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For further information, or to receive our English or German ‘Establishing a Business in the UK’ guide, please contact:

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Wenn Sie unseren Leitfaden „Geschäftsgründung in GB“ erhalten wollen, oder weitere Informationen benötigen, wenden Sie sich bitte an:

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Blick Rothenberg is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority to carry on investment business
The unexpected election result providing the Prime Minister with an absolute majority of seats in the House of Commons is giving him the chance to show leadership on the European question.

There is widespread agreement that all is not well with the European Union, but a Union without Britain would be less strong. The ever-increasing challenges in Europe are better addressed together and no one can shy away from tackling them. Even if Britain were to leave the European Union, these problems would not go away.

Of course, one could live in ‘splendid isolation’ for a few years, but this is not a long-term option in this globalised world. Splendid isolation in economic terms will disrupt global value-added chains, and curtailing the free movement of workers will rob the economy of the most valuable resource in this day and age of the knowledge economy. It has long been established, but unfortunately sometimes forgotten in politics, that opening borders will always create welfare gains for a country, even if others do not follow this approach.

A withdrawal from Europe would therefore largely only lead to a long-term welfare reduction for the United Kingdom. The consequences in political terms would be even more serious, as it would not only result in diminished British influence, but also in a loss of power for the western world. Our potential capabilities to solve global problems would no longer be fully applied, making solutions to these problems far more costly for all of us. Therefore, we hope that the Prime Minister will use his mandate to convince his own party of the benefits of the European Union and we firmly believe that the majority of the British electorate will easily follow.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe
Director General, German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce
Shared values in a European setting

2015 is a year of commemoration for Britain and for Germany: we commemorated the beginning of WWI in 2014 – we now remember the end of WWII and the liberation from the Nazi regime 70 years ago, and we celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War 25 years ago. These events have shaped our political lives and our relationship, from hostility to peaceful cooperation and friendship.

So far, I have always had the feeling that the British public is well aware of these historic dates and they are solemnly commemorated in Britain. During these last months, a change of attitude in our local British neighbourhood towards these commemoration dates has been noticeable.

Remembrance events
For the first time, pupils of the German School have been explicitly invited to participate in remembrance events in schools, Star & Garter homes and museums. It was obvious that the goal of sharing the memories of loss and grief was pivotal, and there was sadness about what had happened, togetherness in remembering the past, and reconciliation.

Our young people have been deeply affected by the meetings with soldiers who had fought in WWII. These experiences will shape their perception of the past and their responsibilities in the future.

Our guests from British schools are usually very impressed by the size of the Berlin Wall when they visit us and see a piece of it on our premises. It makes the division of Germany into two different worlds during the Cold War strikingly visible, the restrictions for people living behind that wall are palpable, and freedom of movement is then easy to recognise as a tangible value.

These developments to share memories show the efforts on different levels of this society to overcome the past, to avoid stereotypical perceptions and to share common values.

And yet… they are accompanied by other developments in the United Kingdom.

2014 saw a drive to focus on “British values” in education by the Department of Education. On being asked for clarification, democracy, tolerance, respect for the rule of law, equality of men and women were given as examples.

Why not call them “European values”?
These values are deeply rooted in the European tradition of enlightenment and they are well recognised in at least the Western hemisphere of the world. Why not call them “European values”?

The isolation of and focus on “British values” is not helpful in times when our shared values are endangered by extremists in and outside of our countries.

Our students are educated for a future in a European and a global world, many of them are bilingual and bi-national in their perspectives, they dedicate their time and commitment to working towards reconciliation and they live European values.

They experience British-German togetherness in their daily lives, in their families, among their friends.

Shaping the future
Let us shape a future for them in which this sense of togetherness, shared responsibilities and openness can unfold even more, where competitive economies create employment opportunities for all young people, and where freedom of movement of labour is guaranteed for all.

Let us work together for a stronger EU with a strong UK as our partner.

Marie-Luise Balkenhol
Head Teacher
German School London
2015 Reunification Day Golf Tournament

Friday, 2 October 2015 from 8.30am
The Shire London, St Albans Road, Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 4RE

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce and the German banks in the UK cordially invite you to the 2015 Reunification Day Golf Tournament.

The event will include 27 holes of golf on the Seve Ballesteros-designed “Masters” course, a morning snack of bacon and sausage rolls and coffee, a two-course lunch, a presentation buffet and prizes.

