessels needed to keep warships at sea, 100 per cent of the heavy lift capacity.

We are with you in Estonia, we are with you in training the armed forces in Ukraine, we are there in Nigeria and in the Middle East, where the fight against Daesh goes on and where the UK has delivered the second biggest number of air strikes after the US.

We are with you in the Sahel – or we will be with you shortly – and HMS Sutherland is now in the Pacific, exercising alongside our Australian friends, and the UK has forces deployed in more countries than any other European power.

And I have last week announced that we are expanding our FCO network, with another 250 British diplomats overseas and another ten UK embassies or high commissions in another ten sovereign posts – with the Commonwealth as a priority especially as we will be hosting its summit next month – so that Britain will have more diplomatic missions than any other European country – exceeding the French by one, news that I am told was received with rapture in the Quai d'Orsay, since there is no more compelling case for more funding than news of expansion in King Charles Street.

We believe in that expansion – and we will go further, especially in Africa, because we believe that a Global Britain is fundamentally in the interests of the British people because it is by being open to the world, and engaging with every country, that the British people will find the markets for their goods and services and ideas as we have done for centuries in that great free trade revolution that made this city the capital of the world and built the Mansion House in which we meet tonight.

When we leave the EU next year, we will re-establish ourselves as an independent member of the WTO and we will be the world's leading proselytiser for free trade.

And it is symmetrically by being welcoming to talent from abroad – as we must and will be – that we have brought to our shores for generations people who want to live their lives without fear of judgment or persecution, to do as they choose provided they do no harm to others, and it is that ethos of generosity that has made this city not just the most diverse in the world but also the most productive region of Europe.

And today the UK is the biggest destination for FDI after the US, our unemployment is at the lowest for 43 years (I seem to remember some people predicting that it would rise by 500,000), we have the biggest tech sector, the best universities.

And Cambridge University alone has won more Nobel prizes than every university in Russia and China added together and multiplied by 2.

We have the most vibrant and dynamic cultural scene, with one venue – the British Museum – attracting more visitors than ten whole European countries that it would not be tactful to name tonight.

And out of this great minestrone, this bouillabaisse, this ratatouille, this seething and syncretic cauldron of culture, we export not just goods – though

we certainly do – but ideas and attitudes and even patterns of behaviour.

I am delighted to say that in both the Czech Republic and in Iceland they mark Jan 7 with silly walks day in honour of Monty Python.

There are now nine countries that have their own version of David Brent, and it is an astonishing fact that both of the two highest grossing movies in the world last year was either shot or produced in this country:

Beauty and the Beast and Star Wars.

And what is the principal utensil of violence in Star Wars?

And where was the light sabre invented?

In which part of London? In Uxbridge and South Ruislip.

And that tells you all you need to know about the difference between modern Britain and the government of Vladimir Putin.

They make Novichok, we make light sabres.

One a hideous weapon that is specifically intended for assassination.

The other an implausible theatrical prop with a mysterious buzz.

But which of those two weapons is really more effective in the world of today?

Which has done more for our respective economies?

Which has delighted the imaginations of three generations of children and earned billions?

Which one is loved and which one is loathed?

I tell you that the arsenals of this country and of our friends are not stocked with poison but with something vastly more powerful: the power of imagination and creativity and innovation that comes with living in a free society, of a kind you see all around you today.

And it is that power that will prevail and it is in that spirit of absolute confidence and security that it is our job now not just to beware the Russian state, but to reach out, in spite of all our present difficulties, to extend the hand of friendship to the Russian people.

Because it cannot be said too often that the paranoid imaginings of their rulers have no basis in fact, they are not ringed by foes but by countries who see themselves as admirers and friends, who have taken this action this week because they want nothing so much as to have an end to this pattern of disruptive behaviour, and who want to live in peace and mutual respect and who hope one day that it will be possible to see ever greater commercial and cultural cooperation between us and the Russian people.

And I believe that day can and will come.

I hope it does.

And if and when it does I believe it will be thanks to the resolution of all the countries that acted in their different ways this week.

