



NEWSLETTER

23 October 2020, 4th Edition

BHCC EVENTS & INITIATIVES

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT

22 October 2020: BRITISH HELLENIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce would like to inform you that the current year's General Assembly and Board Elections will be digitally conducted on Tuesday, 24 November 2020.

The official Invitation will be sent in detail, shortly.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Since July 2020, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce co-organised and supported some interesting events and seminars focused on trade, business and financial developments.

- **Digital Event on Organic Products - BHCC & Reco Exports**

The event was co – organized by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Reco Exports, an Export Development & Corporate Event Management Company with extensive experience in the international trade and exports.

The digital discussion titled **"The UK organic market: New Trends, Opportunities for Greek Organic Producers and the roadmap for export success in the UK market amidst COVID-19 and BREXIT"** which was held on **8 July 2020**, was an interesting input on the UK organic market that stood out for its useful guidelines to help the Greek organic producers export their goods successfully in the UK, amidst the COVID-19 and BREXIT era.

The Q & A session has proved to be a strong ally of the participants making them more familiar

with the UK market and allowing them to openly discuss all their export related concerns effectively.

- **Digital Event on MyData Platform - BHCC & AS Network**

The event was co – organized by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and AS Network Solutions, one of the largest networks of companies in Greece in the field of financial, accounting, audit, tax advisory and payroll services.

The digital webinar was held on **23 July 2020** and was a useful introduction to the recently presented MyDATA Platform, which all tax related parties should enter and learn to manage. Mr Stavros Petridisoglou, AS Tax Partner, who facilitated the discussion, laid particular stress on the necessity of training people – especially those in accounting positions – and how to use the platform as a handy digital base, automatizing the formerly time consuming process of invoice cross checking among companies and organisations. Every participant had their chance to submit their queries during the Q&A time given at the end of the webinar.

- **BHCC Support to "The Future of Retail: A Leader's Executive Dinner" with Lord Marc Price organised by Boussias Communications**

Lord Mark Price, honoured the virtual meeting as the Keynote Speaker, attracting the participants' undiminished interest to focus on the future of retail. Effective leadership and successful customer experience in retail were the key points raised and discussed during this highly successful digital event, an event supported by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and held on **15 September 2020**.

- **BHCC Support to "Green Economic Recovery in the age of COVID-19", a digital two-part event organised by the British Embassy, the ICAEW and WWF**

Can the response to COVID-19 accelerate a green economic transition and more ambitious climate targets? What has the experience of COVID-19 taught us about the environmental impact of our economies and how we can move forward? The British Embassy Athens collaborated with The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and WWF Greece to address the issue of sustainable responses to the global pandemic in a way that supports Greece in making full use of the EU fund, thereby combatting unemployment and poverty while opening up the economy to dynamic, innovative sectors. As a supporter, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce communicated the event and Ms Anna Kalliani, Greek President of the BHCC, delivered opening remarks. The event was organized in two parts on **16 and 23 September**.

- **BHCC Support to “The role of the CFO in business recovery”, a virtual panel discussion organised by the ICAEW**

A very interesting virtual panel discussion was held on **13 October 2020** which highlighted the role of CFOs in the post Covid-19 era. A panel consisted of CFOs from different countries brought together the challenges faced by CFOs. As a supporter to the event the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce communicated the event, which was organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

- **BHCC Support to the British Council `s Study UK Alumni Awards 2020**

For one more year, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce provided support to the British Council's Study UK Alumni Awards 2020, organised in a virtual meeting, on **14 October 2020**. The **Alumni Awards** celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni and showcase the impact and value of a UK higher education. Award winners and finalists are leaders in their fields who have used their experience of studying at a UK university to make a positive contribution to their communities, professions and countries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **BHCC Support to “Better Boards Sessions 23 & 30 October 2020” organised by Better Future in association with FT Board Development Programme**

The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce is granting support to two Web-Conference Sessions to be held within October. In association with the FT Board Director Programme, 'Better Future' has the pleasure to announce the **“Better Boards - Enhancing Performance in the Boardroom”** Web-Conference Session, on Friday, **23 October** at 09:00 and the **“Better Boards – Redefining the NED Role in the New Normal”** Web-Conference Session, on Friday, **30 October** at 09:00. Both Conferences will be hosted **at the British Residence in Athens** with a limited number of places for physical presence! For more information about the conferences' content please visit <http://www.betterfuture.gr/boardrooms-in-greece.html>.

