

## [PM meeting with President Sisi of Egypt: 21 January 2020](#)



The Prime Minister met President Sisi of Egypt today in Downing Street.

President Sisi was in London to attend yesterday's UK-Africa Investment Summit and the two leaders agreed on the need to increase trade between the UK and Egypt.

They welcomed the resumption of flights to Sharm El Sheikh.

The Prime Minister and President spoke about UK and Egyptian collaboration in the field of education and undertook to build on this in the coming years.

The leaders also discussed the situation in Libya, following their attendance at the Berlin Conference on Libya on Sunday. The Prime Minister stressed the need for a ceasefire and for UN-led talks to find a political solution to the conflict.

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## [Meeting British citizens across Romania](#)



The British Embassy in Bucharest will be holding meetings across Romania to update British citizens working and living in the country and answering their questions regarding Britain's departure from the European Union.

In our team's continuous effort to reach as many British expats in Romania as possible, we will be announcing further outreach meetings here, and via direct email.

The meetings are free and open to the public and once you've registered, you will receive a confirmation email that includes the precise location of the meeting. The meetings will start with a short introduction to update you on the progress made so far in the negotiations and will be followed by a Q&A session.

Visit our [Living in Romania](#) for practical information, such as how to register as a resident. You can receive email alerts whenever the guide is updated by [signing up here](#).

For questions concerning your rights as a British citizen in Romania [contact us](#).

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1. 21 January 2020

New outreach event in Bucharest announced

2. 13 March 2019

First published.

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# Over £50 million for clean energy projects across Africa

- over £50 million invested in innovative, clean technology as the UK works with African countries to develop sustainable energy sources, providing thousands of people with clean energy
- UK will share expertise in green finance and science and innovation to develop solar farms and battery storage projects
- African energy demand is set to rise 60% by 2040 – clean energy will be central in powering Africa's growing economies and increasing access to electricity

Green energy supply in Africa is set for a major boost after the UK government announced winners of an investment package for the continent's clean energy infrastructure at the African Investment Summit today.

Solar farms in Kenya, geothermal power stations in Ethiopia and clean energy storage across sub-Saharan Africa will receive funding and see leading UK scientists and financial experts working with their African counterparts to realise the continent's huge potential for renewable energy.

With African energy demand set to rise by 60% by 2040, UK experts will help deliver green solutions for the continent's growing energy needs, bringing clean energy to thousands of people and creating jobs and increased prosperity.

Business and Energy Secretary Andrea Leadsom said:

Our world-leading scientists and financial experts will work hand in hand with African nations to support their quest for energy security, powering new industries and jobs across the continent with a diverse mix of energy sources while promoting economic growth.

Speaking at the summit, Ms Leadsom emphasised the opportunity for many African countries to leapfrog coal power to cleaner forms of energy but stressed that more needed to be done to unlock investment.

A world-leader in reducing carbon emissions at home, today's investment in global clean energy comes after the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced the [£1 billion 'Ayrton Fund'](#) for British scientists last Autumn to help developing nations reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce their carbon emissions.

As part of the initiatives announced today, the UK will support African countries with the technical skills and expertise they need in order to attract investment in renewable projects, getting innovative projects like

wind and solar farms up and running. Close collaboration with African countries will be key as the UK gears up to host the UN climate talks (COP26) later this year.

UK funded projects in Africa include winners of the Energy Catalyst Competition, which has seen solar plants, energy storage batteries and hydro-power built in countries such as Botswana and Kenya; a £10 million programme which matches UK based green finance experts with project developers from developing countries to facilitate investment in clean energy projects; and the Nigeria 2050 calculator, a modelling tool designed by UK scientists to support the Nigerian government's sustainable development planning.

Kenya is also set to benefit from a £30 million government investment in affordable energy-efficient housing which will see the construction of 10,000 low-carbon homes for rent and sale. This will support the creation of new jobs in Kenya's green construction industry and help tackle climate change.

Over 50% of the UK's energy production came from renewable sources last year, and with London's expertise as the global hub for green finance, the UK is best placed to be Africa's leading partner and help it harness its wealth of renewable sources as it moves away from coal power.