We will have to keep that resolve because there is no doubt that we will be tested again and I can assure you that in that test the resolve of the British government and people will be unflinching.

Press release: Prime Minister vows to deliver a Brexit that unites the UK

The Prime Minister will travel around the country talking to a range of people and emphasising that, regardless of whether they backed Leave or Remain, what is important now is making Brexit a success for everyone.

Kicking off in Scotland, the Prime Minister will visit textile workers at a factory in Ayrshire, before travelling to Newcastle to meet with a local parent and toddler group. She will have lunch with farmers near Belfast before travelling to Barry to host a roundtable with Welsh businesses. She will finish the day in West London where she will have tea with a group of Polish citizens who have made the UK their home.

Today, one year until the UK leaves the EU and begins to chart a new course in the world, I am visiting all four nations of the Union to hear from people across our country what Brexit means to them. I am determined that as we leave the EU, and in the years ahead, we will strengthen the bonds that unite us, because ours is the world's most successful union. The UK contains four proud and historic nations, but together we amount to so much more than the sum of our parts and our Union is an enormous force for good.

We see that on the global stage, where the UK stands up for liberal and democratic values and leads the world in international development action. And we see the enormous benefits of our Union at home too, as we face challenges together, freely pooling and sharing risks and rewards as one united people.

As we leave the EU, powers will return from Brussels to the parliaments and assemblies of the UK, closer to the people we all serve and with greater ability to deliver for their needs. Each of the devolved nations will see an increase in their decision-making powers. Make no mistake, this government is absolutely committed to the devolution settlements as we have demonstrated beyond question with landmark pieces of legislation over the last few years.

But as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, I have an absolute responsibility to protect the integrity of the United Kingdom as a whole. That means ensuring that no new barriers are created within our common domestic market and that the UK is able to meet its international obligations in the future. No Prime Minister could leave these things to chance, because they are absolutely crucial to our success as a country in the future.

The government is taking action to benefit the whole UK, from supporting the security services that keep us all safe and pursuing a modern industrial strategy which will deliver jobs and economic growth in every community, to pursuing an international trade policy which will open up new markets for our world-beating exports around the world.

I am determined that our future will be a bright one. It's a future in which we trade freely with friends and partners across Europe and beyond. Having regained control of our laws, our borders and our money, and seized the opportunities provided by Brexit, the UK will thrive as a strong and united country that works for everyone, no matter whether you voted Leave or Remain.

Press release: PM call with Chancellor Merkel: 28 March 2018

The Prime Minister spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel this evening.

The PM began by thanking the Chancellor for her strong support and solidarity following the Salisbury attack.

The Chancellor and Prime Minister both agreed on the need to continue to work together to counter increased Russian aggression.

They also discussed the temporary exemption announced by the US in relation to steel and aluminium tariffs.

The two leaders also discussed the importance of the Iran nuclear deal and agreed to stay in touch on these issues.

Press release: Reino Unido e Brasil assinam acordos durante 10ª reunião do

JETCO

Ministro de Comércio Internacional do Reino Unido, Liam Fox e Ministro da Indústria, Comércio Exterior e Serviços, Marcos Jorge de Lima.

Londres (28 de março) – O ministro da Indústria, Comércio Exterior e Serviços, Marcos Jorge de Lima, e o Ministro de Comércio Internacional do Reino Unido, Liam Fox, presidiram hoje a 10ª reunião do Comitê Econômico e de Comércio Conjunto Reino Unido – Brasil (JETCO na sigla em inglês), realizada em Londres.

“Estou convicto de que o JETCO ganha em relevância nesta nova fase de nossas relações comerciais e este encontro certamente cria as base para resultados concretos e mutuamente benéficos para nossos países”, declarou o ministro Marcos Jorge.

Para o secretário Liam Fox, como a maior economia da América do Sul, o Brasil tem um enorme potencial que as empresas britânicas podem utilizar.

“Continuaremos a trabalhar em estreita colaboração com o governo brasileiro para derrubar as barreiras ao comércio e apoiar nossas economias em benefício mútuo”, disse.