EU EXIT

19 October 2020: Update on negotiations and the work of the Joint Committee

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has updated the House of Commons on negotiations with the European Union and the work of the UK-EU Joint Committee.

[Read more](#)

STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOLLOWING THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE EU-UK JOINT COMMITTEE

19 October 2020: Brussels

The fourth regular meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee on the implementation and application of the Withdrawal Agreement, co-chaired by Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, took place today in London.

[Read more](#)

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (DIT)

16 October 2020: HMG launches Export Growth Plan to help businesses

The UK government has recently launched their [Export Growth Plan](#) with a package of measures to help businesses in England build back better following the pandemic. The Department for International Trade's (DIT) Export Growth Plan provides additional financial support and expertise, some of which is targeted towards specific regions that are most in need. The plan includes:

- £38 million Internationalisation Fund available for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- 64 new International Trade Advisors and an Export Academy in the Northern Powerhouse, Midlands and the South West region.
- New policies will allow businesses to grow their overseas trade to help them recover from the economic impact of Coronavirus.

24 September 2020: DIT launch new marketing campaign to help businesses prepare for the end of the transition period

The Department for International Trade (DIT) has recently launched an EU-facing marketing campaign to help EU businesses prepare for trading with the UK from January 2021. This campaign complements the UK government's domestic facing campaign, outlining some of the steps UK businesses need to take to prepare for the end of the transition period.

[Read more](#)

24 September 2020: New expert panel established to support UK trade negotiations

A panel of leading economists and trade experts will help DIT develop cutting-edge trade models to reflect the modern economy and impact of Covid.

[Read more](#)

4 September 2020: Government announces new Board of Trade

New Board of Trade announced – comprised of key figures from politics, academia and industry.

[Read more](#)

BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

AS NETWORK | ΑΡΘΡΟ

BREXIT ΚΑΙ ΘΕΜΑΤΑ ΦΠΑ

Άρθρο του κ. Σταύρου Πετριδίσογλου, φοροτεχνικού, ειδικευμένου σε θέματα ΦΠΑ και Ορκωτού Ελεγκτή Λογιστή, Partner του δικτύου εταιρειών ASnetwork.

Καθώς το τέλος του τρέχοντος έτους πλησιάζει ερχόμαστε όλο και πιο κοντά στην λήξη της μεταβατικής περιόδου, ήτοι της 31 Δεκεμβρίου 2020, για την υλοποίηση της Συμφωνίας αποχώρησης του Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου και Βόρειας Ιρλανδίας από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση (στο εξής «Συμφωνία») (άρθρα 126-132 Απόφαση (ΕΕ) 2020/135) αναφορικά με τον ΦΠΑ.

[Read more](#)

EDENRED | ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΤΥΠΟΥ

Η EDENRED ΕΝΩΝΕΙ ΤΙΣ ΔΥΝΑΜΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ME TO BOX

[Read more](#)

ENERGEAN | TRANSACTION FACTSHEET

ENERGEAN PLC - EDISON E&P

A transformational deal for Energean providing immediate and material increases in cash flow and access to future growth opportunities, creating one of the largest E&P companies listed on the London Stock Exchange.

[Read more](#)

Η ΕΥ ΚΑΤΕΚΤΗΣΕ ΤΡΙΑ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΑ ΣΤΑ MICROSOFT GLOBAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2020

Η ΕΥ ανακηρύχθηκε από τη Microsoft ως Παγκόσμιος Συνεργάτης της Χρονιάς 2020 για τις Συμβουλευτικές Υπηρεσίες, την Ενέργεια και τις Χρηματοοικονομικές Υπηρεσίες.

[Read more](#)

UK GOVERNMENT AND BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (BCC) NEWS & UPDATES

UK GOVERNMENT NEWS & UPDATES

08 October 2020: The Border with the European Union - Importing & Exporting Goods

See the UK government's updated [Border Operating Model](#).

24 September 2020: Chancellor outlines Winter Economy Plan

Rishi Sunak unveils government's plan to protect jobs and support businesses over the coming months.

[Read more](#)

20 September 2020: How healthcare providers can prepare for 1 January 2021

What providers and commissioners of healthcare services can do to prepare for 1 January 2021.