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## [Alister Jack responds to January 2020 labour market figures](#)

Commenting on the latest labour market figures the Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

It's good news that Scotland's unemployment level has fallen and employment increased recently. However, we can't be complacent as unemployment is up year on year and the number of people in work in Scotland is still lagging behind the rest of the UK.

The UK Government is working flat out to ensure Scotland and every part of the UK prospers, including through investing more than £1.4 billion in city and growth deals. I urge the Scottish Government to use its extensive powers and work with us to improve the lives of people across Scotland.

### Overview

Today's highlight is that Scotland's unemployment fell slightly (-7,000) and at 3.8% is down 0.3 p.p. from the three months before (June to August). This is slightly up from the year before (+4,000) and up from the record low of

3.2% at the beginning of the year 2019. Although, an unemployment rate of 3.8% indicates still a very strong and stable labour market performance by historic standards. There's also a robust increase in employment over the last three months (+18,000). Note, that the UK overall experienced a marginal fall in unemployment too (-7,000 and its rate remained unchanged). These figures point to a strong labour market performance, however indicate a slight weakening of the labour market from one year ago.

For the three months to November, Scotland's overall labour market is marginally strengthening: employment increased robustly (+18,000) and unemployment fell slightly (-7,000) and activity increased modestly (+12,000). In addition, monthly claimant count numbers are worsening marginally over the month of December, as there are 115,700 people in Scotland claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and out-of-work Universal Credit (seasonally adjusted); this is up 900 on the month of November (revised) and 16,400 up on the year before.

As a result, Scotland's unemployment rate at 3.8% is now slightly up on the rate of around 12 month ago and up on the recent record low at the start of the year 2019, when it was 3.2%. Also, Scotland's unemployment rate is matching that of the UK as a whole, which remained unchanged over the last quarter. Furthermore, the number of people employed at 2,654,000 in Scotland is somewhat down on the recent record high at 2,702,000. This means that Scotland's employment rate, at 74.3%, remains below the UK's rate at 76.3%.

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## [British Embassy Italy launches campaign with UKin...Pavia](#)



**The UKin... Tour, launched by HM Ambassador Jill Morris to strengthen the UK-Italy partnership and leverage the key role played by regions and cities, starts in Lombardy**

Pavia, 21 January 2020 – After the presentation of the UKin... campaign hosted last week by ANCI President Antonio Decaro, the new strategy of 'territorial diplomacy' of the British Embassy in Italy becomes reality. On 21 and 22

January, Ambassador Jill Morris will be in Pavia for the first of the regional meetings planned for 2020, through which the British Embassy aims to expand the network of contacts and collaboration throughout Italy.

Among the Italian regions, Lombardy enjoys the strongest and oldest trade relationship with the United Kingdom, with a volume of exports of goods amounting to almost €5.2 billion in the first half of 2019 (data as of July 2019). Pavia is also a symbolic milestone, as a historic stopping point along the ancient Via Francigena that connected Canterbury to Rome, as well as the home of one of the oldest universities in Italy.

Institutional and non-institutional meetings are scheduled in Pavia: on 21 January, the Ambassador will visit the Borromeo College, where she will meet the Rector Don Alberto Lolli, and Prof. Antonella Forlino, Pro-Rector for International Affairs at the University of Pavia. She will then address a group of students to discuss Italian-British cultural relations and opportunities for study and training in the UK. A visit to the Polo Tecnologico will follow, where the Ambassador will meet President Tommaso Mazzocchi. In the afternoon, she will host a meeting with representatives of local institutions, business and academia at the Council Hall, kindly offered by the Municipality of Pavia.

The two-day event will continue on 22 January with a meeting with Mayor Fabrizio Fracassi. The Ambassador will then meet Prof. Francesco Svelto, Rector of the [University of Pavia](#). At the University, she will also take part in a presentation of findings from a survey commissioned by the Embassy on women's access to credit in Italy and the United Kingdom (for further information, see the Investing in Women Report attached below). The research is part of the "Women in..." cycle of events organised by the Embassy to promote gender equality in all areas of work where women are still under-represented.

[Investing in Women Report](#) (PDF, 1.09MB, 108 pages)

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1. 22 January 2020

We have added an attachment

2. 21 January 2020

Added translation