



4th October 2021, 11th Edition

PRESIDENTS' WELCOME TO H.E. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO GREECE, MATTHEW LODGE

Dear Chamber members and friends,

As fall has arrived and the new business season has started, we all wish that getting back to business after the summer vacation will signal a business environment with fewer challenges and strong signs of recovery and sustainable growth in our country.

The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce is always present to contribute substantially towards this direction and in the further strengthening of the Greek – British relations, especially following the end of the transition period for Brexit and the implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU.

We have worked closely especially during the last few years with the British Embassy to achieve these objectives. At the end of July, we said farewell to H.E. The British Ambassador Ms Kate Smith CMG. We thank her for the cooperation and trust over the last 4 years and wish her all the best for the future.

We would like to welcome the new British Ambassador to Greece, H.E Mr Mathew Lodge. He has an impressive career path, while he also has strong ties with Greece since late 1990s, having served in the British Embassy in Athens between 1998-2000.



[Matthew Lodge Biography](#)

The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce will properly welcome the new British Ambassador in our traditional "Back-to-Business" Dinner, which this year will be hosted at the Hotel Grand Bretagne on the 18th of October.

We extend our commitment to H.E. The British Ambassador Mr Matthew Lodge, to work closely with him and his team, to unlock the significant business opportunities between the UK and Greece in a variety of sectors. We will continue the dialogue to minimize the obstacles that have arisen after Brexit and we hope that improvements in a variety of areas will be realized gradually.

With our warm wishes to him and his family,

Anna Kalliani
Greek President

Kenny Evangelou
British President

BHCC EVENTS & INITIATIVES

UPCOMING EVENTS / INITIATIVES

- **18 October 2021 | "BACK-TO-BUSINESS DINNER 2021"**

The **British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce (BHCC)** is organizing its annual **"Back-to-Business" Dinner**.

A high-profile business and social event which the BHCC usually organizes in the Gardens of the British Ambassador's Residence.

This year, the Dinner will be held in **the Hotel Grande Bretagne (Grand Ballroom)**.

We have the honour to welcome the new British Ambassador to Greece, H.E. Matthew Lodge, who will address a keynote speech.

Guest of Honour: Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development and Investments

SUPPORTING EVENTS

- **18 September 2021 | BHCC Support to "12th Hydra Maritime Conference" organized by Athens Association "Hydrian Brotherhood"**

The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supported the **12th Hydra Maritime Conference** which was held on the 18th of September in Hydra.

The main issues discussed were **"FIT FOR 55 – but UNFIT for Shipping"** and **"The revitalization of Greek Shipping through new entrants and the continuation of the new generation of traditional shipping families."**

BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

PHILIP ROSS SOLICITORS | EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO BHCC



Alicia Pattihis, Partner | Philip Ross Solicitors

Philip Ross Solicitors is a UK based Law Firm with headquarters in London. A general commercial Law Firm specialising in Real Estate, Corporate Commercial and Business Advisory matters, Dispute Resolution, Private Client and Employment Law.

Mrs Pattihis is talking to BHCC about business opportunities and challenges in doing business with the UK.

[Interview](#)

ATHENS CAPITAL CENTER HOTEL – MGALLERY COLLECTION | PRESS RELEASE

Grand Opening for the Athens Capital Hotel – MGallery Collection



On September 15th, 2021, Mr. Sébastien Bazin, Chairman & CEO of Accor, together with Mrs. Maud Bailly, CEO of Accor Southern Europe, attended the official Red Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Athens Capital Hotel - MGallery Collection, a member of LAMPSA Hellenic Hotels S.A. During their visit to Athens, Mr. Bazin and Mrs. Bailly were welcomed by the Athanasios Laskaridis family and held audiences with the country's political leadership and government officials.

[Read more](#)

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES | PRESS RELEASE

ICAEW and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Greece have renewed their commitment to work together to advance the accountancy and finance profession in Greece.

The commitment was reaffirmed at a meeting between the two organisations on Wednesday 14 July 2021. As a result, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Greece (SOEL) will continue to offer ICAEW's ACA qualification and career support to finance professionals in Greece through the bodies' Accredited Membership Programme (AMP), alongside membership and support from SOEL.

[Read more](#)

NEW YORK COLLEGE | PRESS RELEASE

New York College's Graduation Ceremony 2021



The 31st Graduation Ceremony of New York College (NYC) took place on September 19th, 2021, in the backdrop of the Acropolis and the columns of the Temple of Olympian Zeus, at the historic National Gymnastics Association. With our graduates as the stars of the night, following all health protocols and supervised by Dr. Panagiotis Efstathiou, Head of the Operational Center of the Region of Attica, President of the Hellenic Association on Crisis Management in the Health Sector and Director of the NYC MSc in Crisis Management in the Health Sector.

