

BREXIT AND BEYOND

Political and Business implications



On Tuesday 27 of September 2016, the British Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania hosted a half day conference themed "Brexit and Beyond", to discuss the political and business implications of Britain's exit from the EU. Claire Lawrence, the British Ambassador to Lithuania joined Raimundas Karoblis, Lithuania's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs in delivering two key note addresses.

In her remarks, Ms Lawrence, reiterated the British government's position on Brexit and the timing for triggering Article 50. The ambassador was clear that the United Kingdom is leaving the EU not Europe. Indeed, she pointed out that the UK has committed spending of 2% of GDP on defence, which has yet to be implemented by many other European nations. She noted that the deployment of troops in Estonia through its Framework Nation role as part of the NATO support to the Baltic States, is testament to the UK's commitment to Europe.

Lithuania's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Raimundas Karoblis, in his remarks, maintained that there was still some uncertainty about the nature of the relationship between the UK and the EU post-Brexit, and that some important questions required urgent answers, including the status of EU citizens already resident in the UK, and the social impact of Brexit on pensions and benefits, and the health service and its availability to non UK citizens.

A panel discussion, which included Olga Jachimovič – who leads Adams & Moore's Baltic practice, followed the key note speeches and developed on the themes presented by the two diplomats. Against this backdrop of uncertainty, there are real opportunities for trade and enterprise collaboration between Lithuania and the UK. "Whatever the outcome of the negotiations, the UK will still be a reliable and trusted business partner" said Olga Jachimovič of Adams & Moore.

Read more: <http://en.delfi.lt/eu/brexit-and-beyond.d?id=72429138>

UK Trade & Investment: www.ukti.gov.uk

British Chamber of Commerce in Lithuania: www.bccl.lt