



3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition

## UK AND GREECE AGREE CLOSER COLLABORATION, OCTOBER 2021

**25 October 2021**

### **UK and Greece agree closer collaboration**

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss signed the UK-Greece Strategic Bilateral Framework with Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias.



The UK-Greece Strategic Bilateral Framework will build on the strong existing relationship between the UK and Greece. The 2 countries are committed to working together to promote stability and security as NATO allies, and to enhance Europe's resilience in the face of security threats from malign actors.

[Read more](#)

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias' statement to Greek journalists, following his meeting with his British counterpart, Elizabeth Truss**

I met this morning with the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms Truss. We had an extensive discussion on issues related to defence but also beyond that, on the situation in the Balkans, as well as on investment and education issues, more generally on the overall scope of Greek-British relations; especially in view of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' visit to the United Kingdom in mid-November. I would like to say that the discussions were extremely important. We were also able to look at the problems we face on the Cyprus issue, problems in the Eastern Mediterranean, and problems related to the implementation of the Law of the Sea. We had the opportunity to sign a Greek-British Agreement that covers all fields, defence, trade, educational relations, anything that can be conceived to be of interest to both countries.

[Read more](#)

### EVENTS / INITIATIVES

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



The official, well-established "Back-to-Business" Dinner organized for one more year by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, was held with great success on October 18, 2021.

The event took place at the Hotel Grande Bretagne with **Keynote Speaker the new British Ambassador to Greece, Mr Matthew Lodge**. It was an opportunity for the Chamber and its Members to welcome the new British Ambassador, with the commitment that the British

Hellenic Chamber of Commerce will continue to work closely and constructively with the British Embassy and the governments of both countries, to further strengthen the bilateral business relations.

Representatives of the country's political leadership, high-ranking executives of the most important Greek and multinational companies and Members of the BHCC were among the distinguished guests of the evening and in a very pleasant atmosphere exchanged views and met the new British Ambassador.

**Minister of Development and Investments, Mr Adonis Georgiadis** joined the event as a Guest of Honour.

[Read more](#)

## BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

### ADUS | EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO BHCC

#### Panagiotis Loukeris, CEO | ADUS



#### 1. Κύριε [Λουκέρη](#), πόσα χρόνια είναι η εταιρεία σας στην αγορά και ποια η εξειδίκευση των υπηρεσιών σας;

Η [Adus](#), είναι πάνω από δέκα χρόνια στην αγορά και εξειδικεύεται σε υπηρεσίες merchandizing, πωλήσεων και παραγγελιοληψίας σε όλα τα σουπερμάρκετ της χώρας.

Έχουμε δημιουργήσει ένα εξειδικευμένο τμήμα πωλήσεων, μέσω του οποίου προσφέρουμε όλες αυτές τις υπηρεσίες outsource σε εταιρείες, οι οποίες είτε έχουν τμήμα πωλήσεων και θέλουν να το δυναμώσουν ή δεν έχουν τμήμα πωλήσεων και χρησιμοποιούν τις υπηρεσίες της εταιρείας μας.

[Read more](#)



### Δωρεά 1 εκατομμυρίου ευρώ της Coca-Cola Τρία Έψιλον για αποκατάσταση των πυρόπληκτων περιοχών της Αττικής

Η εταιρεία θα αναλάβει ως Ανάδοχος Αποκατάστασης και Αναδάσωσης την κατασκευή επειγόντων αντιδιαβρωτικών - αντιπλημμυρικών έργων στις καμένες εκτάσεις στην περιοχή της Βαρυπόμης Αττικής, επιτρέποντας την αντιπλημμυρική θωράκιση και αποκατάσταση της περιοχής.

[Read more](#)

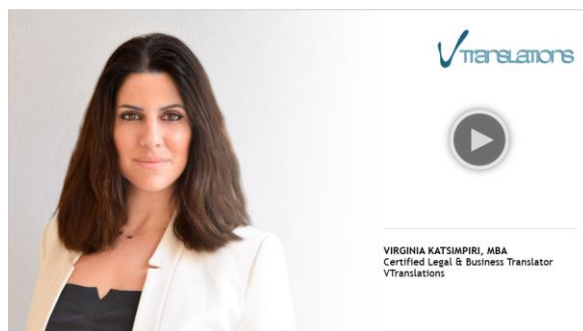
### ICAEW seeks the best and brightest students in Greece to show what it takes to be future business leaders

World-leading international professional body, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), has launched a national competition to identify 100 of the top university students in Greece.

