

EURIS update Wc. 24th Feb 2020

Next EURIS Members Meetings

- **Thursday 12th March 1000 – 1430** members meeting at Rotherwick House (BEAMA/GAMBICA office).
- **Monday 27th April 1000 – 1430** members meeting at Rotherwick House (BEAMA/GAMBICA office).
- **Monday 22nd June 1000 – 1430** members meeting at Rotherwick House (BEAMA/GAMBICA office).

Government Reshuffle

- Further to the recent Government reshuffle and the appointment of the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP as the new Secretary of State for BEIS, EURIS has written to Mr Sharma. The letter was an opportunity to introduce the association and highlight that we would like to work with Government in the development of any FTA, in particular covering specific goods related clauses.

Industrial Strategy Council Annual Report

- Last week the Industrial Strategy Council [published its first Annual Report](#) setting out its evaluation of the UK's Industrial Strategy.
- The council said the strategy's framing around four "grand challenges" — artificial intelligence, clean growth, ageing societies and the future of mobility — was an effective approach. But it said there had been little progress on plans to meet these challenges, and even less in acting on them — highlighting, in particular, the insufficient progress made towards achieving the 2050 net zero target for carbon emissions. It also called for reform of the apprenticeship system and said much more funding would be needed for further education, with recent initiatives on skills likely to "fall well short of the scale necessary".

Points based immigration system

- Last week the Government announced a [new points-based immigration system](#). The new Points-Based Immigration System will award points for specific skills, professions, salaries or qualifications/attributes, and visas will be awarded to those who gain sufficient points.
- The new single global system will treat EU and non-EU citizens equally, giving top priority to those with the highest skills and the greatest talents, including scientists, innovators and academics. The minimum general salary threshold will be reduced to £25,600, down from the previously proposed £30,000. The new system takes effect from 1 January 2021.

UK Tariff arrangements

- Just a reminder about the Government's consultation on proposed UK tariff arrangements from 01 January 2021. This is intended to apply to EU trade only if we have a no-deal scenario at the end of 2020 and will not apply where the UK has a new or rolled-over FTA in place with any other country. Broadly speaking, in contrast to previous government plans, the plan is to apply the WTO MFN tariff to imports but there will be substantial exceptions that will mean for many products in our industry sector tariffs will be removed entirely.
- Please could all EURIS Trade Association members complete the consultation here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-uk-global-tariff> and if you could either send a copy of your response to me or send comments separately to inform a collective EURIS response too, that would be really helpful. The consultation closes on 5th March 2020 - so if you could send any comments/responses ideally by Tuesday 25th February so there is time to create a collective response that would be ideal.

Brexit today

- EU officials will continue to discuss their approach to trade talks with Britain today before the final mandate is signed off by EU27 ministers in Brussels tomorrow. The FT reports, “Diplomats said the main outstanding issue ... was the regulatory demands the bloc will attach to a tariff-free, quota-free trade deal with Britain”.