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04 February 2021, 6th Edition

BHCC PRESIDENTS' LETTER – 2021 STRATEGY

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Directors of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce would like to wish you a healthy, happy, prosperous and brighter 2021!

We are all called to overcome the challenges and obstacles created by the coronavirus pandemic as quickly as possible, get back to normality and setup the new framework which will lead to recovery and growth.

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have become stronger, more creative in coping with the unprecedented difficulties, more flexible and open-minded in adopting new technologies and methods of cooperation, while we have also learned to show more empathy.

We are at crossroads of a new normality and it is up to us whether we will create a sustainable mutually beneficial future.

[Read more...](#)

BHCC EVENTS & INITIATIVES

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **18 February 2021: Digital Event co-organised by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Enterprise Greece, the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the Panhellenic Exporters' Association.**

The event will focus on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between EU and the UK. The purpose of the event is the initial briefing of Greek export companies (trade of goods) on the main categories - parameters that differ following the end of the Brexit transition period and are included in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed on December 2020 between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

The official Invitation and Event Agenda will be sent shortly.

SUPPORTING EVENTS

- **BHCC Support to "Better Boards - Culture, Strategy and the Board" and "Better Boards - Onboarding, Making the transition to Non-Executive Role" organised by Better Future in association with the Financial Times.**

The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce is granting support to the above Web-Conference Sessions to be held within February and March 2021. In association with the FT Board Director Programme, 'Better

Future' has the pleasure to announce the **"Better Boards - Culture, Strategy and the Board"** with Patrick Dunne author of bestseller [Boards](#) on **24 February at 09.00** and the **"Better Boards - Onboarding, Making the transition to Non-Executive Role"** virtual Session on **23 March**. Both Conferences will be hosted **at the British Residence in Athens**.

- **BHCC Support to the "24th HR Symposium", a virtual two-day event organised by KPMG**

Not even a global pandemic could stand in the way of the HR Symposium of KPMG in Greece! In its 24th year, the "must attend" event for the Greek HR & Business Community is organized **in a fully digital format, at 9-10 March**, to highlight the importance of HR in bringing people back **togetHeR** and revive the engagement, the connection and the exchange of knowledge and ideas that used to take place with a cup of coffee at the "physical" office, in any work environment. The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce supports the **24th HR Symposium of KPMG** and its members can register with a discount of 10%.

GREECE: FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER DENDIAS

2 February 2021: The Foreign Secretary has held talks in London with Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias

[Read more](#)

BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

ENERGEAN | PRESS RELEASE

Energean completes acquisition of stake in Block 2, offshore Greece

London, 7 January 2021 - Energean plc (LSE: ENOG, TASE: ΕΝΑΕ) is pleased to announce that it has completed its acquisition of Total's entire 50% working interest share and operatorship position in Block 2, offshore Western Greece. Combined with the 25% working interest that was acquired through the acquisition of Edison E&P, Energean's working interest in the block is now 75%;

[Read more](#)

Karish North Final Investment Decision and New Term Loan

London, 14 January 2021 - Energean plc (LSE: ENOG, TASE: ΕΝΑΕ) is pleased to announce that it has taken Final Investment Decision ("FID") on the Karish North gas development, offshore Israel, 21-months after the announcement of the discovery.

[Read more](#)

Energean announces NEA/NI Final Investment Decision

London, 21 January 2021 – Energean plc is pleased to announce that Final Investment Decision has been taken on the North El Amriya and North Idku ("NEA/NI") concession subsea tieback project in offshore Egypt. The NEA concession contains two discovered and appraised gas fields (Yazzi and Python) while the NI concession contains four discovered gas fields, one of which is readied for development.

[Read more](#)

SPACE HELLAS | ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement for the Completion of Acquisition of SINGULARLOGIC

[Read more](#)

SPACE HELLAS | PRESS RELEASE

New Board of Directors in SingularLogic - Strategy and Perspectives

[Read more](#)

BREXIT NEWS & UPDATES

BREXIT UPDATES – GREEK GOVERNMENT - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Κοινή Ανακοίνωση Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών και ΑΑΔΕ: Χωρίς δασμούς, μόνο με ΦΠΑ, τα εμπορεύματα καταγωγής Ην. Βασιλείου

[Read more](#)

Τελωνειακές και φορολογικές διατυπώσεις για εισαγωγές και εξαγωγές μεταξύ Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου και ΕΕ από 1.1.2021

[Read more](#)

Διαμετακόμιση και Εμπορευματικές Μεταφορές

[Read more](#)

Δικαιώματα πολιτών: Έλληνες στο Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο – Βρετανοί στην Ελλάδα

