

UK delegation urges Polish businesses to get ready for Brexit

The UK is reaching out to businesses in the EU through 30 industry events to provide advice and information to traders, logistics managers, transporters, exporters, importers and their agents about the steps they need to take to prepare for continuing trade with the UK in the event of Brexit without a deal.

The UK Government's priority is to make sure that the borders remain secure, while ensuring that new controls and processes do not interrupt flow of goods. This is so EU member states and the UK can continue to trade easily after Brexit. Whilst the UK is making all the necessary preparations for Brexit on 31 October, there are also steps that businesses within the EU need to take to ensure they are properly prepared.

In industry events in Warsaw and in Katowice, a UK delegation will outline the changes to border processes and explain the actions that Polish businesses need to take to remain compliant with UK and EU requirements. It is crucial that both EU and UK traders understand what they need to do to continue trading between the EU and the UK after Brexit, with or without a deal.

The actions that Polish businesses need to take to continue trading with the UK are:

- Register for an EORI number with your home country's customs authority in order to move goods between the UK and EU. This will be valid in all EU member states
- Ensure that you are aware of your domestic customs processes
- Speak to your UK supplier/customer to check who will be responsible for customs processes in the UK. In most cases it will be your UK supplier/customer

To help hauliers and traders in the EU further, the UK Government is setting up around 50 information pop-up sites in EU locations for drivers.

The stands will provide advice to hauliers on the [documentation they require for themselves, their vehicle and the goods they are transporting](#). The objective is to ensure they are prepared for Brexit so that goods can continue to flow smoothly across borders. Information leaflets, guidance handbooks and pocket guides will also be available for hauliers to take away.

These pop-up sites will be located at service stations, ports and on ferries to make sure advice to get ready for the border is easily accessible.

UK secures 'listed status' to protect £5 billion export market

The UK has secured approval to continue exporting animals and animal products to the EU if we leave without a deal on 31 October – providing certainty for a market worth more than £5 billion a year.

Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers confirmed today that EU member states have granted the UK 'national listed status', which ensures exports of live animals and products of animal origin, such as meat, fish and dairy, can continue.

The move recognises the UK's high biosecurity and animal health standards and will bring welcome clarity to the country's world-leading farmers and food producers.

Environment Secretary, Theresa Villiers, said:

This is good news for UK businesses. It demonstrates our very high standards of biosecurity and animal health which we will continue to maintain and improve after we leave the EU.

If you or your business import or export animal and animal products, we want to make sure you are ready for Brexit. Our guidance sets out what you need to do to continue to trade after we leave the EU.

Our top priority remains delivering Brexit by the end of October, and our preference is to do that with a negotiated deal, but it is the job of a responsible Government to ensure we are ready to leave without a deal and without any further pointless delay.

The EU's Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed confirmed the acceptance of the UK's listed status on Friday (October 11) after it met the health and biosecurity assurances required for a third country.

With listed status now confirmed, if we leave without a deal, businesses exporting animals and animal products to the EU will still need to meet new requirements, such as going through the correct EU Border Inspection Post.

Businesses will also require an Export Health Certificate, which will need to be signed by a certifier such as an Official Veterinarian.

The decision will also allow the continued movement of equines between the UK and the EU, providing welcome reassurance to the sector.

British Horseracing Authority Executive Director Will Lambe said:

This is very welcome news for our sector, and provides some important certainty ahead of a 31st October departure from the EU. There will still be additional requirements for our participants wishing to travel a horse into the EU, but full guidance and assistance is available. We continue to support and appreciate the UK Government's position that there will be no immediate change to arrangements for thoroughbreds travelling into the UK in the event of no deal.

Guidance for animal [importers](#) and [exporters](#) is available on GOV.UK. End to [end journey maps](#), clearly set out all the steps exporters will need to take. The exports guidance has been updated to clarify that EHCs will be required for all different product types within a consignment. Specific [guidance for equine exporters is available](#).

If we leave with a deal, the UK will not need to be listed during the implementation period. To give certainty to businesses and citizens, common rules will remain in place until the end of the implementation period meaning businesses will be able to trade on the same terms as now up until the end of 2020.

[Speech by Andrew Stephenson, Minister for Africa, to FT Africa Summit, October 2019](#)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning.