[Read more](#)

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming our new Members, who have joined the Chamber within September 2021:

- ATTIKI BEE CULTURING CO. ALEXANDROS PITTAS SA, www.attiki-pittas.gr
- MOBIAK SA, www.mobiak.com
- ONEGLOBAL INSURANCE BROKING LTD, www.oneglobalbroking.com

You may find [here](#) the new BHCC Members' short profiles*.

**Only Members that have granted the Chamber permission to publicise information appear herein.*

UK GOVERNMENT - DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

01 October 2021

DIT launched the Export Support Service, a single telephone helpline and digital enquiry service that will help British businesses export to Europe, providing a single point of contact helping exporters navigate a range of complex information simply and quickly.

Businesses can ask questions related to:

- exporting to new markets
- paperwork needed to sell goods abroad
- rules for a specific country where exporters want to sell services

[Read more](#)

16 September 2021

The Department for International Trade's new Global Trade Outlook explores the long-term trends that will shape the global economy and international trade in the coming decades.

[Read more](#)

BREXIT NEWS & UPDATES

24 September 2021

Supply chain crisis: Tories poised to U-turn on foreign worker visas

Boris Johnson believed to have overruled ministers unwilling to compromise on post-Brexit immigration as forecourt queues mount

[Read more](#)

UK GOVERNMENT - BREXIT UPDATES

16 September 2021

Government launches plans to capitalise on new Brexit freedoms

New plans to capitalise on the freedoms from Brexit have been announced.

[Read more](#)

6 August 2021

Temporary protection for more applicants to the Settlement Scheme

Those who apply late to the EU Settlement Scheme, and joining family members, will have rights protected while their application is determined.

[Read more](#)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION-BREXIT UPDATES & OTHER NEWS

16 September 2021

European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen announced a new Chips Act to bolster the EU's capacity and supply continuity of semi-conductor chips for industrial production.

[Read more](#)

For more information on Brexit developments please visit <https://www.gov.uk/transition>, https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom_en and <https://brexit.gov.gr/>

**UK GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (BCC)
NEWS & UPDATES**

UK GOVERNMENT NEWS & UPDATES

21 September 2021

Next steps taken to support trade between UK nations

Guidance published to support functioning of UK Internal Market.

[Read more](#)

13 September 2021

UK Shipping Concierge service launched to support and guide maritime businesses into the UK

The UK government has launched the UK Shipping Concierge service, a professional and tailored service that will provide support and guidance for maritime businesses looking to access the UK market.

[Read more](#)

9 September 2021

End of temporary insolvency measures

Temporary insolvency restrictions protections are being lifted and new targeted measures to support small business and commercial tenants introduced.

[Read more](#)

23 August 2021

PM announces new Trade Envoys to boost British business around the world

Trade Envoys will promote UK trade, drive economic growth, and encourage inward investment to help level up every part of the UK.

[Read more](#)

10 August 2021

Traffic Commissioners for Great Britain publish 2020-21 annual report

[Read more](#)

9 August 2021

UK calls for greater global ambition as UN finds world warming faster than expected

The UK is calling for urgent global action in response to the latest report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

[Read more](#)

4 August 2021

Prime Minister and Chancellor challenge UK investors to create an 'Investment Big Bang' in Britain

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor call on the UK's institutional investors to seize the moment for a 'Investment Big Bang' to boost Britain's long-term growth.

[Read more](#)

3 August 2021

Customs Declaration Service to become UK's single customs platform

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has today announced that the Customs Declaration Service (CDS), a system founded on world-leading technology, will serve as the UK's single customs platform from 31 March 2023.

[Read more](#)

BCC NEWS & UPDATES

BCC at COP26 - The Net Zero Agenda and what it means for business

COP26 is a globally significant event and the UK's presidency has shone a light on BCC's net zero agenda, bringing conversations about businesses and climate action to the forefront of public discourse. The goal of the conference is to bring the global community together and accelerate action on climate change across the international community.

[Read more](#)

30 September 2021

BCC trade update



Supply chain crunch

As the supply chain crunch worsens, see [BCC's comments](#) last Thursday calling for a UK government convened summit involving key business and industry stakeholders. BCC has also [issued a comment](#) on the key speeches affecting Brexit and Trade at this week's Labour Party Conference.



Regulation of services suppliers

A key group of countries agreed a negotiating text at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on [regulation of services suppliers](#), covering licences, approvals and enquiry points. If implemented in full by states in their services schedules at the WTO in Geneva, it would offer a step change for businesses in lowering the costs of exporting services. Secretary of State for International Trade, Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP spoke on the need for WTO reform during an event as part of the WTO Public Forum this week.



CPTPP

The first meeting of the [CPTPP UK Accession Group](#) took place on Tuesday with Japan in the chair. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) is an 11 country multilateral trade agreement representing around 8% of total UK trade which the UK is seeking to join. Taiwan and China also recently submitted applications to accede. Although the UK has, or is likely to have, trade deals with 9 of the 11 CPTPP members before accession is complete, there are improvements in digital trade and cumulation in rules of origin which could come from accession for UK businesses.