[Read more](#)

BCC NEWS & UPDATES

09 October 2020: BCC responds to expanded Job Support Scheme

Responding to the Chancellor's announcement that the Job Support Scheme will be enhanced to help UK firms that will have to close due to tighter restrictions expected next week, and cash grants will be increased, BCC Director General Adam Marshall said:

[Read more](#)

08 October 2020: BCC responds to updated Border Operating Model

Commenting on the government's updated Border Operating Model, BCC Director of Trade Facilitation Liam Smyth said:

"Today's announcement of a revised Border Operating Model provides some more of the detail that was missing from the version published less than 12 weeks ago. Duty deferment accounts and postponed VAT accounting will both help firms' cashflow as we enter a period of huge change at our borders".

"However, as highlighted in our recent unanswered questions document, businesses still have many areas where they urgently need more certainty, such as how the border between Northern Ireland and Great Britain will operate, clear guidance on rules of origin, which will only be done by ramping up government engagement with business".

"With just over 80 days until the end of the transition period, the businesses that produce the £300bn of UK exports to the EU are desperate for news of a comprehensive free trade agreement that will provide jobs and future prosperity across the United Kingdom".

08 October 2020: New guidance on £9 billion Job Retention Bonus

Further information has been published on **how businesses can claim** the UK government's Job Retention Bonus. The Job Retention Bonus, worth up to £9 billion is set to support millions of employers who have kept on furloughed workers.

The bonus will work alongside newly announced Job Support Scheme and could be worth more than 60% of average wages of workers who have been furloughed – and are kept on until the start of February 2021.

Businesses can claim from 15 February until 31 March 2021. **Find out if you're eligible** and what you need to do to claim. See further details about the Job Retention Bonus on the BCC's **Coronavirus Hub**.

01 October 2020: BCC Quarterly Economic Survey Q3 2020: Nearly half of firms report UK sales decrease as businesses endure sustained cash crunch

The British Chambers of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) – the UK's largest independent survey of business sentiment and a leading indicator of UK GDP growth – found

that business conditions remained weak in the third quarter of 2020, despite much of the economy reopening.

[Read more](#)

01 October 2020: Points-based immigration system employer campaign launch

The Home Office has launched a **new campaign** to help employers prepare for the introduction of the UK's new points-based immigration system.

Free movement is ending, and the new system will introduce job, salary and language requirements that will change the way employers hire people from the EU. From 1 January 2021, businesses will need to be a licensed sponsor to hire eligible people from outside the UK. **Becoming a sponsor** normally takes eight weeks and fees apply.

As a licensed sponsor, firms will be able to recruit skilled workers from anywhere in the world, provided they meet certain **eligibility requirements**.

[Read more](#)

20 August 2020 | Coronavirus Business Impact Tracker: Firms vulnerable as government schemes approach end

BCC published the **latest results** from its **Coronavirus Business Impact Tracker** which reveal that business conditions improved only moderately in the weeks since the UK economy suffered an historic contraction in Q2 2020, with firms still reporting high levels of reliance on government support schemes to help stem cashflow issues.



20 August 2020: Approvals deadline for Coronavirus loan schemes extended

The British Business Bank has given banks extra time to approve loans under the state-backed lending schemes. Applications for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)

still have to be received by midnight on 30 September, but lenders will now have two additional months to consider the cases.

The final approvals date is now pushed to 30 November. The deadline for approving the larger Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) has been set for 31 December. No extra time has been given for approvals for the Bounce Back Loan scheme, which is due to end on 4 November.

11 August 2020: CMI Working with Chambers to Support Local Business

To help businesses manage the impacts of Coronavirus, the Chartered Management Institute produced the **#BetterManagers Manual** offering tools and advice under five key themes: **flexible working; crisis management; mental health and wellbeing; the new employment landscape;** and **good governance**.

Using this guide as a basis, Solent University and the University of Portsmouth, in conjunction with CMI and their local Chamber, ran a series of events offering advice to local businesses on navigating the new normal.

You can watch the [video](#) from these events and also find out more about the #BetterManagers Manual and other useful resources.

06 August 2020: New Small Business Leadership and Problem-solving Programmes

Two new leadership programmes to help small business leaders grow their companies in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic have been launched:

- The **Small Business Leadership Programme** will equip business leaders with the confidence and leadership skills to plan for the future of their business, and ensure that they are in a great position to recover from the impacts of Coronavirus. Find out more [here](#).
- The **Peer Networks Programme** will focus on helping business owners improve their problem-solving skills, through a series of guided exercises. Members of the programme will be given skills in areas such as leadership and management, sales and marketing, that they need to tackle these challenges head-on while growing their business. Find out more [here](#).



CONTACT DETAILS

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