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BREXIT, the EU and the Black Country

Information and Services for
Businesses and Citizens

Introduction

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) electorate voted to leave the European Union (EU). Much has happened over the intervening three years including the triggering of Article 50 to begin the withdrawal process, a UK General Election, Elections to the European Parliament and the negotiation of a Withdrawal Agreement. Over this period, the date for the UK's departure from the EU has been extended twice; with the departure date now set for the 31 October 2019.

For individuals and businesses, we know that there is a need for certainty in order to adequately prepare for what is termed an 'orderly Brexit' or a 'no deal Brexit' (the two ends of the scale used to describe how the UK could leave the EU).

As the Europe Direct Information Centre for the Black Country, we provide free access to information and services designed to answer questions you might have around the EU or how Brexit might affect you.

About Us

The Europe Direct Information Centre for the Black Country is funded by the European Commission. EDIC Black Country is managed by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce and works across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Get in Touch

europedirect@blackcountrychamber.co.uk
01902 912 336
blackcountrychamber.co.uk/edic



How We Can Help

- ★ Europe Direct Information Centres are a network of signposting organisations located throughout the EU
- ★ We engage with businesses and the general public on issues relating to the EU, its institutions and its work
- ★ The Centre regularly tours publicly-accessible venues across the Black Country – contact us to find out when we'll be in your town or city
- ★ We will have a presence at a number of free-to-attend Black Country Chamber events over the 2019 where businesses and employees can speak to us and hear more about our work
- ★ Advice to EU nationals on travelling, living, studying and working in Europe
- ★ Information on how EU decisions affect individuals
- ★ We can provide detailed facts and figures relating to the EU

The Black Country's Future Trading Relationship with the EU

In 2015, the percentage of Black Country exports that went to the EU was 60%, with Germany the region's largest export market (12% of total exports). The Republic of Ireland and the USA were joint second respectively (at 9%). Out of the region's top ten export destinations, eight of them are in the EU. As a region with strong manufacturing, engineering and automotive sectors, the Black Country exports more than the national average (43%) to the EU.

As a result, it is imperative that Black Country businesses and EU nationals working in the region have access to the latest information. As an EDIC, we are committed to providing timely information on changes to future trading relationships and UK immigration policy as the UK negotiates its withdrawal from the EU.

