

London, 12 May 2016

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 01.00 BST Friday, 13 May 2016**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **80% of members of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce with operations in the UK say Brexit would be negative for their business**

An overwhelming majority of members of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce (80%) believe that Brexit would be negative for them, according to a survey by Ipsos MORI. Only a handful (6%) think a vote for Brexit in the 23 June referendum would be positive for their business, with the remainder saying either that the effect would be neither positive nor negative (12%) or that they do not know (2%). Among those saying the impact would be negative, more think the impact would be "very" rather than "fairly" negative (43% and 37%, respectively).

Respondents were asked a follow-up question about the impact of Brexit on likely future investment in the UK. A clear majority say that this impact would most likely be negative (61%); a few (7%) take the opposite view. Around one in four say that Brexit would most likely have no effect either way (28%) with a further 4% unsure either way.

How negative might Brexit be, according to these businesses? One in three (33%) say the impact in terms of future investment in the UK would be "very negative" – i.e. a decrease in investment greater than 10% than would otherwise be the case – while slightly fewer (28%) believe Brexit would have a "fairly negative" impact, i.e. there would still be a decrease in their level of investment, but of less than 10%.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, commented: "The survey results show, particularly in terms of future investment decisions, how important it is that the UK remains a full member of the European Union."

Ipsos MORI conducted 182 online interviews with members of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce with UK operations. The interviews were part of a larger study surveying the members of several bilateral chambers of commerce in the UK. Fieldwork was conducted between 19 April and 2 May 2016.

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#### **Notes for editors:**

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information and advice to its members and many thousands of non-members in both countries. More information can be obtained through its website: [www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk](http://www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk).

We would be grateful for copies of articles published.

London, 16 June 2016

## **STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 1AM on 17 JUNE 2016**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

#### **“A British exit would result in immense uncertainty”, says President of the Confederation of German Employers (BDA)**

In a speech on the occasion of the Annual Dinner of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce Ingo Kramer, President of the Confederation of German Employers (BDA), advocates a united Europe, which also includes the United Kingdom.

“Whatever the outcome of the referendum, the reforms decided in February must be addressed”, he says. He hopes that “the EU continues to develop, addresses urgently needed reforms, avoids unnecessary red tape which is detrimental to citizens and companies, and strengthens its competitiveness.” His wish is that “the British people want to belong to such a more developed, competitive EU, also in the future.”

He warns the UK not to play single-handedly, as “neither Germany nor Great Britain can on its own represent their respective interests effectively vis-à-vis the outside world in the globalised world of the 21st century.” “A British exit would result in immense uncertainty”, he stresses.

Ingo Kramer has been President of the BDA since November 2013. Prior to this he was a member of its executive board and Vice-President since 2011. He was also President of the employer association NORDMETALL and from 2001 to 2011 he was chief negotiator regarding labour market tariffs in the north German metal and electrical industry. His experience also includes over 30 years as Managing Partner of the group J. Heinr. Kramer, Bremerhaven, with clients in the shipping, offshore, chemical, energy and grocery industries.

The Annual Dinner of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce takes place on 16 June 2016 at the Landmark Hotel in London Marylebone. Among the guests are Sir Nigel Broomfield, President of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce; Councillor Steve Summers, Lord Mayor of Westminster; HE Dr Peter Ammon, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; Patricia Godfrey, Chair of the Council of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce and Lord Dykes, Member of the House of Lords.

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London, 24 June 2016

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Destination unknown – the United Kingdom faces an uncertain journey**

Yesterday's EU Referendum result, which gave the Leave campaign a majority of 52%, has been received with dismay by many in the business community, as it is now completely uncertain how the framework for economic cooperation between the UK and the EU will develop.

Prime Minister David Cameron announced that he would step down, to take effect by October this year, and only his successor will be entrusted to start the formal leave negotiations. Whether the Prime Minister will last that long remains to be seen, but he has given the country time to reflect and his party a chance to unite, so that a constructive approach towards redefining the British relationship with its European partners can be developed.

Nevertheless, it is paramount to keep level-headed and cooperate with each other, in order to keep the economic and political effects on the United Kingdom and the European Union under control. After all, be they inside or outside the EU, when it comes to most economic and political issues, all Europeans continue to be in the same boat.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, stressed that for companies involved in European trade nothing will change in the short-term because the regulatory framework will remain the same until Britain has concluded the formal negotiations to leave the EU.

In the upcoming transition period and beyond, the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce will continue to support British and German companies to successfully do business with each other and we are confident that future commercial opportunities will continue to arise for businesses from both countries.

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The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce is a limited company registered in England under No. 1016261, whose registered office is at the above address.