[Read more](#)

UK Citizens in the EU and Greece after the end of the transition period

[Read more](#)

Για τις ερωτήσεις σας / For your enquiries: <https://brexit.gov.gr/contact/>

Τηλεφωνική γραμμή υποστήριξης στην Ελλάδα / Helpline in Greece:

Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών / Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 210 3684141/4160

Υπουργείο Προστασίας του Πολίτη (Δικαιώματα Πολιτών) / Ministry of Citizen Protection (Citizens' Rights): 213 1520132

Υπουργείο Εργασίας & Κοινωνικών Υποθέσεων / Ministry of Labor and Social Security: 210 3368235/38

ΑΑΔΕ (Τελωνειακά) / Customs: 210 6987490

Προς διευκόλυνση των συναλλασσόμενων, ερωτήματα και αναφορές για τις τελωνειακές διαδικασίες, μπορούν να υποβάλλονται στις τρεις Τελωνειακές Περιφέρειες της χώρας, ως ακολούθως:

- ΑΤΤΙΚΗ: 210 4511 003/ 4525 411, E-mail: telp.attikis@aade.gr
- ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ: 2313- 33 42 28/37/38, E-mail: telp.thessalonikis@aade.gr
- ΠΑΤΡΑ: 2610 423923, E-mail: telperachaias@2702.syzefxis.gov.gr

For your convenience, questions and reports regarding customs procedures may be submitted to the three Customs Regions of the country, as follows:

- ATTICA Tel: +30 210 4511 003 / +30 210 4525 411, E-mail: telp.attikis@aade.gr
- THESSALONIKI Tel: +30 2313 33 42 28 / +30 2313 33 42 37 / +30 2313 33 42 38, E-mail: telp.thessalonikis@aade.gr
- PATRAS Tel: +30 2610 423923, E-mail: telperachaias@2702.syzefxis.gov.gr

BREXIT UPDATES – UK GOVERNMENT

Agreements reached between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union

[Read more](#)

Paying VAT on imports from outside the UK to Great Britain and from outside the EU to Northern Ireland

[Read more](#)

Exports, sending goods abroad and charging VAT

Find out if VAT is due when you sell, send or transfer goods from Great Britain to outside the EU or from Northern Ireland outside the UK and EU.

[Read more](#)

18 January 2021: Act now to keep your business moving in 2021, Business Minister urges

Business Minister Paul Scully is urging businesses who have not yet taken steps to prepare for the UK's new start to act now.

[Read more](#)

12 January 2021: How to import and export goods between Great Britain and the EU.

Information for traders on importing and exporting goods between Great Britain and the EU.

[Read more](#)

7 January 2021: Guidance for exporting and importing businesses

[Read more](#)

6 January 2021 | The Border Operating Model: A guide to how the border with the European Union will work after the transition period.

[Read more](#)

HMRC Customs & International Trade helpline and helpdesk support Customs & International Trade Helpline – 0300 322 9434

The helpline is the main route in for customers with general customs queries. Colleagues on the helpline are able to handle the vast majority of operational queries including general calls about NCTS and GVMS. The helpline opening hours are Mon-Fri 08.00-20.00, weekend 08.00-16.00 and has a Webchat capability access via GOV.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/customs-international-trade-and-excise-enquiries>

Technical support

For support with specific systems, we have the following:

- **CDS** submission enquiries - You can email HMRC about issues with electronic CDS submissions to cds.operations@hmrc.gov.uk Emails are monitored Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm.
- **CHIEF Error codes** - Not all of the error responses currently have a solution. If you find an error response that doesn't have a solution or you need clarification then please email chief.operations@hmrc.gov.uk This will help HM Revenue and Customs to improve the service. You can also email if you need information on CHIEF error code responses that have not been included on the trade version of the help text.
- **GVMS** – contact details will follow
- **NCTS Technical questions** – Customers with questions around a specific consignment that is already live in transit can contact the NCTS.helpdesk@hmrc.gov.uk as these queries may be more time sensitive

Technical e-mail account monitored by an expert team aim to respond to operational technical questions within 48 hours. Please send request for help to technicalcustomssupport@hmrc.gov.uk If the request is urgent, please can you mark the subject heading when sending your enquiry.

National Clearance Hub

Across all customer groups we have the National Clearance Hub which supports border movements and operates 24/7. The email address for NCH is nch@hmrc.gov.uk

Imports and exports: general enquiries

Contact HMRC for help with questions about importing, exporting and customs reliefs www.gov.uk

BREXIT UPDATES – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting the EU's interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest

[Read more](#)

For more information on Brexit developments please visit <https://www.gov.uk/transition>, https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom_en and <https://brexit.gov.gr/>

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (BCC) NEWS & UPDATES

28 January 2021

BCC/Totaljobs: Increase in businesses attempting to recruit in Q4 despite November lockdown, while some sectors left behind

Results from the [Quarterly Recruitment Outlook \(QRO\)](#), in partnership with Totaljobs, found that while there was a modest improvement in the overall number of businesses attempting to recruit in Q4, sectoral disparities remain.