[Read more](#)

In this video [Virginia Katsimpiri](#), certified translator and owner of [vtranslations.gr](#) & [vmentoring.com](#) talks about the challenges of the health crisis faced by the translation industry, remote working and global trends in translation and technology, as well as the first comprehensive business [mentoring program](#) for translators.

VTranslations | Certified Business Translation Specialists is a high-quality translation company founded in 2011 with a view to providing reliable integrated language services.



### INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBER

Welcoming our new Member, who has joined the Chamber within October 2021:

- BAHAS, GRAMATIDIS & PARTNERS, <https://www.bahagram.com/>

**21 October 2021**

The new Investment Atlas covering all UK nations and regions and many sectors, published by DIT can be found [here](#)

**01 October 2021**

**Trade remedies notice: safeguard measures on certain steel products – application of tariff rate quotas**

[Read more](#)

**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](#)

## BREXIT NEWS & UPDATES

### UK GOVERNMENT - BREXIT UPDATES

**25 October 2021**

**Brexit: guidance for businesses.**

[Read more](#)

**22 October 2021**

#### **Student finance eligibility**

Information on who is eligible for undergraduate, postgraduate and further education financial support from Student Finance England.

[Read more](#)

**19 October 2021**

**Consultation on engagement with business and civil society groups**

[Read more](#)

**04 October 2021**

#### **Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen**

What you need to know about crossing the UK border and visiting the UK.

[Read more](#)

## **Common Travel Area: rights of UK and Irish citizens**

Information for UK and Irish citizens on their rights under the Common Travel Area arrangements (CTA).

[Read more](#)

**01 October 2021**

## **Intellectual property after 1 January 2021**

Key information for customers and users of IP about how the IP system and the Intellectual Property Office will operate after the end of the transition period.

[Read more](#)

**21 September 2021**

## **Brexit: guidance for individuals and families**

[Read more](#)

## **Citizens' Rights Specialised Committee meeting, 16 September 2021: joint statement**

The UK government and European Commission gave a joint statement following the eighth meeting of the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights.

[Read more](#)

**20 September 2021**

## **EU e-commerce package**

Find out about the EU's e-commerce package that affects businesses or online marketplaces selling or supplying goods.

[Read more](#)

**For more information on Brexit developments please visit <https://www.gov.uk/transition>, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom\\_en](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**

**20 October 2021**

## **The UK's points-based immigration system: an introduction for employers**

Under the points-based immigration system, with the exception of Irish citizens, anyone coming to the UK for work must meet a specific set of requirements for which they will score points. Visas are then awarded to those who gain enough points.

This system provides flexible arrangements for UK employers to recruit skilled workers from around the world through a number of different immigration routes.

[Read more](#)

**12 October 2021**

### **New capital raising review to boost UK companies and markets**

A new review to boost companies listed on UK stock markets by giving them more options when raising capital has been launched.

[Read more](#)

**07 October 2021**

### **UNCTAD15: UK statement during the general debate**

Amanda Milling, FCDO Minister of State, delivered the UK statement during the general debate at the fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD15).

[Read more](#)

### **Quarter of million left furlough in August as redundancies hit seven-year low**

More than a quarter of a million workers left the furlough scheme in August – an 85% reduction since its peak, according to new statistics published today.

[Read more](#)

### **Recruit a poultry worker or HGV food driver with a temporary visa**

How to apply to the temporary visa scheme for poultry workers and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers to transport food.

[Read more](#)

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

**28 October 2021**

### **2021 Autumn Budget - BCC reaction and resources**



The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP delivered the [Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review \(CSR\) 2021](#). In response, the BCC policy team prepared resources to support the Chambers and their members, which include:

- [Economic summary: CSR and Autumn Budget 2021](#)
- [Policy grid: CSR and Autumn Budget 2021](#)
- [BCC press release on Autumn Budget 2021](#)

### **BCC Trade Update**



In last week's Cabinet Office meeting with the Paymaster-General Michael Ellis on consumer goods for UK-EU trade, BCC raised issues including:

- the situation from 1 January 2022 when easements on proof of origin certification expire;
- cross-border VAT, and
- the future of CE marked goods, parts and components in the GB market

The latest version of the Border Operating Model (with details on inbound GB controls) is due for release in a fortnight.