Acordos

Durante a reunião, Marcos Jorge e Liam Fox assinaram um Memorando de Entendimento para fomentar temas importantes no comércio bilateral, como facilitação de comércio, cooperação regulatória e promoção da cultura exportadora, com estímulo para maior participação das micro, pequenas e médias empresas (MPMEs) no comércio exterior. Além disso, o Memorando alcança ainda o apoio para reestruturação do Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial (INPI) e para a implementação de instrumentos de compliance para permitir o acesso do Brasil à Organização para a Cooperação e Desenvolvimento Econômico (OCDE), candidatura oficializada em maio de 2017.

Marcos Jorge ressaltou a importância da parceria com o Reino Unido. “Acredito que uma das características mais importantes de nosso relacionamento tem sido a capacidade de inovar na identificação de meios de fomentarmos projetos de desenvolvimento associado, como é o caso da cooperação no contexto do Fundo da Prosperidade, o “Prosperity Fund” declarou o ministro.

O Prosperity Fund é o fundo de cooperação do Governo Britânico financiado pelo Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Ministério das Relações Exteriores Britânico). Entre 2011 e 2016, o fundo britânico o investiu mais de 14 milhões de libras em projetos no Brasil, com o intuito de melhorar o ambiente de negócios, bem como atrair novos investimentos em infraestrutura com melhorias no ambiente regulatório e capacitação em parcerias público-privadas.

Intercâmbio comercial

O ministro também destacou as trocas comerciais entre o Brasil e o Reino Unido, que chegaram, em 2017, ao valor de cerca de US\$ 5,15 bilhões. “Apenas nos dois primeiros meses deste ano, nosso intercâmbio de bens já cresceu 30% de lado a lado, o que demonstra o potencial existente para o incremento de nossas trocas comerciais”, afirmou.

Em termos de investimentos, o Brasil possui estoque de US\$ 30 bilhões e o Reino Unido, US\$ 4 bilhões. “Isso demonstra o grande esforço e empenho de nossas empresas para o incremento das relações bilaterais. Por isso, Brasil e Reino Unido, inclusive por intermédio do engajamento do MDIC e do DIT no JETCO, têm trabalhando com afinco para dar mais fluidez ao ambiente de negócios”, lembrou Marcos Jorge. .

Parceria INPI-UKIPO

Durante o Jetco, o diretor-executivo do Instituto Nacional da Propriedade Industrial (INPI), Mauro Maia, e o diretor-executivo e controlador-geral do Escritório de Propriedade Intelectual do Reino Unido (UKIPO, na sigla em Inglês), Tim Moss, assinaram um acordo que vai acelerar a análise de pedidos de patentes.

O acordo prevê a colaboração entre o INPI e o UKIPO através de um projeto piloto de Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH). Neste modelo de parceria entre dois países ou regiões, o solicitante da patente poderá pedir que o exame de seu pedido seja priorizado em um dos países, após ter sido concedido pelo outro.

Deste modo, um pedido de patente já concedido no Brasil poderá ter seu exame acelerado no Reino Unido, ao mesmo tempo em que uma solicitação deferida no instituto britânico poderá ser agilizada no INPI. Em média, segundo o INPI, o prazo é reduzido de cerca de 10 anos para nove meses, via PPH.

Segundo o ministro Marcos Jorge, é importante destacar que “patentes concedidas com agilidade são essenciais para estimular a inovação e a competitividade das empresas, inclusive para as que pretendem investir no mercado externo. Também contribuem para atrair investimentos no Brasil”, informa.

Neste PPH entre o INPI e o UKIPO, que entrará em vigor no terceiro trimestre de 2018, poderão ser incluídos até 100 pedidos de patentes por ano. Os campos tecnológicos ainda serão definidos pelos dois institutos.

Atualmente, o Brasil possui projetos de PPH com os Estados Unidos, o Japão, a China, o Escritório Europeu de Patentes e os países latino-americanos que fazem parte do projeto denominado PROSUR.