

London, 8 December 2017

NEWS RELEASE

German-British business community welcomes Brexit negotiations moving to the second phase but concerns remain

The German-British business community welcomes progress in the Brexit negotiations, which is enabling them to move on to the second phase because only at this second stage will a clearer picture emerge about the nature of the future relationship between the EU and the UK. However, the mood remains cautious, as a no-deal scenario, even by accident, is still a possibility.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce commented: “Despite the impression created by the media, the first phase of the negotiations, i.e. drawing up the Brexit bill, resolving the question of the rights of EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in the EU as well as agreeing on a framework for the island of Ireland was relatively simple. Over the next nine to twelve months, when both parties need to agree on the future, we will find out that, as always, the devil lies in the detail and many more difficult compromises will have to be made on both sides. Will the Prime Minister be able to sell the compromises to her own party? That remains to be seen – we can only hope that she will have the stamina to do so and to continue to lead Britain through the negotiations, as any change in leadership will create even more upheaval.”

Voicing the ongoing concerns of the German-British business community, Dr Hoppe continued: “However, looking at the political landscape, we might still end up with a no-deal scenario, even if this only happens by accident. This would have disastrous consequences in the short term for both sides, but more so for the UK than for the EU. In the longer term, the UK will of course be able to adjust but, loosely quoting from the *Economist*, I expect that the UK’s economic prospects will still be good but far smaller than they have been.”

Therefore, despite the current positive news, the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce recommends companies continue to include a no-deal scenario in their Brexit strategy. In the short term, they should focus on analysing their value-added chains, logistics and warehousing capacities, as well as tax and customs implications.

Now that the Brexit negotiations have moved to the second phase, the experts at the German-British Chamber hope that planning for no deal will largely be an unnecessary exercise. The hope is that this phase will be concluded with a transition agreement lasting for a number of years so that a final settlement, which works for all, can be negotiated successfully.

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We would be grateful for copies of articles published.



German-British
Chamber of Industry & Commerce
Deutsch-Britische
Industrie- und Handelskammer

1 November 2017

NEWS RELEASE

The German-British business community does not believe in a positive outcome of the Brexit negotiations by the end of 2019 – A majority see a negative outcome for future investment in Britain following Brexit

The Ipsos MORI survey of members of the German-British business community has revealed that more than 60% think Brexit is likely to have a negative effect on their companies' future investments in the UK. As much as 30% even think their future investment will decrease by more than 10%. By contrast only one in twenty (5%) think Brexit will have a positive impact on their future investments in the UK.

A new survey has found the overwhelming majority (87%) of German-British businesses say they are either "not very" or "not at all confident" that a positive outcome for the UK will be achieved from the Brexit negotiations by March 2019. Just one in fifteen (7%) take an optimistic view on the likely outcome of these negotiations.

The two top priorities these businesses say they would like to see addressed are smooth access to the EU market for goods and services (74%) and continued regulatory alignment with the EU (33%). The opportunity to easily employ both high and low-skilled workers from abroad (30%) and the facility for the UK Government to strike trade deals (26%) are also selected by at least one in four respondents in this context.

One in five respondents says their assessment of the current state of the UK economy is positive (20%). In contrast, 53% have a negative perception. Pessimism is rather more marked for views on the UK economy over the next 5 to 10 years, with four times as many saying their views are negative (65%) rather than positive (13%).

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, commented: "The survey results show how important it is that the UK strives for relatively smooth access to the European Single Market and that transitional arrangements for the time after the end of March 2019 need to be concluded urgently."

Ipsos MORI conducted 222 online interviews with members of the German-British business community with UK operations. The interviews were part of a larger study surveying the members of several bilateral chambers of commerce in the UK (1,046 online interviews conducted in total). The opinions of the members of the German-British business community are broadly in line with the ones of the other major international business communities surveyed. Fieldwork was conducted between 9 October and 23 October 2017.

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London, 1 November 2017

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Die deutsch-britische Wirtschaft glaubt nicht an positiven Abschluss der Brexit-Verhandlungen bis Ende März 2019

Die überwiegende Mehrheit (87%) der deutsch-britischen Wirtschaft glaubt nicht an einen positiven Abschluss der Brexit-Verhandlungen bis Ende März 2019. Nur 7% der Unternehmen sehen dem Ausgang der Verhandlungen mit Optimismus entgegen.