There will be a prize-giving ceremony held at the venue to present team and individual competition prizes.

£110 per person (incl. VAT)

For more information and to register, please go to www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk

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**Capital Gains Tax bei Verkauf britischer Wohnimmobilien**


Es mag sinnvoll sein, eine aktuelle Bewertung einzuholen oder zumindest den Gesamtzustand und die besonderen Merkmale der Immobilie festzuhalten, um bei einem späteren Verkauf eine möglichst genaue rückwirkende Bewertung zu ermöglichen. Vor dem Verkauf sollte auf jeden Fall ein britischer Steuerberater konsultiert werden.

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**Bernhard Schmeilzl**
Rechtsanwalt & Master of Laws

www.graflegal.com
www.crosschannellawyers.co.uk
Is your business ready for ESOS?

DQS UK Ltd now has a number of assessors to help companies deal with ESOS, a mandatory energy assessment scheme for organisations in the UK that meet the qualification criteria. As a minimum, large organisations will be required to review total energy use from their business operations, including building energy use, transport energy use and industrial processes. They will need to calculate the amount of energy used per employee, and identify potential measures that could save energy. Over 7000 of Britain’s biggest companies will be required to comply - with the initial audits to be undertaken by 5 December 2015. The ESOS assessors from DQS UK Ltd can conduct energy audits and DQS UK Ltd can certify customers to ISO 50001, the Energy Management standard which is an acceptable means to compliance. www.dqs-uk.com

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises sponsors raffle

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, one of the world's foremost providers of luxury and expedition cruises, generously provided the raffle prize for the German-British Chamber’s Spring Reception on 26 March by donating a 7-day cruise with MS EUROPA 2 for two people. The lucky winners will cruise from Piraeus (Athens), Greece to Kusadasi, Turkey on this '5 stars plus' rated ship. During the journey they will have the chance to see the monasteries Meteora and Nea Moni, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and enjoy the scenery along the Turkish coast.

The MS EUROPA 2 offers spacious and well-equipped suites, a spa and fitness area with views of the sea and seven restaurants, offering anything from haute cuisine to modern Asian cooking. Children up to the age of 11 travel for free with a paying adult passenger. www.hl-cruises.com

BMW Navigation to be standard from September

From September 2015, BMW cars will include BMW Navigation as standard equipment. The BMW 2 Series Convertible and 2 Series Active Tourer will already receive navigation as a standard feature from July, at the same time as the BMW Z4 range will receive BMW Professional Navigation.

These enhancements will mean that every BMW offered for sale in the UK will come with navigation as standard by the end of 2015, making BMW the only company to offer this feature across such a broad range of market segments. This on-board navigation system offers 2D & 3D navigation map displays and traffic information, and combined with some of the other standard features, such as BMW Emergency Call, DAB radio and Bluetooth with audio streaming, every BMW offers an extensive suite of advanced communication and entertainment features. www.bmw.co.uk

Victor launches new mobile booking app

Victor, the global on-demand jet charter service, has launched its first iOS mobile app which lets customers manage the complex logistics of private air travel simply from their computer or mobile device. The app offers customers access to real-time charter pricing, aircraft and crew specifics, side-by-side available jet comparisons, instant booking, travel itineraries and trip management.

Victor is the first and only private jet charter service to offer complete transparency: the company discloses transaction fees, operator and aircraft details, and there are no hidden costs, surcharges or membership fees. Furthermore, Victor offers 24/7 customer support to help passengers at any stage of their booking and journey process, and the company has now also expanded into the US. The app is available from the App Store now. www.flyvictor.com

Keeping your Top Talent and Performers

On 21 April Katharina Schnalle and Mark Sharratt of Dale Carnegie led the seminar 'Keeping your Top Talent and Performers' at the Thistle Hotel in Holborn. They shared best practice and gave practical tips on staff retention, developing motivation and engagement levels of key staff as well as building an inspirational company culture. www.london.dalecarnegie.co.uk

Special offer for your translation project

Ristani Translations are offering members of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce a 5% welcome discount on their first translation project. The discount is valid throughout the whole year of 2015. www.ristani.eu/en
Members visit DHL Aviation

Members of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce got an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the East Midlands Airport Cargo Site when they visited DHL Aviation on 21 April. The event was organised in conjunction with UK Trade & Investment, and attendees were shown the DHL hub and the goods dispatch area, where parcels and packages are sorted and prepared for dispatch to various world destinations.

https://aviationcargo.dhl.com/aviationcargo/
The Midlands committee of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce welcomed some 60 members and their guests to a drinks reception on Thursday, 12 February, to celebrate the start of the New Year. The event took place at the offices of Bilfinger GVA, Birmingham, who also sponsored the evening. Various businesses were represented, which provided a great atmosphere for productive networking.

