

Foreign Secretary statement on the Maduro regime's decision to expel the EU Ambassador from Venezuela

Press release

The decision by the Maduro regime is unwarranted, deeply regrettable and can only contribute to a deterioration in Venezuela.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

The Maduro regime's decision to expel the EU Ambassador is unwarranted, deeply regrettable and can only contribute to a deterioration in the dreadful political, economic and humanitarian situation in Venezuela.

The UK reiterates its call for a peaceful, democratic transition through free and fair presidential elections, respect for democratically elected institutions and human rights, including the release of political prisoners and freedom of the press. The people of Venezuela deserve nothing less.

Further information

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The Department for International Trade

launches modelling review to support economic recovery

- DIT is reviewing how best to model trade impacts to enhance its trade negotiation capability
- DIT will consult with a panel of academics led by Professor Tony Venables
- Updated trade models will help our negotiators to get the best trade deals for the UK

The Department for International Trade is reviewing its trade modelling to ensure that all of Britain's new trade deals are specifically tailored to shape the country's economy as it recovers from the impacts of Coronavirus.

Modelling trade is an important part of the Department for International Trade's negotiation capability. Given the significant global impact of Coronavirus, it's an appropriate time for DIT to review its trade models, as free trade agreements will play a crucial role in our economic recovery.

As part of its programme of continuous development, the department will consult with a panel of external experts and academics, led by Professor Tony Venables, BP Professor of Economics at Oxford University. The internal review will be led by DIT's Chief Economist Richard Price, drawing on expertise from other Government departments, including the Treasury.

DIT's modelling of new free trade agreements has won praise from leading commentators. The department is now reviewing its approach to take account of new techniques and insights to make sure it remains best in class. The external panel will support the development of cutting-edge models and analysis. It will also advise on a variety of issues, such as how best to incorporate wider global economic developments, how economies change with more innovation, investment and specialisation as trade increases, and how to best accommodate the impact of the Coronavirus crisis. The review will also help the department to draw on diverse thinking and expertise from across the world.

The UK has assembled a team of negotiators with a wide range of specialisations and international negotiating experience, including from the WTO and UN. DIT's world-class analysts will be able to draw from the updated trade models and inform our negotiators on which areas would most benefit the UK economy. This will help them to secure benefits for every region and nation of the UK, as well as for small business and entrepreneurs who may have suffered during this difficult time.

Liz Truss, International Trade Secretary, said:

More trade is essential if the UK is to overcome the unprecedented economic challenge posed by Coronavirus.

The pandemic has given oxygen to the politics of protectionism across the globe, and to those who advocate closed, statist economies.

We will use our voice as a new independent trading nation to champion free trade, fight protectionism and remove barriers at every opportunity. This review will support our analysts, and their work supporting our trade negotiators as they seek to sign new free trade agreements.

Notes to editors

Chair of the External Panel – Professor Tony Venables CBE FBA

DIT has asked Professor Tony Venables to lead an external panel of experts to advise the department. Tony Venables CBE FBA is Professor of Economics at Oxford University and is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, the Regional Science Association and the British Academy. Former positions include chief economist at the UK Department for International Development, professor at the London School of Economics, and research manager of the trade group in the World Bank. He has published extensively in the areas of international trade and spatial economics. Publications include *The Spatial Economy; cities, regions and international trade*, with M. Fujita and P. Krugman (MIT press, 1999), and *Multinationals in the World Economy* with G. Barba Navaretti (Princeton 2004).

Using trade modelling to support DIT's Free Trade Agreements

DIT uses trade modelling to identify the potential impacts of its trade agreements. Modelling supports decision-making and prioritisation in trade negotiations to get a better understanding of areas of potential benefit for the UK economy, the interests of our negotiating partners, and areas of potential mutual benefit in which both we and our partner economies stand to gain.

The Government committed to consulting in advance of launching DIT's trade negotiations, as well as publishing its objectives and a scoping assessment for each FTA. Drawing on insights from its trade modelling, DIT recently published scoping assessments for its negotiations with the United States, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. These reflected the potential gains for the UK, including impacts on different regions and sectors, effects on different groups and on the environment. DIT will also publish impact assessments at the end of each negotiation.

About the Department for International Trade (DIT)

DIT helps businesses export, drives inward and outward investment, negotiates market access and trade deals, and champions free trade. We also secure UK and global prosperity by promoting and financing international trade and investment.

We champion free trade by: 1. supporting and encouraging UK businesses to

drive sustainable international growth 2. ensuring the UK remains a leading destination for international investment 3. opening markets, building a trade framework with new and existing partners which is free and fair 4. using trade and investment to underpin the government's agenda for a Global Britain and its ambitions for prosperity, stability and security worldwide.