Tax self-assessment deadline extended

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has announced that self-assessment customers who cannot file their tax return by the 31 January 2021 deadline will not receive a late filing penalty if they file online by 28 February. However, taxpayers are still obliged to pay their bill by 31 January. Interest will be charged from 1 February on any outstanding liabilities.

HMRC has also confirmed that taxpayers who cannot afford to pay their tax bill on time can apply online to spread their bill over up to 12 months. See more [here](#).

21 January 2021

Reforms to the Prompt Payment Code

A reformed Prompt Payment Code was launched. In addition to the current commitment to pay 95% of all payments to their supply chain within 60 days, signatories of the reformed code will also be committed to paying **95% of their small business suppliers within 30 days** (down from 60 days) from July 2021 with commitments to be made personally by CEOs or Finance Directors. More information on the Prompt Payment Code can be found [here](#).

Trading from 2021 - support for businesses

A reminder of some of support available from the UK government for businesses during this period of change including:

- The [checker tool](#) will give you a personalised list of actions you need to take now;
- The [Trade with the UK tool](#) has information for international businesses exporting goods into the UK;
- The [Check How to Export Goods tool](#) provides information for UK exporters;
- For further queries you can contact the dedicated [business support helplines](#);
- See specific [guidance](#) on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland; and
- Find out exactly what [financial support](#) your business is eligible for.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has launched **a series of new, on-demand videos** to help businesses familiarise themselves with the new rules and the actions they should take. Businesses can find out more about 18 topics, including importing and exporting, trade, data, and audit and accounting. [Register now](#) to immediately access the video content.

Why are Rules of Origin putting a spanner in the works?

Rules of Origin (RoO) are putting a spanner in the works for UK exporters wishing to take advantage of the UK's newly negotiated trade deals with the EU and all trade deals we had with the EU that have been rolled over. The BCC team has prepared this useful article "[Why are Rules of Origin putting a spanner in the works?](#)"

Everything you need to know about Rules of Origin - training session

Rules of origin have become the devilish detail that traders must understand to benefit from the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, but what are the rules the EU usually negotiate? [This training](#) will provide the fundamentals on the different rules determining if a product can be considered as "originating" in Free Trade Agreements. Take a look at the details.

The Future of UK-EU Trade Relations webinar series

WEBINAR SERIES THE FUTURE OF UK-EU TRADE RELATIONS



Save the dates for BCC's upcoming series of webinars which will explore the new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Businesses trading internationally need support during this time of change.

These interactive events will provide guidance and advice for businesses in the short term and over the coming months.

- Tuesday 2 February, 12:00 – 13:00 (UK time)
- Monday 15 February, 13:30 – 14:30 (UK time)
- Tuesday 2 March, 13:30 – 14:30 (UK time)
- Tuesday 9 March, 14:30 – 15:30 (UK time)
- Tuesday 16 March, 14:30 – 15:30 (UK time)

See full details including registration links and the specific focus for each event on the [BCC website](#).

[Read more and register now](#)

7 January 2021

Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) Q4 2020

BCC released the headline findings from [QES Q4 2020](#) which found that business conditions remained weak in the last quarter as the second lockdown squeezed activity. The survey was covered in the [Independent](#), [Bloomberg](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [Sky News](#) among many others.

Guidance to Issuing Bodies - January 2021

In response to recent queries, BCC's international trade team have put together a [guidance document](#) for issuing bodies which re-confirms guidance and advice.

Coronavirus advice for employers and employees

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) has produced a variety of useful [advice and guidance](#) for employers and employees which may be helpful.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming the new Members, who have joined the Chamber in December 2020 and January 2021:

- **PHARMATHEN**, www.pharmathen.com
- **TEMES**, www.costanavarino.com
- **VTRANSLATIONS**, www.vtranslations.gr

BECOME A MEMBER

If you wish to become a BHCC Member, please [click here](#).

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information and publication of articles, reports, press releases and/or interviews, please contact Mrs Lina Dede, BHCC General Manager.

We are always interested in your views.

Send us an e-mail to info@bhcc.gr if you have any queries about this Newsletter or its content.

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25, Vas. Sophias Avenue
GR-106 74 Athens
Tel: +30 210 7210361
E-mail: info@bhcc.gr

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