Office for the Internal Market

The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has produced a new guide on the [new Office for the Internal Market](#) (OIM) within the Competition and Markets Authority on how businesses can engage with the new [UK Internal Market machinery](#). Although the OIM will be restricted to producing advice and reports, it is still an important body to underpin the UK Internal Market on goods and services after the end of the Brexit transition period.

Easing pressure on UK fuel pumps

In response to the recent surge in demand at petrol stations across the UK, the fuel industry has [issued a statement](#) reassuring the public that there is an adequate supply of fuel and encouraging people to fill up their vehicles as normal.

The UK government has [announced measures](#) to help ease pressures, including putting a pool of military drivers on standby to help with deliveries and extending certain HGV licences to keep drivers on the road.

Following a [meeting with fuel industry leaders](#) the Secretary of State at BEIS, Kwasi Kwarteng MP has agreed to temporarily exempt the fuel industry from competition rules to allow the industry to share information and prioritise fuel deliveries to the parts of the country that are most in need.

The fuel industry expects demand will return to its normal levels in the coming days as people return to their regular buying habits and pressure on the supply chain eases.



Department
for Transport

Future of Rural Transport

The Department for Transport (DfT) has published a summary of responses to their **Call For evidence on the Future of Transport: Rural Transport** which ran between 23 November 2020 and 16 February 2021.

[Read more](#)

23 September 2021

BCC calls for summit to resolve supply chain crunch

Responding to the latest ONS survey on business conditions, William Bain, Head of Trade Policy at the BCC, said:

“This data backs up our own findings that the supply chain has been facing persistent challenges for the last few months. It is no surprise that more than one in three trading businesses have experienced problems in sourcing materials, goods and services at home, or had to change suppliers”.

[Read more](#)

Trade update

The new International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP made her first speech in office on Monday – on [digital trade](#). The Department for International Trade (DIT) also published a [policy paper](#) on data flows and gains for business. Read BCC’s comments on the [five-point plan](#) on digital trade [here](#).

Cabinet Office Minister, Lord Frost CMG made a [statement](#) in the House of Lords on [post-Brexit regulation](#) unveiling [plans](#) to change regulation on autonomous vehicles, GDPR and weights and measures. Read BCC’s response [here](#) in the Financial Times.

The House of Lords European Affairs Committee has launched a call for evidence on UK-EU Trade in Goods. The consultation [ends on 29 October](#).

Latest DIT [core trade and investment statistics](#) have been published.

Final Ministerial appointments made

The Prime Minister carried out a reshuffle of his Ministers. A summary of the appointments can be found [here](#).

Changes to immigration rules

The Home Office has announced [autumn immigration rules changes](#).

Latest EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) stats

The latest monthly figures show that of the 6.16 million applications received by 31 August 2021, 4.9 million were granted status. See further details [here](#). The deadline for EUSS applications from EU, EEA, Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK as of 31 December 2020, passed on 30 June 2021. However, eligible individuals who missed that deadline can [make a late application](#).

ID Cards

From the 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will only be able to travel to the UK using a valid passport. ID cards will no longer be accepted as a valid travel document for entry to the UK. If EU, EEA and Swiss citizens do not have a passport from 1 October, they are liable to be refused entry to the UK. Please use the [partner pack here](#) regarding communications on the ID card removal.

9 September 2021

BCC Monthly Economic Review

BCC recently published its [September Monthly Economic Review](#). This briefing is an analysis of the key domestic and international economic indicators for business.

September's headlines:

- **UK economy returned to growth in Q2, driven by stronger service sector output;**
- **Business investment remains muted as consumer spending rebounds;** and
- **UK inflation slows for now as the number of job vacancies reaches a record high.**

For ease of use we have included a [PDF version](#) and a [Word version](#)

BCC Forecast: Business investment set to be left behind

UK business investment is expected to decline this year despite the prospect of record economic growth, according to the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) economic forecast.

[Read more](#)

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) has announced a [reconsideration of its recommendations on safeguard measures on steel](#) following representations by both producers and manufacturers.

See the September update from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) [available here](#).

24 August 2021

Announcement of extension of CE marking easement – BCC reaction

William Bain, Head of Trade Policy at the British Chambers of Commerce, stated:

“The British Chambers of Commerce has led business calls for an extension of at least a year on the easement for CE markings on imported industrial goods, spare parts, and components.

Businesses will welcome this reprieve until 1 January 2023, which will protect supply chains and make a huge difference to consumers on the availability of items such as phones and laptops”.

[Read more](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

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CONTACT DETAILS

To subscribe to our Newsletter and for more information and publication of articles, reports, press releases and/or interviews, please contact Mrs Lina Dede, BHCC General Manager.

We are always interested in your views.

Send us an e-mail to info@bhcc.gr if you have any queries about this Newsletter or its content.

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