DIT support during Coronavirus

The Government is supporting businesses and employees through a package of measures to help manage the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19). These measures include financial support packages for businesses, support for employees' wages and [Export Insurance Policy \(EXIP\)](#). Visit the [Business Support website](#) for more information about these additional measures and find guidance here for UK [businesses trading internationally](#).

[The Secretary of State has approved the appointment of Venki Ramakrishnan as a Board Member of the British Library.](#)

News story

Venki Ramakrishnan has been approved by The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as a Board Member of the British Library, following his nomination by the Trustees of the British Museum, for a four-year period from 15 June 2020 to 14 June 2024.



Venki Ramakrishnan is a senior scientist at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, where he and others determined the precise atomic structure of the ribosome, the enormous molecular complex that reads our genes to make the proteins they specify. The work also showed how many antibiotics work by blocking bacterial ribosomes, which could help to design

better antibiotics. For this work, he shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Since 2015, Ramakrishnan has been president of the Royal Society, one of the oldest scientific organizations in the world, and in this role has been a leading voice for British science.

Ramakrishnan is also the author of a popular memoir, *Gene Machine*, which tells about the quest for the structure of the ribosome and also describes in very frank terms what it is like to be an outsider who found himself in the middle of a race for an important problem. It is a frank look at the process of science with its mixture of insights and persistence as well as blunders and dead ends, and how scientists behave, with their mixture of competition and collaboration, their egos, insecurities and jealousies, but also their kindness and generosity.

This role is remunerated at £9130 per annum. One member of the British Library Board is nominated by the Trustees of the British Museum. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Mr Ramakrishnan has not declared any activity.

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ESFA Update: 1 July 2020

Information latest information on coronavirus (COVID-19) Reminder the deadline to apply to the provider relief scheme (July – October 2020) is Thursday 9 July Information reducing burdens on educational and care settings from the Department for Education and its agencies Information consultation response on subcontracting post-16 education and training with ESFA funding Information supporting redundant apprentices Information eligibility rules for EU, other EEA and Swiss nationals for access to FE 19+ and apprenticeships Information updated college financial benchmarking tool Information joint statement from the ESFA, AoC, and AELP on strengthening relationships and enhancing communications between training providers and the agency Information Department for Education Sustainability Award

Flexible furlough scheme starts today

- from today businesses can bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis
- firms will be given the flexibility to decide the hours and shift

patterns of their employees – with the government continuing to pay 80% of salaries for the hours they do not work

- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has so far helped protect more than 9.3 million jobs

The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has so far helped protect more than 9.3 million jobs through the pandemic, with employers claiming more than £25.5 billion to support wages.

The scheme will remain open until the end of October and will continue to support jobs and business in a measured way as people return to work, our economy reopens and the country moves to the next stage of its recovery.

From today, a month earlier than previously announced, employers will have the flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work on a part time basis.

Individual firms will decide the hours and shift patterns their employees will work on their return, so that they can decide on the best approach for them – and will be responsible for paying their wages while in work.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak said:

Our number one priority has always been to protect jobs and businesses through this outbreak. The furlough scheme, which will have been open for eight months by October, has been a lifeline for millions of people and as our economy reopens we want that support to continue.

Giving firms the flexibility to bring back furloughed workers on a part-time basis will help them work gradually and help them plan for the months ahead.

From August, the level of government grant provided through the job retention scheme will be slowly tapered to reflect that people will be returning to work. Businesses will be asked to contribute a modest share, but crucially individuals will continue to receive that 80% of salary covering the time they are unable to work.

More information about the changes can be found [here](#).

The government has also announced that businesses who no longer need the CJRS grants they previously claimed have the option to voluntarily return them.

This is in direct response to employers asking how they can return grants voluntarily – and businesses are under no obligation to do this, but should contact HMRC if they want to pay the grant back.

Companies across the UK who are bringing back furloughed staff today include The Drury Tea and Coffee Company, and Yes Energy Solutions.

Marco Olmi, Managing Director of London-based international coffee wholesaler The Drury Tea and Coffee Company, said:

The ability to bring our staff out of furlough in a flexible manner will be enormously beneficial as the industry eases out of lockdown. Without this flexibility we would really struggle to cope as we endeavour to grow turnover back to something approaching normal levels whilst trying to keep a lid on short-term costs.

Duncan McCombie, CEO of Yes Energy Solutions, said:

The approach lets us to better manage a fluctuating workload, where those working are doing some additional hours. The flexibility will allow us all to better balance the pressure on those working, support childcare responsibilities and a ease in a return to work after 100 days for those furloughed. A great addition to the options available for business leaders.