

Brexit transition non-extension: European Chambers call for urgent progress in negotiations

As the deadline for an extension of the Brexit transition period lapses today, EUROCHAMBRES calls on both parties to focus on the economy and ensure swift and substantive progress towards an outcome that corresponds with the ambition business needs and which respects and delivers on commitments already agreed.

EUROCHAMBRES President, Christoph Leidl, argued that the narrow timeframe must prove a catalyst for more constructive EU-UK discussions. “Now the countdown really begins. Confirmation that the transition period will end on 31 December should focus minds on both sides of the Channel. Economic considerations must no longer come second to political considerations and opportunism. A deal must be pursued that is in line with economic needs and that lives up to and respects the depth of EU-UK commercial relations”, said Leidl.

Businesses across Europe are reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and will be dealing with its legacy for years. This must prompt both the UK and the EU to limit additional economic damage and risks. “An economically disorderly Brexit during a global pandemic should be a non-starter. Although the scope for a deal is narrowing by the day, the negotiators must strive to reach one for the good of EU and the UK’s economic recovery” added President Leidl.

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