On 19 February, a seminar with Voller Rechtsanwälte took place at the premises of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce. The speaker, Dr Thomas Voller, explained to the delegates how to proceed against a German debtor if payment is not forthcoming.
On the evening of 26 March, some 150 members and their guests came together for a lively few hours of networking over German wine, beer and canapés at the Spring Reception of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce. The lucky winner will be able to enjoy the raffle prize from Hapag-Lloyd Kreuzfahrten, a seven-day cruise for two people, on the ship MS EUROPA 2.

The winners will voyage from Piraeus (Athens) in Greece to Kusadasi, Turkey. During the cruise they will have the chance to discover two of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Meteora Monasteries and the Monastery of Nea Moni, as well as walk through Greece's enchanting natural landscape and enjoy the scenery along the Turkish coast by boat.
The Midlands committee of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce and some 50 members and their guests came together at a business luncheon in Birmingham on 29 April. The Guest of Honour and Speaker was Sir Nigel Broomfield KCMG, President of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce and a former British Ambassador to Germany. Guests enjoyed a drinks reception and a three-course lunch at the illustrious Opus restaurant.

Tilo Fersterra of Commerzbank AG, London Branch and Bob Bischof of SCCO International Ltd with Dr Stefan Kordasch of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, 9 July 2015
Annual Dinner of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce
Guest of Honour and Speaker: Wolfgang Kirsch, Chief Executive Officer of DZ BANK AG
Venue: The Landmark Hotel, 222 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JQ
Time: 7.30pm to 10.30pm
Cost: £125 (incl. VAT) per person for members of the Chamber, £144 for non-members, £1,100 (incl. VAT) company table (10 people) for members of the Chamber, £1,300 for non-members
Dress code: Black tie

Tuesday, 15 September 2015
Seminar with Hickman & Rose Solicitors: Bankers and directors – in the firing line. A legal comparison of bankers’ and directors’ duties and liabilities in Germany and the UK
Venue: German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, 16 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB
Time: 5.15pm to 6.30pm, followed by refreshments
Cost: Complimentary

Thursday, 24 September 2015
Members’ Autumn Reception
Venue: German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, 16 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB
Time: 6pm to 8.30pm
Cost: Complimentary

Friday, 2 October 2015
Reunification Day Golf Tournament, supported by the German banking community
Venue: The Shire London, St Albans Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 4RE
Time: from 8.30am
Cost: £110 (incl. VAT) per person, £440 (incl. VAT) for a team of four

Please see our webpage for updates and to register for events: www.germanbritishchamber.co.uk

POWERING PEOPLE PERFORMANCE SEMINAR WITH ILT SOLUTIONS (UK) LTD

On 29 April ILT Solutions (UK) Ltd hosted a members’ seminar on ingenious learning solutions at the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce. Rainer Schiller, Controller and Academy Adviser at Bayer Healthcare, gave an insight into learning solutions and provisions made for staff training by showcasing an outstanding example from his workplace. Some 20 participants attended, who also had the chance to network and talk to the other speakers, Ian McNally and Frank Bruhn of ILT Solutions (UK) Ltd, after this inspiring seminar.

One of the speakers, Ian McNally of ILT Solutions UK Ltd (left), with attendees Oliver Weiss and Hayley Dear, both of Blake Morgan LLP
Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015


Im Folgenden werden nur die gesellschaftsrechtlichen Themen angesprochen. Hier soll zum einen unnötige Bürokratie durch Vereinfachung der Einreichungspflichten vermieden werden. Dafür ist beispielsweise ein einziges Dokument für die gleichzeitige Gründung einer Gesellschaft und deren Anmeldung zur Lohnsteuer, Körperschaftsteuer und Umsatzsteuer geplant. Zum anderen will das Gesetz größere Transparenz schaffen, um illegale Aktivitäten zu unterbinden. Dazu sollen folgende Maßnahmen dienen:

- Die Inhaberaktionen werden abgeschafft.
- Es wird nicht mehr möglich sein, Kapitalgesellschaften zu Direktoren von Gesellschaften zu bestellen.
- Gesellschaften werden ein Verzeichnis über die Personen führen müssen, die eine wesentliche Kontrolle über die Gesellschaft haben (people with significant control, PSC register). Dies sind natürliche Personen, die mehr als 25% der Anteile oder Stimmrechte innehaben, die die Mehrheit der Direktoren der Gesellschaft bestellen abberufen können oder auf andere Weise Kontrolle über die Gesellschaft ausüben können. Angaben über die Personen sind in der Regel sowohl bei Gründung einer Gesellschaft gegenüber dem Companies House zu machen als auch im PSC register am registered office aufzubewahren.


Private companies können entscheiden, die Daten nur beim Companies House aufzubewahren. In der Regel sind folgende Daten festzuhalten: Name, Zustellungsadresse, Wohnsitzland, Staatsangehörigkeit, Geburtsdatum, Übliche Wohnanschrift, Datum an dem die Person in das Register aufgenommen werden musste und Art der Kontrolle über die Gesellschaft.

Schattendirektoren (shadow directors), also Personen, nach deren Anweisungen die Direktoren einer Gesellschaft üblicherweise handeln, werden denselben Pflichten unterliegen wie „normale“ Direktoren.

Zudem werden die Möglichkeiten, Personen für die Zukunft die Tätigkeit als Direktor zu untersagen (disqualification of directors), erweitert.

Vor allem zur Einhaltung der strengen Vorschriften des PSC register werden Gesellschaften einige Vorbereitung benötigen.
INITIATIVE provides a regular listing of companies in Germany who are seeking B2B partners and representatives in the UK

Business Partners from Germany / Geschäftspartner aus Deutschland

PRECISION ENGINEERING
Tipecska Maschinenbau GmbH is a German family-owned business established in Munich in 1924 and well known for high quality and innovation in the field of precision engineering. The company is looking for serious, self-motivated technical sales agents with an existing portfolio and who ideally have engineering experience. The company produces:
- Non-pharma tableting tools are used in the following industries: chemistry (e.g. catalyst, dishwasher, or salt tablets), food industry, metal industry.
- Sheet-feeding heads manufactured for different producers of offset printing or gluing or screen-printing machines.

For further information, please contact:
Ms Eva Tipecska, Tipecska Maschinenbau GmbH,
Äußere Kreuzäcker 1, 82395 Oberöschering, Germany
Tel: +49 8847 69909-0  Fax: +49 8847 69909-50
Email: eva@tipecska.de  Web: www.tipecska.de

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For further information, please contact:
Mr Torsten Becker, BOGEN Electronic GmbH,
Potsdamer Str. 12-13, 14163 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 81000-20  Fax: +49 30 81000-260
Email: magnets@bogen-electronic.com
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For further information, please contact:
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Lütjenburger Straße 101, 23714 Malente, Germany
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Email: klaus.pries@kendrion.com  Web: www.kuhnke.com

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For further information, please contact:
Ms Jana Kunze, sam Vertriebs GmbH & Co. KG,
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Tel: +49 2373 9090128  Fax: +49 2373 9090261
Email: jana.kunze@sam.de  Web: www.sam.de
European College: global focus

Responding to the large-scale changes of a world growing together and its implications for future leaders, the European College of Business and Management, the higher education institution affiliated to the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce in London, is preparing to broaden its international focus through global opportunities for management learning and staff development.

The College was established to meet the needs of German businesses in the UK, and works closely with major blue chip companies, such as Commerzbank, Robert Bosch in the UK and with Siemens AG in Germany. It already provides educational opportunities across Germany – through its Masters programmes, Bachelor degrees and short courses for ‘Berufsschulen’ and ‘Berufskollege’ from all over Germany, the College has educated over 15,000 students in the 27 years since its foundation. There are currently over 120 Bachelor students on its programmes and another 65 are taking postgraduate qualifications delivered by the College and accredited by UK universities.

New initiatives, new horizons...

Last year, the College began to broaden its international focus to Turkey, and as a result of the new co-operation with the German-Turkish Chamber of Commerce, three Turkish students are currently on the MBA programme. In the coming academic year, the College is planning to establish a similar co-operation with the German-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Together with its Chamber partners, the College is aiming to customize Masters-level programmes for businesses and will incorporate Istanbul and New York in the teaching schedules.

