



# NEWSLETTER

**23 December 2020, 5th Edition**

## **PRESIDENTS' NOTE**

Dear Members and Friends,

As we are approaching the end of 2020, marked by the unprecedented health and economic crisis which people and businesses all over the globe are facing, we would like to thank you for your continuous engagement, support and cooperation.

Regarding the bilateral relations between Greece and the UK, the upcoming end of the transition period without having reached a deal, combined to the outbreak of the pandemic, have increased uncertainty for the business community without being able to evaluate the specific direction as well as the consequences of the future relationship between the countries, while the majority of the businesses and professionals do not feel adequately prepared for the new cooperation framework.

Following the recent Annual General Assembly and Board Elections, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce is managed by a new and dynamic Board of Directors, comprised of renowned professionals from a wide range of business sectors in Greece. The new Board of Directors is committed to enhance its close collaboration with the Members, the Greek Government, the British Embassy in Athens, institutional bodies and the Chamber's partners.

Oriented to face new challenges and to seize opportunities within the coming years, the Chamber intends to play a pivotal role as a strategic partner aiming to the creation of synergies. We will continue to provide networking opportunities to our Members and knowledge exchange, via the organization of meetings, conferences, roundtables, webinars, and briefings, embracing digital media to maximize effectiveness.

We are looking forward to working with all of you towards shaping a stronger future business relationship between Greece and the UK.

We are grateful to our Members and our hope is for all to prosper and grow in the years ahead.

With our warmest wishes for a healthier, full of joy and prosperity 2021,

Anna Kallfani  
Greek President

Kenny Evangelou  
British President

## BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

### EDENRED | ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

**«Ένα δώρο για το καλό» από την Edenred και τους κατόχους καρτών Ticket Restaurant® για την στήριξη των συνεργαζόμενων επιχειρήσεων εστίασης.**

Στόχος η ενίσχυση 4.000 συνεργαζόμενων καφέ και εστιατορίων σε Αθήνα, Θεσσαλονίκη αλλά και σε άλλες περιοχές της χώρας που πλήττονται άμεσα από την κρίση.

[Read more](#)

### ENERGEAN | PRESS RELEASE

**Energean wins Petroleum Economist Award for Energy Transition strategy**

Energean plc (LSE: ENOG, TASE: λΑΝΑ) is pleased to have been awarded Transition Economist Strategy of the Year (Independent) at the Petroleum Economists 2020 Awards Ceremony.

[Read more](#)

### Completion of Acquisition

Energean plc (LSE: ENOG, TASE: λΑΝΑ) is pleased to announce that it has completed its acquisition of Edison Exploration & Production S.p.A. ("Edison E&P") from Edison S.p.A. ("Edison").

[Read more](#)

### INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES (ICAEW) | PRESS RELEASE

#### Our road map for carbon neutrality

On September 17, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), outlined their commitment to become carbon-neutral, making it the first major professional body in the UK to declare carbon neutrality.

[Read more](#)

#### Businesses expect working life to be different post-pandemic, international survey finds

- Nine in 10 businesses expect working life to be different in the future
- Half of businesses have found the pandemic has had an impact on employee induction
- Two-thirds say pandemic has made it harder to know what is going on in their business

**Most businesses around the world expect working life to be different in the future, a survey by chartered accountancy body ICAEW has found.**

[Read more](#)

### **Έκθεση Εταιρικής Κοινωνικής Ευθύνης 2020**

Στη έκθεση Εταιρικής Κοινωνικής Ευθύνης για το 2020, η Xerox αναδεικνύει τις προσπάθειές της για την αντιμετώπιση της πανδημίας, των ανισοτήτων και της κλιματικής αλλαγής.

[Read more](#)

## **DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (DIT)**

### **9 November 2020: New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK**

The newly launched Office for Investment will connect public and private sector expertise while ensuring high and rigorous standards of scrutiny and security.

[Read more](#)

### **10 November 2020: Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries**

Government announces that removals and reductions of tariffs on goods from developing countries to continue after the end of the transition period.