It's a great honour for me to speak today with so many eminent African leaders and experts, and to share a bit about the UK's vision for our 21st century partnerships with African countries.

When I was appointed the UK's Minister for Africa in July, I told my team that I wanted to get to know my patch as quickly as possible. They took me at my word. I have been fortunate enough to visit Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia, South Africa, and Uganda in the first few weeks and there are more visits planned in the near future. I have met a whole cross section of people – from Presidents to peacekeepers and from leaders of major business to a person running a food stall in a refugee camp.

Wherever I have been, I have found people receptive to the UK's desire to a build modern, future-focused, mutually beneficial partnerships for prosperity.

In my previous role as Minister for Business and Industry, I championed my

Government's commitment to shared prosperity within the UK; to economic growth, good jobs, and prosperous communities in every region.

The Government's ambitious vision for the UK's partnerships with Africa is, at heart, no different. Under Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the UK has a vision of working together with African countries on innovation, forging new investments with sustainable impact that creates jobs and boosts prosperity for all through an enduring partnership.

It is with this vision in mind that the UK will host the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London on the 20th of January next year.

The Summit will bring together businesses, governments and international institutions to encourage investment in a range of sectors that our African partners themselves have identified as their top priorities.

It will be a chance to demonstrate to global business the scale of commercial opportunities in Africa. It will also be an opportunity for the UK to showcase our unique offer to investors and to our African partners. That offer comprises not just UK Export Finance and CDC, both of whom are increasing the scale and reach of their efforts in Africa, but also the wealth of expertise and capital available here in the City of London.

The UK-Africa Investment Summit will do a range of things:

Firstly, build strong UK-Africa commercial partnerships in key areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and renewables, showcasing innovation and technology from leading African and UK businesses;

Secondly, position the City of London as global hub for capital and a gateway to Africa for financial investment; highlighting the UK's investment expertise in areas such as early stage, green and local currency financing; and

Thirdly, create a modern partnership based on longer-term mutual prosperity between the UK and African countries, recognising achievements and sharing expertise including on things like energy transition.

The UK-Africa Investment Summit is just one way we are working towards our vision of supporting long term investment, building strong partnerships, and working together to solve shared challenges in Africa.

Let me briefly set out three key ways in which we are working with our African partners to achieve this.

First, we are accelerating long-term, sustainable, direct investment across Africa. We are putting the full weight of the UK's Finance Institutions – CDC, UK Export Finance, and other new mechanisms – behind the effort to leverage investment. We are also developing new financial products to enable African companies to access capital markets here in the City of London.

This is tangible stuff, with clear impact, as I saw for myself when I visited what will soon become the new Kabaale International Airport in Uganda, a

project supported by UK Export Finance.

The second thing we are doing with our African partners is all about incentivising trade. We are working with African governments to help build regulatory environments that are conducive to trade and investment, and working together to align our rules and standards.

We are working to help African governments make sure that businesses pay their way, by contributing to domestic revenue, so that governments can plough that revenue back into public services. This forms part of the UK's wider commitment to good business, as seen in our Business Integrity Initiative against corruption, and our participation in the UN Global Compact and Ethical Trading Initiative. These are important initiatives to ensure that businesses around the world operate in a sustainable and just manner.

We are working with African governments to promote trade itself and we are upbeat about progress. Total trade between the UK and Sub-Saharan Africa has grown by more than 7% in the past 18 months.

I am particularly pleased that our new Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern Africa Customs Union and Mozambique will sustain and strengthen future trade worth £10bn a year.

I am also pleased that we are able to provide technical support to the African Union as they roll out the African Continental Free Trade Area to help boost intra-African trade.

The third and perhaps most important thing we are doing to achieve our vision in Africa is investing in our partnerships. This means connecting prosperity to long-term challenges like security and climate change, and facing those challenges together.

For example, the Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma recently announced an Infrastructure Commission that aims to turbo charge investment in green, sustainable infrastructure. The commission will be made up of UK and international business leaders and will make recommendations to improve the planning, delivery and financing of infrastructure projects. Such projects form the backbone of economic growth.