Laut einer Studie des Meinungsforschungsinstitutes Ipsos MORI, welche im Auftrage mehrerer ausländischen Handelskammern im Vereinigten Königreich durchgeführt wurde, sehen knapp über 60% der befragten Firmen die Auswirkungen des Brexits auf zukünftige Investitionsentscheidungen in Großbritannien als negativ bis sehr negativ an. 30% der deutsch-britischen Unternehmen erwarten sogar einen Rückgang um mehr als 10% und nur eine Handvoll der Unternehmen (5%) sieht eine positive Auswirkung des Brexits auf die eigenen zukünftigen Investitionsentscheidungen.

Derzeit haben 53% der Unternehmen ein eher negatives Bild von der momentanen Wirtschaftslage im Vereinigten Königreich. Bezüglich der mittel- bis langfristigen Aussichten sind sogar zwei Drittel der Unternehmen besorgt. Nur 20% haben derzeit ein positives Bild, welches sich allerdings mittel- bis langfristig auf unter 15% verringert.

Gefragt nach den zwei Hauptaspekten in Bezug auf den britischen Austritt aus der EU sehen 74% einen weiterhin reibungslosen Zugang zum Binnenmarkt als prioritär an. Für 33% ist eine fortgesetzte Anlehnung an das EU-Regelwerk von signifikanter Bedeutung und für 30% ist die Möglichkeit, ohne großen Aufwand weiterhin Arbeitskräfte aus der EU einzustellen, von herausragender Wichtigkeit. Die Möglichkeit, dass das Vereinigte Königreich eigene Freihandelsabkommen abschließen kann, steht nur an vierter Stelle auf der Prioritätenliste (26%).

Dr. Ulrich Hoppe, Hauptgeschäftsführer der Deutsch-Britischen Industrie- und Handelskammer, erläuterte: "Dieses Umfrageergebnis zeigt, wie wichtig ein auch zukünftig leichter Zugang zum Binnenmarkt für die Unternehmen ist und wie dringend deshalb auch die zügige Vereinbarung von Übergangsregelungen für den Zeitraum ab April 2019 ist."

Als Teil einer größeren Studie von Mitgliedern mehrerer bilateraler Handelskammern führte Ipsos MORI insgesamt 222 webbasierte Interviews mit Unternehmen der deutsch-britischen Wirtschaft durch, die im Vereinigten Königreich operativ aktiv sind. Die Studie fand vom 9. bis 23. Oktober 2017 statt.

- Ende -

Für weitere Informationen wenden Sie sich bitte an:

Jana Toon, Presse- & Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Deutsch-Britische Industrie- und Handelskammer, 16 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB, Tel: +44 (0)20 7976 4188, Fax: +44 (0)20 7976 4101, E-Mail: press@ahk-london.co.uk

Informationen für den Herausgeber:

Die Deutsch-Britische Industrie- und Handelskammer in London wurde 1971 gegründet und ist eine business-to-business Organisation mit etwa 750 deutschen und britischen Mitgliedsfirmen. Sie bietet Geschäftskontakte, Informationen und Ratschläge für ihre Mitgliedsfirmen und für tausende von Nichtmitgliedsfirmen in beiden Ländern an. Mehr Informationen können unter www.ahk-london.co.uk abgerufen werden.

Bei Veröffentlichung würden wir uns über ein Belegexemplar freuen.

26 April 2017

NEWS RELEASE

German-British Chamber organises seminar: “Entering the German Market: Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia”

The German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce is holding a seminar on “Entering the German Market: Business Opportunities in North Rhine-Westphalia” in London on 14 June 2017. 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.

Dr Ulrich Hoppe, Director General of the German-British Chamber of Industry & Commerce, said: “To ensure continued growth and to keep benefiting from the European Single Market, the expansion into Germany and beyond is a vital strategy for British companies post-Brexit.”

The seminar will be held at the Rooms on Regent’s Park, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, Marylebone, 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 or contact Sven Riemann on Tel: 020 7976 4185, email s.riemann@ahk-london.co.uk.

- ends -

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