[Read more](#)

### **8 December 2020 | EU business: taxes and tariffs**

Find out what taxes and tariffs might apply to EU businesses trading with the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **8 December 2020 | EU business: exporting to the UK**

Find out what EU businesses need to do to export to the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **8 December 2020 | EU business: importing from the UK**

Find out what EU businesses need to do to import from the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **8 December 2020 | EU business: providing services to the UK**

Find out what EU businesses need to know about providing services in the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **8 December 2020 | EU business: working in the UK**

Find out what EU citizens need to do if they are working in the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **18 December 2020 | UK government's webinar on "EU Exit: Business Travel & Movement of People after 1st January 2021", which took place on 2nd December**

Please find the slides of the webinar [here](#) and the recording of the session [here](#).

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

### **UK GOVERNMENT NEWS & UPDATES**

#### **5 November 2020: HM Revenue & Customs**

With fewer than 70 days to go – including the Christmas period – until new trading rules apply, you need to act now to continue trading with Europe from 1 January 2021. We understand that these are challenging times, but it is important to make sure that your business is ready for these new rules. Time is running out and new customs and tax rules will not change or go away if a Free Trade Agreement is negotiated.

[Read more](#)

#### **13 November 2020: Claim refunds of UK VAT from 1 January 2021 if you're an EU business**

From 1 January 2021, if you're an EU business not registered for VAT in the UK, check how to claim VAT refunds on goods and services you buy in the UK.

[Read more](#)

### **3 December 2020: Changes to VAT treatment of overseas goods sold to customers from 1 January 2021**

At the end of the transition period, the government will introduce a new model for the VAT treatment of goods arriving into Great Britain from outside of the UK.

[Read more](#)

### **14 December 2020 | Transporting goods between Great Britain and the EU from 1 January 2021: guidance for hauliers and commercial drivers**

Guidance for haulage companies and commercial drivers moving goods between Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and the European Union.

[Read more](#)

### **16 December 2020: Visiting the UK from 1 January 2021**

What you need to know about crossing the UK border and visiting the UK from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

### **16 December 2020: Visit Europe from 1 January 2021**

Travel to the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein will change from 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

To find out information on more "Brexit transition: time is running out" topics, you can visit

<https://www.gov.uk/transition>

## **BCC NEWS & UPDATES**

### **12 November 2020: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) portal live**

According to the announcement of a five-month extension of the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) until 31 March 2021, employers can now make claims for the scheme. The extended CJRS will operate as the previous scheme did. An employer can make their claim in anticipation of an imminent payroll run, at the point they run their payroll or after they have run their payroll.

Further guidance on eligibility and accessing the scheme can be found on the BCC's [Coronavirus Hub](#).

## 12 November 2020: Bounce Back Loan Scheme top-ups open for eligible businesses



### Bounce Back Loan top-ups

- Available only from a borrower's existing Bounce Back Loan Scheme lender
- A borrower can apply to top up their existing Bounce Back Loan to the maximum value of £50k or 25% of original certified annual turnover (whichever is lower)

#BounceBackLoans

Businesses can now 'top-up' their existing [Bounce Back Loans](#) if they previously borrowed less than 25% of their turnover.

Further information and support can be found on the [UK government support measures](#) section of BCC Coronavirus Hub.

## 12 November 2020: UK government extends £1 million tax break

[A £1 million tax break to stimulate investment in UK manufacturing](#), to support business confidence, is to be extended, HM Treasury has announced. Businesses, including manufacturing firms, can continue to claim up to £1 million in same-year tax relief through the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) for capital investments in plant and machinery assets until 1 January 2022. The extension of the temporary £1 million cap was originally due to revert to £200,000 on 1 January 2021.

This was a long-standing policy ask for the BCC and is an important win for the Chamber Network.

## 12 November 2020: Trader Support Service (TSS): Act now

As you will already be aware, there is less than one month left to get ready for new rules around moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland that take effect from 1 January 2021. The [Trader Support Service](#) is a free online information service which may be a useful support for traders across the UK who supply or buy from Northern Ireland. See more information and [register here](#).

## 19 November 2020: BCC responds to government's net zero plan

See the latest release commenting on the [UK government's net zero plan](#) to tackle climate change.