As part of investing in partnerships, we are radically expanding our presence in Africa, we are opening new missions and bringing in trade experts and investment specialists. It is our biggest uplift in activity and investment in Africa a generation.

We are all too aware that Africa's young population will grow up in a very different world from the one many of us have known. That is why we are putting a new emphasis on the UK supporting African innovation, ingenuity and creativity – to solve global challenges and unlock future opportunities.

For example, in Ghana, we partner on the Digital Finance Initiative, alongside the UK-Ghana Business Council; in South Africa we are partners in the Square Kilometre Array –helping to build a broader base of African science; and in Kenya, our Energy Access work is bringing clean solar power

to homes across the country.

I wish you a productive day and I hope our paths will cross many times in the coming weeks and months as we work towards our shared goal of an Africa that is more peaceful, more just and more prosperous for us all.

Thank you.

[Nine-Leading UK Fintech Companies Land in Australia](#)

The UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) has brought nine-leading UK fintech companies to Australia under the [UK-Australia Fintech Bridge Pilot Programme](#).

Here to explore business opportunities and partnerships in the Australian market, the Fintech Bridge cohort will showcase the strengths of the UK fintech sector at Intersekt in Melbourne – Australia's leading fintech industry conference – before heading to Sydney for a program of meetings and events.

Launched in March 2018, the [UK-Australia Fintech Bridge](#) has been instrumental in forging strong links between these two fintech eco-systems. This bilateral agreement aims to strengthen engagement on fintech policy and regulation; facilitate trade flows and access to capital opportunities; and address barriers to international growth. UK fintech businesses expanding into Australia and Australian fintech businesses expanding into UK are eligible to benefit from the Fintech Bridge.

The UK-Australia Fintech Bridge Pilot Programme was launched by UK Investment Minister Graham Stuart during UK Fintech Week in April this year. This is a programme which lends selected UK fintechs support to accelerate their Australian expansion and vice-versa – last month DIT supported 10 Australian fintechs on a visit to the UK for a similar programme.

Michael Ward, British Consul General and UK Deputy Trade Commissioner, Asia Pacific – Australia & New Zealand says:

The UK has long been a world-leader in financial services; it remains one of our most important sectors. And, with our highly developed tech eco-system attracting unprecedented levels of capital investment – more than anywhere else in Europe – our innovative fintech sector is thriving. It is great to see such a strong cohort of UK fintechs visiting Australia – it says a lot about the opportunities in this market and the potential to further

build our two-way trade and investment links.

The UK-Australia Fintech Bridge has been a tremendous success to date with over 24 Australian fintechs setting up in the UK since its inception and more than 14 new UK fintechs doing business in Australia and I encourage companies in both countries to take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

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Fintech in the UK:

- UK is recognised as the no.1 global fintech hub and the best place in the world to grow and start a fintech firm
- Growth in fintech has been driven by the UK's leading reputation as one of the best global financial services hubs, its rapidly growing tech sector with deep pools of entrepreneurial and tech talent, progressive regulators and policymakers and access to capital.
- The UK accounts for 11% of the global fintech industry
- The UK fintech sector is worth £7 billion to the UK economy and employs over 76,000 people – one of the largest in the world.
- The UK hosts five fintech unicorns, with several more expected to join their ranks soon.
- More than 1600 fintechs in the UK estimated to double by 2030
- 89,000 financial and insurance firms in the UK
- Fintech adoption rate in the UK is 42% compared to the global average of 33%
- AUD\$4.7 billion (approx) of investment into UK fintech in 2018 – more than anywhere else in Europe
- 56% of traditional financial institutions have put disruption at the heart of their strategy
- A 2017 EY Australia report identifies the UK as the preferred destination for Australian fintechs seeking to expand globally.

Changes to the currency of UK State Pension and Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit paid into Yemeni bank accounts



If you receive UK State Pension or Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit in Yemen, you will be paid in Yemeni rial (YER) from Monday 14 October 2019.

Contact the International Pension Centre if you need advice on how your payment will be affected:

State Pension

Telephone: +44 (0) 191 218 7777

Textphone: +44 (0) 191 218 7280

Monday to Friday, 8am to 7.30pm

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Telephone: +44 (0) 191 206 9390

Monday to Friday, 8am to 7.30pm

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