Making the most of learning opportunities for professionals

Modern communications technology and the College’s experience in methods of ‘blended learning’ (which combines the best aspects of class room and distance learning) make it possible for busy professionals to pursue career development with programmes that enable study and work to be combined. The College’s remarkable success and retention rates are ample proof of the effectiveness of these programmes: students attend a limited number of weekend or week-long seminars over the length of their programme, making the most of their classroom study and benefitting from classroom input as well as networking opportunities.

The College is proud of its progression and achievement rates. Graduates of postgraduate programmes delivered by the College have progressed in their chosen career paths and many have also gone onto even greater academic success. The College has a number of alumni who have gained doctorates, or are completing doctoral studies. Studying with the European College of Business and Management was their first step on the road to career and academic fulfilment, and now this has become a global opportunity.

For further information on these programmes, please contact Theresa Peller, the College’s Marketing Executive, on tpeller@eurocollege.org.uk

“I think that there has never been a more important time to have well-qualified, but also well-connected, team players in international organisations. Businesses need staff who understand the cultural and the technical aspects of management in a globalised world, but also people who have broad horizons and can take on new challenges. Part-time higher education is a tough challenge to undertake, but motivated and ambitious staff can achieve great things – and they will feed back tremendous benefits to their employers.”

Richard Bills, Director, European College of Business and Management

Some of the first-year MBA students of the European College of Business and Management, including Turkish students Yüksel Eryaman (r), Sinan İncegöz (4th from right) and Leyla Spencer (5th from right)
The case for EU membership

PART 2: Standardisation

In the second part of initiative’s look at the positive aspects of EU membership, we will examine the benefits of standardisation.

The media has ridiculed straight cucumbers and the perfect curvature of a banana prescribed by EU officials, while many British people still prefer to measure in pounds and ounces rather than kilograms and grams. However, many uniform standards serve to ensure the safety of products, especially those arriving from outside Europe.

Product safety
Product safety requirements demand manufacturers must adhere to certain minimum safety standards, and inform consumers of any risks connected with their products and precautions customers should take. They also ensure manufacturers must cooperate with the authorities if problems with the product are discovered. Even more stringent requirements cover cosmetics and pharmaceutical products.

The EU also places certain technical requirements on products, which are expressed in its new approach to essential general health and safety requirements that products must comply with, such as health, safety, consumer and environmental protection. Only products that meet these standards are allowed to carry the CE symbol and can be placed on the EU market.

Packaging must conform to health and environmental rules, and product labels must comply with requirements designed to protect consumers’ health, safety and interests and must provide certain product information. Again, special rules apply to certain products, such as foodstuffs, footwear and textiles to name but a few.

In 2011, the EU banned the sale of baby bottles containing Bisphenol-A (BPA), a compound which is used in the manufacture of certain plastics and which has hormone-like properties. Toys, fireworks, cosmetics, gym equipment, beds and BBQs are just some of the products that have also become safer thanks to EU minimum standards.

Standardisation of phone chargers
Apart from safety, the standardisation of all mobile phone chargers will save consumers money and make their lives easier from 2017. Many chargers from different manufacturers are already interchangeable, but the EU has voted to standardise them all in an attempt to harmonise radio equipment and minimise electronic waste.

In the next part of this series, initiative will take a look at the EU’s impact on our society.

Shipment of mobile phone charger types in the European Union

Source: European Commission 2015
Chancen für deutsche Unternehmen


London plant riesige Infrastrukturprojekte


EU-Erbrechtsverordnung


Farewell to Dr Klaus Peter Fouquet and welcome to Patricia Godfrey

On 28 April 2015 the Chamber’s Council bid farewell to Dr Klaus Peter Fouquet, President of Robert Bosch UK (pictured left), a member of the Council for six years and its Chair for the past three. Peter leaves the UK for Vienna to head up the Operations of Robert Bosch in Eastern Europe.

The Chamber’s Council elected Patricia Godfrey (pictured right), a partner in the law firm Nabarro, to succeed him as Chair. She is no stranger to the German-British business community, as amongst other posts, she has been a Trustee of the German-British Forum for more than 15 years, a member of the Chamber’s Council for 14 and Vice Chair for the past 10 years.

She is the first woman to chair the Chamber and she looks forward to “making the voice of the British-German business community heard in the upcoming debate about Britain’s future in the European Union”.

This section is provided in co-operation with Germany Trade & Invest.
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