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London, 8 July 2016

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Brexit two weeks on – where do we stand? What will the future bring?**

In the Conservative leadership contest only two candidates have moved forward now. Uncertainty across the political spectrum is still high, markets are volatile and future investment decisions are to some extent on hold. Whether Theresa May or Andrea Leadsom will become Prime Minister, there is no doubt that the referendum result has tasked the future British government to redefine Britain's relationship with Europe. One thing is certain, the administrative burden on businesses will increase once negotiations are concluded. It is too early to make reliable predictions on the type and amount of extra bureaucracy (passporting for financial services, country of origin rules for globally operating companies, product safety and mutual recognition of professional qualifications are just a few areas that are expected to see changes).

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber comments: "We expect sensible approaches to redefining the relationship with Europe to be developed over the summer. The UK as well as the whole of the EU have a huge interest in the single market staying together and not shrinking in size."

What are the options – 'hard Brexit' under WTO rules or 'soft Brexit' with some form of continued access to the single market?

Dr Hoppe hopes that "it will end in a 'soft Brexit' giving British companies unhindered access to the European market and vice versa. We strongly believe such a result is possible if an effort is made by all parties concerned. To achieve this outcome, compromises will be necessary on both sides. Britain will have to accept some form of free movement of EU workers and the EU will have to accept certain restrictions on at least a temporary basis. In this context, it should not be forgotten" he points out, "that the UK was one of the few countries to immediately open her borders to workers from Eastern European accession countries in 2004, whilst the vast majority of other member states invoked restrictions for seven years. Given the current level of immigration in the UK, it could be argued that it would now only be fair to offer Britain some temporary restrictions on future immigration from the EU. Whether this is a way forward, remains to be seen, but what is certain is that both sides will have to give on that front. Once the dust has settled, we are confident that European leaders and the new UK government will work towards finding sensible and practicable solutions."

For Britain to succeed economically in future, she will have to remain a country open for talent, otherwise companies will be unable to prosper here and be forced to go elsewhere. The EU needs to urgently overcome its structural problems to avoid some companies leaving Europe altogether and moving to the United States, often perceived as a more promising market, especially in high-tech industries. This in turn would weaken the prospects of all European economies, which cannot be in our interests.

Dr Hoppe adds: “To stay open for talent and businesses is a message the new political leadership in the UK will have to take on board and actively sell to the electorate. This will not be an easy task, but showing true leadership is never easy, as we, from the international business community, know well. In other words, the road ahead will be bumpy, but we are confident that in the end common sense will prevail on all sides.”

The German-British Chamber will work with its member companies and other bilaterally operating companies to provide the support and advice necessary to minimise the economic impact caused by Brexit.

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25 August 2016

## NEWS RELEASE

### **German-British Chamber organises seminar: “Entering the German Market – Post-Brexit Challenges and Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia”**

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce is holding a seminar on “Entering the German Market: Post-Brexit Challenges and Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia” on 22 September 2016 in London. The event is aimed at British companies planning to enter the German market and those which have already gained some experience and want to learn about how to adapt to post-Brexit challenges.

The event will provide participants with all the necessary information on entering the German market, including market-entry strategies, information on legal, tax, finance and recruitment issues as well as on how to start a business in Germany. The presentations will conclude with a case study by a British company already successful in Germany. Particular emphasis will be given to the economic implications after the Brexit vote and the advantages of North Rhine-Westphalia as a business location.

Trade with the EU is crucial for the UK economy. Almost 45% of the UK’s exports go to EU countries. Germany is the UK’s most important trading partner with an export volume of over 10% (or €38bn EUR). North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) is located in the centre of Europe and borders on the Netherlands and Belgium. Not only is it the most densely populated federal state in Germany, but around 160 million people (almost one third of all EU consumers) live within a 500km radius around the state capital Düsseldorf, which makes it a unique location in Europe for reaching that many people with high purchasing power within a relatively short distance.

“The UK’s Leave vote and its unforeseen economic implications have left British companies in an unclear situation as to how their business will be influenced by Brexit,” said Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce. “UK companies with a major client base in Europe should now consider establishing a presence in the EU to ensure their business can better continue to benefit from the advantages of the Single Market.”

The seminar will be held at The Army & Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London, and run from 4.30pm to 7pm, followed by a drinks reception hosted by sponsor NRW.INVEST GmbH, the inward investment agency for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Participation is free but places are limited. For further information and to register please visit our website [www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk](http://www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk) or contact Sven Riemann on Tel: 020 7976 4185, email [s.riemann@ahk-london.co.uk](mailto:s.riemann@ahk-london.co.uk).

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