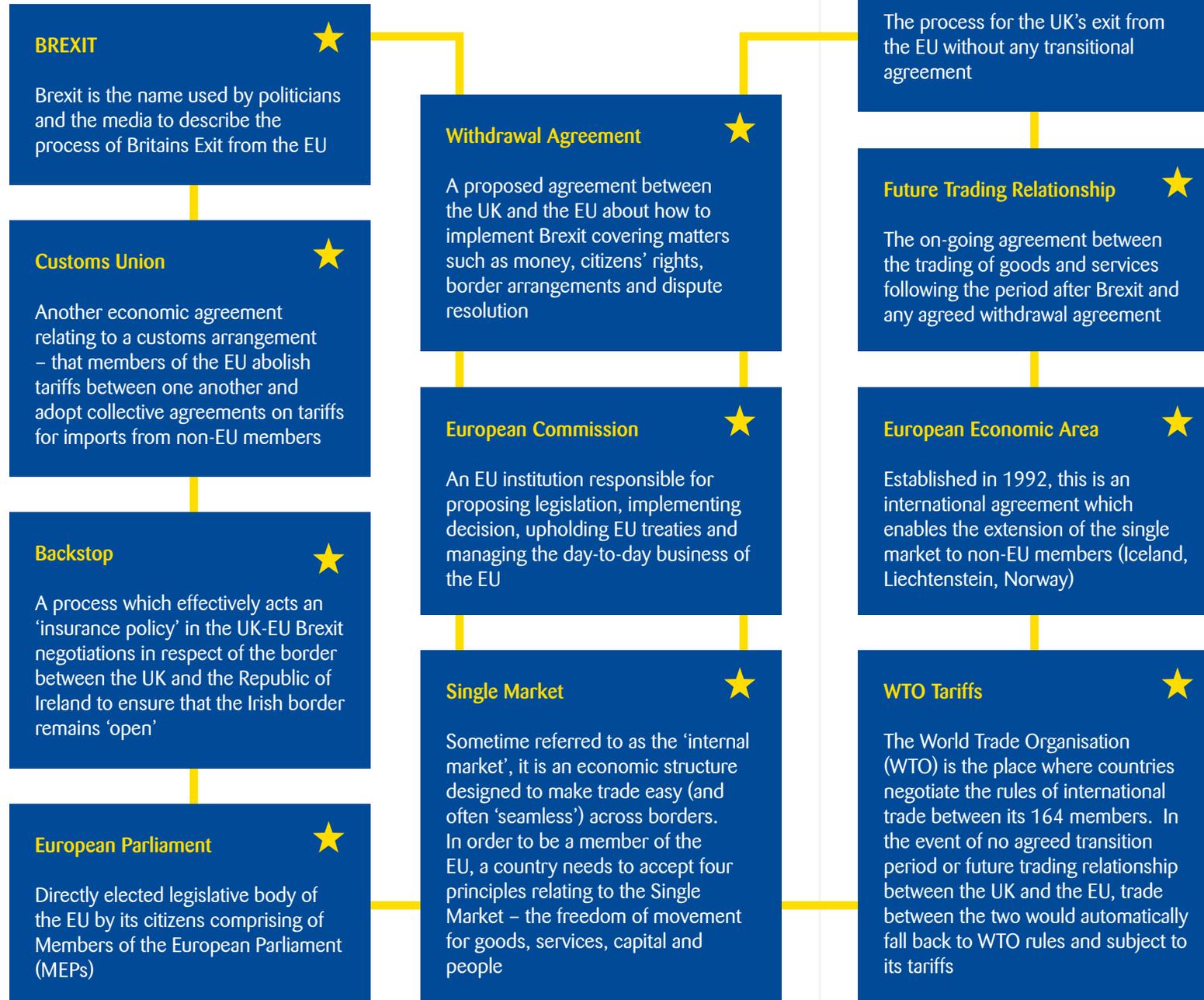


In the build-up to and the period following the 2016 Referendum, our members and the wider business community within the region have always sought one thing – clarity. Clarity enables businesses to prepare for what comes next and those EU nationals employed by local firms and organisations to make informed choices and decisions. As the organisation running the Europe Direct Information Centre for the Black Country, we will continue to push for clarity and ensure that those who contact us have access to the most relevant and up-to-date information.



Corin Crane
CEO, Black Country Chamber of Commerce

Baffled by Brexit? Unsure of who does what at an EU level? We have pulled together this handy guide to clearly explain some of the terms and themes which matter to EU nationals and businesses who trade with Europe.



Brexit and EU workers’ rights in the UK

As a member of the EU, the UK has agreed to the Freedom of Movement of people which enables EU nationals (and those in the EEA) to: find a job in another EU state without the need for a work permit, reside in a state for the purpose of employment, stay in a state following the conclusion of any employment and enjoy equal access to an individual state’s services around accessing employment, working conditions, social and tax advantages.

When the UK exits the EU, Freedom of Movement is set to cease.

As part of the Withdrawal Agreement (which is yet to be ratified by both the UK national parliament and the other 27 members of the EU), the UK government have claimed that there will be no change to the status or rights of any EU nationals who arrived in the UK before the 2016 Referendum vote.

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What Else Do I Need to Know?

Brexit - Planning for all eventualities

In March 2018, the British Chambers of Commerce released a Business Brexit checklist (which is kept up-to-date) and enables organisations to assess what the impact of Brexit could be on their business and their workforce. The Checklist is available on blackcountrychamber.co.uk

A range of other tools and information is available on the same website and from the Europe Direct Information Centre.

Brexit - What Happens Next?

At the time of printing, the Withdrawal Agreement between the UK and the EU has yet to be ratified and, UK law, stipulates that the UK is set to exit the EU on 31 October 2019.

As the Black Country's Europe Direct Information Centre, make sure that you sign-up to the our newsletter to receive the latest updates.

Useful Links and Information

Settled Status

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. If your application is successful, you'll get either settled or pre-settled status. Visit www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus

European Union

The official website of the EU contains a range of information about EU law, working and living in the EU as well as documents and publications. europa.eu

European Commission

The official website of the European Commission features information and material. ec.europa.eu

Black Country Chamber of Commerce

Links, checklists and information relating to Brexit and what Businesses can do to prepare www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk/national-representation/brexit/

Preparing for EU Exit

Information from HM Government on what leaving the EU means for businesses, organisations and individuals. euexit.campaign.gov.uk

British Chambers of Commerce

Information portal helping businesses plan for Brexit www.britishchambers.org.uk/page/brexit-hub

We're Here to Help

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Want to Know More? We Can Help!

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