

Message from British Chamber CEO, David Dawson

Dear Member

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2016. As you all know, we are currently witnessing momentous developments in the UK around the EU referendum, the result and the unfolding consequences. It is being described as the greatest political upheaval for a generation and as such, there is much speculation. It seems that even beyond the UK a media frenzy is evident, much of it sensational and not especially well informed. In the coming months calm heads are required to see through the political process and business has asked for the clarity of purpose from Government so that uncertainty does not adversely affect business and the economy.

The UK, as a major economy in the world, is extremely resilient and competitive and will adapt well to the new circumstances, as they become clearer over the coming years. Already, the export sector is seeing new opportunities opening and with a potentially more global approach to trade, there is every reason to believe that UK/Africa relations can only strengthen.

Best Wishes



EU Referendum

In Britain's EU referendum on June 23rd a majority voted to leave the EU. The Prime Minister David Cameron has confirmed that *'the decision must be accepted and the process of implementing the decision in the best possible way must now begin'*. He intends to make way for 'fresh leadership' in time for the Conservative Party Conference in October. The new Prime Minister will then have responsibility for invoking Article 50 of the Treaty of Rome, thus starting the formal process of Britain leaving the EU. In the meantime, as the PM has confirmed, *'there will be no initial change in the way our people can travel, in the way our goods can move or the way our services can be sold.'*

The UK remains a great place to do business with the government still focused on being the easiest place in the world to trade with. The UK is the fifth largest economy in the world and was the fastest growing economy in the G7 in 2015. It is the highest ranked major economy in terms of ease of doing business, ranked higher than the USA. This has not changed.

Chamber Members Address Business Challenges

In keeping with its remit to represent the collective concerns of the British business community in South Africa, the Chamber's cross-sectoral Business Environment Working Group was established last year. Some of the working group's concerns and views were reflected in discussions at the UK-SA Bilateral Ministerial Forum, held in London in October. The group now meets every second month in Johannesburg. Members interested in joining should contact david.dawson@britcham.co.za. If you are unable to join the group, please do share with us details of any specific matters that affect your business. The group has agreed on the following areas as priority themes:

- Property Rights
- Manufacturing
- EU and other Partners
- Employment
- Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBB-EE)
- General infrastructure



It is worth noting that the EU Chamber, launched last year, has a clear focus on advocacy and supports EU-based companies '*advocating towards an attractive investment and business climate in SA.*' The British Chamber will continue to work with the EU Chamber until such time as the UK exits the EU or a to-be-determined relationship takes effect.

Events Round-up

Nicky Newton-King, CEO of the JSE, in conversation with David for our April Briefing in Johannesburg, referred to diversity as the key to ensure companies are equipped to compete. In Cape Town the theme of diversity was central to our April event, which saw a presentation on the 'Power of Difference' in the workplace followed by a panel discussion on mobility bringing together legal, corporate and immigration practitioner perspectives. Back in Johannesburg, May's briefing saw another dynamic panel discussion, with the editors of the Financial Mail, Business Day and Sunday Times Business Times participating. Finally in June our guest speaker Roger Baxter, CEO of the Chamber of Mines, emphasised the need for SA's policy and regulatory environment to be stable, predictable and competitive. Many thanks to our event sponsors this quarter - **BT, Relocation Africa, G4S and Weir Minerals.**



Other recent events with Chamber involvement included: the Queen's Birthday Party, hosted by the High Commissioner and Chamber Patron, Dame Judith Macgregor at her Waterkloof residence and; a networking dinner around Africa Health co-hosted by the Chamber and UKTI. Africa Health is the continent's largest healthcare industry event and the dinner

brought together health sector stakeholders from the UK, South Africa and the region.

David Dawson at the UK's Biggest Business Fair

The International Festival of Business (IFB) is one of the world's biggest business fairs. Small wonder then that Liverpool in June was the 'place to be' for over 30,000 delegates to learn about new markets and connect with potential customers, suppliers and partners at IFB2016.

Representing South Africa and the Southern Africa region, Chamber CEO David Dawson participated in the 'Meet your Global Network' event.



Membership Update

Membership currently stands at over 90 companies. The Chamber is only as strong as its members' network so we encourage you to introduce companies that meet our membership criteria: any company engaged in and promoting the bilateral trade relationship between the UK and South Africa. Remember also that if you haven't submitted your logo and membership directory listing then you are not featured in our online directory. Check [here](#). Please join us in extending a warm welcome to the following companies who became members in the recent months: **Abaco Technology, AddMASS Consultancy, BSI Group, Burson-Marsteller, Clifftop Colony, Dachser, Embassy Freight Services, GlaxoSmithKline, Illovo Sugar, NSSL Global, Pomerol Partners, PwC, Relocation Africa, Rockwood, Rolls-Royce, Sable Group, S-RM, The Red Phone, and Tsebo Facilities Solutions.**



Save the Date: Johannesburg

Members' Business Briefing with High Commissioner Dame Judith Macgregor: *South Africa and the UK: The outlook post-Brexit*. 14th July, [Inanda Club](#).



Member of the Month

If you want your SMME promoted on the Chamber website and social media platforms, contact info@britcham.co.za.



Save the Date: Cape Town

Members' Briefing with author RW Johnson: *South Africa's crisis: Where are we now?* 28th July, [Cape Town Club](#).



VFS Corporate Premium

Large corporations registered with the Department of Home Affairs experience faster visa processing time if applying via VFS Corporate Premium Centre in Sandton. Check if your company is registered here.



ANC/IRR Engagement

The Chamber welcomes an invitation from Enoch Godongwana, ANC's Head of Economic Transformation to a pragmatic discussion with the ANC and the Institute of Race Relations around SA's economic future. We'll share outcomes in the next newsletter.



New Online UK Visa Services

For Standard Visitor, Visitor (Marriage and Civil Partnership), or Visitor (Permitted Paid Engagement) visas, you can now apply, book an appointment and pay using Access UK. Quick and intuitive, it works on your smartphone, tablet or computer.

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