

Dear EURIS member

Please find the weekly update below:

### **Next EURIS Members Meeting**

The next EURIS Members Meeting is on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 11am – 3pm at the BEAMA/GAMBICA offices, Rotherwick House, 3 Thomas More St, London, E1W 1YZ .

### **Engagement with BEIS – Rules of Origin**

- On the back of Howard Porter's recent phonecall with the Minister for Business and Industry (Richard Harrington) on Rules of Origin, Howard, Steve Brambley and Andrew Willman had a meeting with senior BEIS officials to discuss how EURIS can best advise the Government on Rules of Origin as part of a future trade agreement with the EU.
- Further to this meeting, the Director of Europe Directorate at BEIS (Blake Bower) wrote to Howard reiterating the Government's request for EURIS's help on Rules of Origin. Our understanding is that this Rules of Origin project is an opportunity for EURIS to show what we can do and on the back of this we will be asked to feed into other areas.
- At the forthcoming members meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February we will spend an hour of the meeting discussing Rules of Origin with officials from Blake Bower's department and agree a way forward for EURIS to advise Government on this vital issue.
- Ahead of this meeting all EURIS trade association executives will be asked to feed into a Rules of Origin information spreadsheet which aims to capture topline EURIS Rules of Origin member information. I will be sending out this email shortly.

### **Engagement with DExEU**

- Receipt of EURIS' two recent letters to the Secretary of State for DExEU has been acknowledged by the department and a response will be forthcoming – although we have been warned this may take some time.

### **Update on the Implementation Period**

- The Government last week published a technical note on international agreements during the Implementation Period which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-note-on-international-agreements>
- EURIS issued a press release welcoming the publication of this note for providing greater clarity on the Government's intentions for this time-period whilst noting that EURIS supports the continuation of all aspects of our current relationships as part of the European Union during the Implementation Period.

### **Wider Political Engagement – Parliamentary Questions**

- The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP has tabled two Parliamentary Questions on Notified Bodies for EURIS to ask for clarity around this issue. The answer to the first question was shared in last week's update and the answer to the second question has now been answered and can be found below. Lord Kinnoull, a member of the House of Lords EU Select Committee has also tabled some Parliamentary Questions for EURIS and the answers to these can be found below too. None of the Government's answers are particularly revealing – they just reiterate the Government's published position on these issues – but having Parliamentary Questions tabled on particular issues is a good way of putting pressure on the Government by making them aware that industry is particularly interested in these areas.
- ***Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with reference to the paper entitled Withdrawal of the United Kingdom and EU Rules in the Field of Industrial***

*Products, published by the EU Commission on 22 January 2018, what discussions he has had during negotiations on whether UK notified bodies will lose their status in March 2019 or after the completion of the proposed implementation period.*

- **Mr Robin Walker:** We are working closely with Member States and our partners in the EU institutions to negotiate the best deal for the UK and the EU. As set out in the Government's August 2017 position paper 'Continuity in the availability of goods for the EU and the UK', we want compliance activity, including conformity assessments from notified bodies, carried out prior to exit to be recognised in both the UK and the EU to support a smooth exit and the move to a deep and special future relationship. We have been engaging extensively with the EU on these matters.
- We welcome the EU's agreement to negotiate an implementation period, as set out in the Council guidelines published on 15 December. We have been clear that this should be based on the existing structure of EU rules and regulations, during which the UK and the EU would continue to have access to one another's markets on current terms. We will continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders, including notified bodies.
- **Lord Kinnoull: 1)** *To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their Brexit negotiating strategy, they are seeking to ensure that during the transition period following the UK's withdrawal from the EU all current trading terms will continue to apply for UK business trading with the EU27; and whether they intend to offer such reciprocal obligations on the UK as would be required to enable this to happen.*
- **Lord Callanan:** We have proposed an implementation period, based on the existing structure of EU rules and regulations. During this period the UK's and the EU's access to each other's markets will continue on current terms. It is in the interests of both the UK and the EU to agree the terms of this period as quickly as possible, in order to provide vital certainty to businesses and citizens. We are confident that there is broad agreement between the UK and EU positions on the implementation period, and that we will come to an agreement by March.
- **Lord Kinnoull: 2)** *To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, as part of their Brexit negotiating strategy, they intend UK products to be treated, during the transition period, as EU content for the purposes of (1) EU regulatory structures, and (2) trade agreements held by the EU with other countries.*
- **Lord Callanan:** The EU and UK have both said that EU rules and regulations should continue to apply during the implementation period. During this strictly time-limited implementation period, the UK and the EU would continue to have access to one another's markets on current terms, and the UK would take part in existing security measures.
- In the Implementation Period, the UK will take steps to pave the way for the UK's independent trade policy after we exit. As such, we will be able to negotiate our own free trade agreements, although we would not bring them into effect until after the implementation period has concluded.
- The government is committed to seeking continuity during the Implementation Period in its current trade and investment relationships, including those covered by EU Free Trade Agreements or other EU preferential arrangements.
- **Lord Kinnoull: 3)** *To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to convene a meeting with representatives from the industrial product supply sector to address concerns relating to uncertainty over the proposed transition period after the UK leaves the EU, in particular (1) how long that transition period will last, and (2) the parameters of rights and regulations that will apply during that period.*
- **Lord Henley:** In the last year Ministers and officials have met over 2000 stakeholder organisations, including over 600 businesses at a series of stakeholder events. After the last General Election, we set up a business advisory group with an EU Exit focus that's attended by senior Government ministers, to give higher priority to companies' concerns in the EU exit

negotiations. We want to agree the terms of a time-limited implementation period as soon as possible - giving businesses across the UK certainty.

Best wishes

Harriet

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