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## Cross-Channel Institute Newsletter

Issue 17 | February 2022



### FOREWORD

Dear ,

I hope this newsletter will find you well. January was an intense month for Franco-British relationship and we all want to see more economic cooperation between our two countries.

This month the Cross-Channel Institute has the honour to welcome as Guest of honour **David Marsh**, Chairman and Co-founder of the OMFIF and **Michel Barnier**, Former French Minister and Former European Commissioner at our two "30 mins with...". Their respective expertise in economics and diplomacy will allow us to better understand the current situation between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The law firm **Majorelle Mobility** is inviting you to a webinar that will enlighten companies on French labour law.

Our monthly press review covers different topics such as Member, Economic news and Future of work.

If you have any suggestions or request on specific topics, please let us know.

Best wishes,  
**Francoise Rausch**



**Françoise Rausch**  
*Chair, Cross-Channel Institute Committee*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

30 mins with...

**David MARSH**

Chairman and Co-founder of the OMFIF

**An Economic Outlook on  
the Global Economic Trends for 2022**

**22nd February 2022**  
**9am - 9.30am (Paris time)**

*Online event which will take place in English*

**30 MINUTES WITH ...**

**David Marsh**  
Chairman and Co-founder of the OMFIF

**An Economic Outlook on the  
Global Trends for 2022**

**Tuesday the 22nd of February, 2022 -  
9am (Paris time UTC+1)**

**CROSS CHANNEL INSTITUTE**  
for the promotion of France's  
British economic prosperity

**FRANCO BRITISH Chamber**

**pwc**

**Department for  
International Trade**

[Register Here](#)

**Michel BARNIER**

Former French Minister and a Former European  
Commission

**A Diplomatic Outlook on  
the Current Post-Brexit Situation**

**24th February 2022**  
**8.15am - 8.45am (Paris time)**

*Online event which will take place in English*

**30 MINUTES WITH ...**

**Michel Barnier**  
Former French Minister, Former European  
Commissioner

**A Diplomatic Outlook on the  
Current Post-Brexit Situation**

**Thursday the 24th of February, 2022 -  
8.15am**

**CROSS CHANNEL INSTITUTE**  
for the promotion of France -  
British economic partnership

**FRANCO  
BRITISH  
Chamber**

**pwc**

**Department for  
International Trade**

[Register here](#)

**MEMBER EVENT**

**International Mobility Webinar**  
by **Majorelle Mobility**

**UK and France: International Mobility and  
Intercultural Management**

**22nd February 2022**  
**9.30am - 10.45am (Paris time)**

**Speakers:**

- **Clarisse Delaitre** Lawyer in labor law
- **Corinne Saurel**, Associate Director at Cultures &  
Strategy

*Online event which will take place in English*



**Register here**

## PRESS REVIEW

### CHAMBER NEWS

#### **More exchanges with EU are urgently needed**

British Chambers of Commerce are strongly mobilized to increase UK-EU business exchanges. William Bain, Head of trade Policy at the BCC is quite gung-ho about this: *"The UK Government and European Commission should engage positively with our recommendations to improve the two-way flow of goods and services."*

Exchanges have decreased sharply (the full ONS data can be found [here](#)). The UK is trading less with the EU than it was three years ago. This gap is not currently being made up in terms of trade with the rest of the world. Thierry Drilhon, President of The Franco-British Chamber, sees this as a major opportunity for French and British businesses and regions willing to work together to establish bridgeheads in both countries: *"This is truly a time to look at France and the UK in a business perspective, with many opportunities to create new links, new market openings."* The Cross Channel Institute is also mobilized to provide perspective and promote exchanges between France and the UK.

This as a major opportunity for French and British businesses and regions willing to work together to establish bridgeheads in both countries. The Franco-British Chamber and the Cross Channel Institute in

France, for their part, consider that this is truly a time to look at France and the UK in a business perspective, with many opportunities to create new links, new market openings. We are keen to hear about businesses and organizations willing to take part in building these exchanges, to see how we can help.



[Read more](#)

## ECONOMIC NEWS

### How the logistics and supply industries are adapting to the new post-Brexit conditions ?

*"The port of Dublin is a fascinating summary of the profound economic reorganization caused by the British exit from the EU. A huge storage warehouse at the entrance to the port is now home to customs, whose activities are intensifying since the effective implementation of the Brexit, and yet had disappeared when the single market was created in 1993. And for good reason, the logistics chains of Ireland and the United Kingdom are now quite distinct. Today, 50% of the goods that enter the port of Dublin come directly from the EU, 50% from the UK. Before the Brexit, this split was 30 vs. 70%, in favor of the UK...[\[read more\]](#)"*



[Read more](#)

### ***Surging Inflation a Key Risk to UK Growth Prospects***

*Commenting on the inflation statistics for January 2022, published today by the Office for National Statistics, Head of Economics at the BCC Suren Thiru, said: "Rising inflation highlights both the cost-of-living crisis facing households and the uphill struggle for businesses to keep a lid on price rises amid surging cost pressures.*

*"While the headline annual figure remains at a 30-year high, the slight decline in monthly inflation in January offers some hope that we may be nearing the peak in the current spike in inflation.*

*"Inflation should peak at over 7% in April as reversal of the hospitality VAT cut and the energy price cap rise enters the calculation. However, the current Russia-Ukraine tension could keep inflation higher for longer by triggering a further surge in wholesale energy costs.*

*"Rising inflation could well be a significant drag anchor on UK economic output this year by weakening consumer spending power and damaging firms' finances and ability to invest.*

*"Increasing inflation means that a March interest rate rise is expected. However, tightening monetary policy too quickly risks undermining confidence and the wider recovery and will do little to curb the global factors behind the current inflationary surge.*

*"More needs to be done to limit the unprecedented rise in costs facing businesses, including financial support for those struggling with soaring energy bills and delaying April's National Insurance rise."*



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## How to improve UK-EU trade?

On the second anniversary of Brexit, and with huge lorry queues being reported at Dover last week, the BCC is calling for urgent action to improve trade with Europe.

With well over half of UK exporters (60%) surveyed by the BCC in November 2021 reporting difficulties in trading with the EU, an increase from 49% in January 2021, it is clear urgent action is needed.

Pictures of lorries stacked up on the A20, waiting to get into the port of Dover, also offer a vivid illustration of the problems continuing to impact the operation of the trade deal between the UK and the EU.

William Bain, Head of Trade Policy at the BCC, said:  
*"One of the issues at Dover currently appears to be linked to the export of food products across the Channel. Like many of the problems this looks to be down to a differing interpretation of how the trade arrangements work after leaving the EU..."* [\[read more\]](#)



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## FUTUR OF WORK

### The 4-day week is being seriously considered by companies

The 4-day week will soon no longer be a myth. This is the bet of several researchers from Oxford / Cambridge and British business leaders, in a context of "great resignation" that could well extend to Europe. A pilot program was launched at the end of January 2022



in the United Kingdom with companies in the tech, telecom and hotel industries. The British company Unilever has already paved the way in New Zealand, offering its employees a switch to a 32-hour week, with equal pay. Productivity gains, improved work-life balance... expectations are high and the first results will be revealed in 2023...[\[read more\]](#)



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