## 19 November 2020: What is the Global Business Network?

There has never been a more important time to be a part of your local Chamber of Commerce in the UK or British representative Chamber in your country. [Watch and share](#) the latest video from Anne-Marie Martin, BCC's Director of Global Business Networks as she discusses the importance of being involved in BCC Network at such a critical time.



### **26 November 2020: UK points-based Immigration System - Employer Partner Pack**

From 1 January 2021, free movement will end and the UK will introduce a [points-based immigration system](#). This updated [Employer Partner Pack](#) will support Chamber members with essential guidance about the new system including assets and materials to raise awareness and factsheets with the latest details on Frontier workers and Right to work checks.

### **3 December 2020: Changes to hiring skilled workers from outside the UK**

From 1 December, employers can hire skilled workers from outside the UK using the [new points-based immigration system](#). Employers will need to apply to become a [Home Office licensed sponsor](#).

Responding to these changes, BCC Head of People Policy Jane Gratton said: "*While a faster and simpler route for accessing skilled workers from outside the UK is helpful for employers, the new immigration system brings additional costs, restrictions and bureaucracy for businesses who are unable to recruit from their local labour market.*" Read more [here](#).

Applicants can now apply under the new [Skilled Worker route](#). You may find further guidance and resources [here](#)

### **3 December 2020 | Find a Tender: the new system to advertise public sector contracts**

From 1 January, find a Tender will be the **new UK-wide system used to advertise UK public sector contracts**, replacing the EU's TED system. The guidelines for businesses can be found [here](#) and the Procurement Policy Note is [here](#).

### **10 December 2020: End of Brexit Transition Period Checklist**



The BCC has created an updated [End of Transition Period Checklist](#) to help chamber members consider the changes that the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 may bring. The checklist has been prepared in response to BCC research on business preparation, member queries and the information available from government.

### **16 December 2020: New BCC Trade Hub**

The BCC team launched a new online [Trade Hub](#) which hosts information, advice and insight including:

- **Trading from 2021**
- **Trade Support**
- **Trade Insights and Data**

In addition to existing content such as the [End of Transition Period Checklist and Unanswered Questions](#), the new Hub features trade support, Global Business Network resources and international research. This will be a constantly evolving resource, so stay tuned for updates.

## DEVELOPMENTS ON BREXIT FROM EU & GREEK AUTHORITIES

### 17 December 2020 | EU-UK relations: Parliament approves temporary rules to keep Eurotunnel working

MEPs adopted temporary measures to keep the tunnel railway connection between continental Europe and the UK running after the end of the transition period.

[Read more](#)

### 15 December 2020 | Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Information on trade and exchange procedures and conditions between the UK and the EU revised upon every new change

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

For more information on Brexit developments please visit <https://www.gov.uk/transition>, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership_en) and <https://brexit.gov.gr/>

Interesting topics can be also found [here](#) and [here](#).

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming the new Members, who have joined the Chamber in December 2020:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>ALEXIOU KOSMOPOULOS LAW FIRM</u></b><br/>Legal Services</li><li>• <b><u>ATHENS CAPITAL CENTER HOTEL – MGallery Hotel Collection</u></b><br/>Hospitality, Catering and Accommodation<br/>Insurance/Reinsurance</li><li>• <b><u>EVANGELOS MANOUDAKIS</u></b><br/>Consumer Goods and Services   E-Commerce</li><li>• <b><u>GEORGE SAVOULIDES</u></b><br/>Health, Medical and Social Care</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>INTERTRANS OE</u></b><br/>Translation and Language Services</li><li>• <b><u>IVG PELARGOS IKE</u></b><br/>Health, Medical and Social Care</li><li>• <b><u>KIM HEDLEY - ENGLISH CENTRE</u></b><br/>Translation and Language Services</li><li>• <b><u>LAW OFFICE D.D. PAPANASTASSIOU &amp; PARTNERS</u></b><br/>Legal Services</li><li>• <b><u>SOLUM PROPERTY SOLUTIONS</u></b><br/>Real Estate, Construction and Maintenance Services</li></ul> |
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## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information and publication of articles, reports, press releases and/or interviews, please contact Mrs Lina Dede, BHCC General Manager

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