

The City of London Corporation and Brexit

What is the City of London Corporation doing to support City businesses in light of Brexit negotiations?

Following the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union, the City of London Corporation has been heavily involved in ensuring the voice of financial and professional services firms is heard in helping to shape the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

The City Corporation has an important role to play:

- As a convenor of different parties, business, governments and regulators, to share information and present the range of views of City business to government.
- Promoting and explaining the 'City ecosystem' concept: the City needs to be viewed as a totality, each part depending on each other.
- As a trusted and neutral voice for the range of City opinion. We are also listening carefully to other views, particularly from the EU Member States, and feeding back to the City.

What is the Financial and Professional Services Industry looking for in Brexit negotiations?

The City Corporation supports the work of TheCityUK, who has identified five high-level 'asks' to inform the UK's strategy for exiting the EU:

- **Deliver clarity and stability to the extent possible:** the exit process must be orderly to ensure financial stability, and with a clear view of the framework for the UK's future relationship with the EU.
- **Defend the UK's pre-eminent position in financial and related professional services:** these are times of growing global competition, and we must work to retain and enhance existing business flows and secure future business opportunities.
- **Map out an exit from the EU which maintains access to key markets while safeguarding future relations:** secure Single Market access on terms that resemble as closely as possible the access we currently enjoy, including through a bespoke British option, passporting and keeping euro clearing in London.
- **Move swiftly to advance trade and investment opportunities with the rest of the world – both in developed and developing economies:** bolstering the UK's already strong links with the US and Japan, redoubling efforts in key emerging markets such as China and India, as well as identifying valuable opportunities in others.
- **Develop an even deeper partnership between government, regulators and business:** enhancing the UK's positions – including through attracting more foreign direct investment and sustaining the industry's exports – through an even deeper partnership with government, regulators and business.

The City of London Corporation is supporting these five 'asks' through:

TheCityUK

- The City Corporation is a founder member of TheCityUK, the promotional and representational body for the financial and professional services sector. Its membership includes almost all the major

- institutions and trade associations. It deals particularly with cross-sectoral issues.
- Our Policy Chairman, Mark Boleat, is Deputy Chairman of TheCityUK and is a member of their Brexit Taskforce comprising all the major institutions and trade associations. The City Corporation's Economic Development Office works very closely with their counterparts in TheCityUK, and fully participates in TheCityUK's EU Strategy Group.
- A group of leading City representatives have established, within TheCityUK, the European Financial Services Chairmen's Advisory Council (EFSCAC) to be an informal sounding board and oversight group. It comprises the chairmen of a number of major international financial institutions, and includes the City Corporation's Policy Chairman.

International Regulatory Strategy Group

The International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG), chaired by former Treasury Minister Mark Hoban, is an advisory body to both the City Corporation and the TheCityUK. It has representatives of all the major City businesses and trade associations, and is focused on the detail of regulatory issues. Both the City Corporation and TheCityUK provide resources to support the IRSG. The IRSG has commissioned a number of new workstreams looking at regulatory issues relating to third countries, global competitiveness and regulatory coherence.

Trade Associations

The City Corporation has convened regular meetings of the major trade associations, providing them with a forum in which to exchange intelligence, emerging views and representational strategy.

City Corporation's EU Engagement programme

- The City's Special Representative to the EU, Jeremy Browne, has an extensive programme of engagement with EU member States, both with ambassadors and visiting ministers and officials in the UK, and in visits to EU Member States. By the end of October, he will have visited twelve EU Member States since the referendum, explaining the views of UK-based financial and professional services, and listening to the views and priorities of business, government and regulators in other Member States.
- The Policy Chairman recently visited Malta, speaking to the Prime Minister and other ministers, officials and business representatives, and will be visiting Malta with the Lord Mayor in November, prior to Malta taking on the presidency on the EU.
- We meet regularly with the diplomatic community (Ambassadors, High Commissioners and their staff) based in London to share information and views on Brexit-related issues.

City Corporation's International Engagement programme

- The Policy Chairman will be visiting India, Singapore and the US, to meet with business, government and regulators, and Brexit will be a key issue to be discussed, and how we can coordinate international regulatory structures.
- The Lord Mayor has recently visited China and Hong Kong, and planning is already underway for next year's extensive international programme promoting the UK as a place to invest and promoting opportunities for UK exports.

Policy Agenda

The City Corporation has commissioned two research projects to provide new analysis on the potential impact of the Brexit outcomes. First, a research project exploring how European corporates access financial and professional services in London, based on new analysis and qualitative interviews with leading businesses. Second, a research project looking at potential labour market issues created by the referendum outcome, including options for 'regional visas'.

Media

Since the referendum, both the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chairman have authored many articles and given interviews in both the UK national and regional, as well as international media outlets. They have also conducted press conferences, to explain some of the issues connected with Brexit faced by financial services, reassuring international investors about the fundamental strengths of the UK, and promoting UK exports and investments.

ENDS