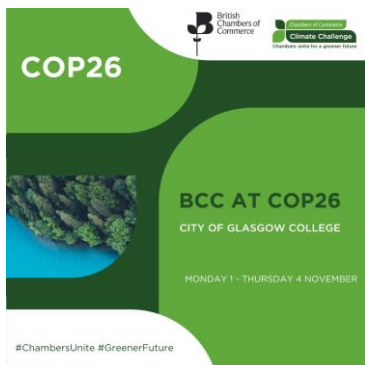
DIT has been awarded £45 million funding in the Chancellor's [Spending Review](#) to extend the scope of its EU-focused Export Support Service to cover all export markets.



Further progress is being made on implementing the deal on [domestic regulation in trade in services](#) by more than 60 countries at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ahead of the Ministerial Conference at the end of November. States have begun to make the changes to their services schedules in Geneva, giving effect to the deal which cuts red tape on services exports.

## 21 October 2021

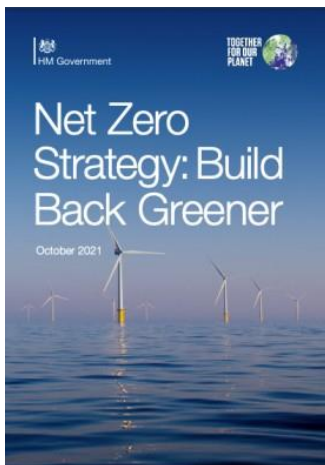
### Find out more about COP26 and what BCC will be doing there



Ahead of [#COP26](#) this November, we are likely to see more commitments that impact the operating landscape of businesses both in the UK and globally, with regulations and capital increasingly focused on escalating the transition to net zero.

Read the full blog [here](#), urging businesses to act now. [The blog and accompanying video](#) give more information about COP26, the impact on businesses and useful resources to help on the road to net zero.

Find out more about the BCC programme of events at COP26 [here](#).



### UK government's Net Zero Strategy launched

The UK government published their [Net Zero Strategy](#) and their [Heat and Buildings Strategy](#).

Building on the Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan, the Net Zero Strategy sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050; while the Heat and Building strategy includes £3.9 billion of new funding to decarbonise heat and buildings.

The UK government has also published the [Net Zero Review](#), an analytical report that explores the key issues as the UK decarbonises.

Take a look at BCC's response to the announcements [here](#).

## BCC Trade Update



### UK - NZ Free Trade Agreement

The [UK and New Zealand](#) Prime Ministers reached an [Agreement in Principle \(AIP\)](#) on a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries. The AIP must now be negotiated into a treaty, which could take several months. The final FTA is expected to:

- lower tariffs on agri-food and motor vehicle exports;
- establish a new skilled labour mobility scheme with recognition of professional qualifications;
- create new rules to stimulate green trade; and
- have an ambitious digital trade chapter.

Read the [Ten key benefits of the Agreement](#) compiled by the Department of International Trade (DIT). BCC released [comments](#) welcoming the AIP and are seeking engagement from both sides on the draft legal text.



### **Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland**

Negotiations between the UK and EU began in Brussels this week on compliance with the Protocol. They are expected to last several weeks. The European Commission released [policy proposals to cut NI border controls and checks](#)



### **Global Investment Summit**

The UK government hosted a Global Investment Summit in London and Windsor. The UK Prime Minister unveiled a [ten point plan on green investment](#) and [announced nearly £10bn in new inward investment projects](#) focused on environmental goods and services. DIT also published a new [Investment Atlas](#) covering all UK nations and regions and many sectors.



### **BEIS Select Committee**

BCC's William Bain took part in an [evidence session on Supply Chains at the BEIS Select Committee](#), raising issues such as shipping costs and availability of steel and granite imports as well as other key points from the BCC Quarterly Economic Survey. The BCC wrote with MakeUK to the Competition and Markets Authority on a potential enquiry on anti-competitive practices in global shipping markets affecting UK companies.



Intensive discussions between the UK government and the European Commission will begin over the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. The Cabinet Office Minister, Lord Frost CMG gave a [speech in Lisbon](#) on Tuesday seeking the replacement of the Protocol. On Wednesday, the Commission published four papers on customs, agri-food, medicines and governance on the arrangements between GB and NI, seeking to reduce checks on customs and goods movements. We will be seeking engagement with both the UK government and the Commission given the importance of this issue in NI and also in relation to the entire UK-EU trading relationship and terms. Further briefings to follow.



The [latest ONS UK trade data](#) was published on 13 October. While there was a modest rise in UK goods exports to the EU in the three months to August compared with the three months to May, exports are around £2 billion less this August, than in August 2018. Read [our comments](#) on the data. The ONS has also published the [regional trade in goods data](#) for Q2 2021 with a new methodology. Click [here](#) to find out more.



The Department for International Trade (DIT) has [launched a consultation](#) on a prospective trade deal with the [Gulf Co-operation Council](#) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE). Responses are welcome, until Friday 14 January, here to the [following questions](#).



The BCC took part in a discussion with the Cabinet Office last week chaired by Michael Ellis, the new Paymaster General. There was a packed agenda around mutual recognition of professional qualifications, services access, business travel and short term visas in the EU. Legal services, financial services, architecture, auditing & accountancy were discussed.



As discussions on [trade and fossil fuel subsidies](#) in Geneva move quickly towards the WTO 12th Ministerial Council, G20 Trade Ministers reached [an accord](#) on WTO reform, health, trade in services and sustainability at the summit in Sorrento this week.



DIT also announced [further details and speakers](#) for its Global Investment Summit on Tuesday 19 October in London and Windsor.



## The UK's National Security and Investment Act 2021

The UK government has made a significant upgrade to investment screening. The National Security and Investment Act ensures predictability and transparency, while addressing any risks to national security. The new system will come into force on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Headline points to note:

- Bringing in a new investment screening system ensures the UK appropriately protects and supports a modern economy. It is not a signal that the UK is reducing its appetite for foreign investment.
- All sectors are within scope of being assessed under the Act and some acquisitions of entities that carry out particularly sensitive work in 17 areas of the economy, such as civil nuclear and defence, will have to notify and receive approval from the government before completing their acquisition.
- The majority of investments raise no national security concerns and will be unaffected by these new powers.

Businesses and investors are urged to get ready for the changes by reading the [published guidance](#) to ensure a smooth transition to the new rules.



### Emergency Exit: Preventing a talent drain in the UK workforce

Westfield Health, the provider of the Chamber Primary Health Plan, has published a report this week called *'Emergency Exit: Preventing a talent drain in the UK workforce.'*

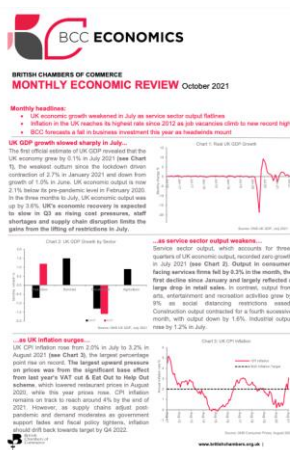
[The report](#) is based on their survey of 1,500 people which examines the reasons why so many people are considering changing jobs, attitudes to mental health and what employers could do to stop employees leaving.

Key findings:

- **16 million** workers plan to change jobs in the next 6 months;
- **83%** would stay if their employer made some changes;
- **59%** say mental health is driving them to change jobs; and
- **51%** say they're less than a month away from burnout.

## 07 October 2021

### BCC Monthly Economic Review – October 2021



The BCC published October's [Monthly Economic Review](#). This briefing is an analysis of the key domestic and international economic indicators for business. This month's headlines:

- **UK economic growth weakened in July as service sector output flatlines.**
- **Inflation in the UK reaches its highest rate since 2012 as job vacancies climb to a new record high.**
- **BCC forecasts a fall in business investment this year as headwinds mount.**

For ease of use a [PDF version](#) and a [Word version](#) are included.

## BCC Trade Update



### **Export Support Service**

The [Export Support Service](#) is seeking to help navigate existing forms of information and provide businesses with the guidance needed in terms of exports to European markets. The new Service has four parts including:

- Helpline
- Digital chat function
- Export Policy hub
- European Market Access Hub



### **Northern Ireland Protocol**

An intervention is expected from the European Commission in relation to the ongoing negotiations with the UK on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland. Read BCC's [comments here](#) on Lord Frost's speech on the Protocol at the Conservative Party Conference.



### **Cross-border VAT on imports and exports with the EU**

The UK Cabinet Office is looking to follow up some of BCC's specific points and problems with cross-border VAT on imports and exports with the EU.



### **Trade remedies notice of safeguard measures on certain steel products**

DIT published [revised public notices](#) on the operation of the tariff rate quotas on steel and their safeguard measures

**NATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMISSION**

Better infrastructure for all

### **Infrastructure, Towns and Regeneration**

The National Infrastructure Commission has published a report on Infrastructure, Towns and Regeneration.

Commissioned by HM Treasury in advance of the Spending Review, [the report](#) looks at investment in transport and digital.



## BECOME A MEMBER

If you wish to become a BHCC Member, please [click here](#).

## 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](mailto:info@bhcc.gr) if you have any queries about this Newsletter or its content.

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