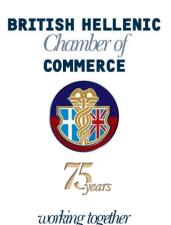
NEWSLETTER



09 March 2021, 7th Edition

BHCC EVENTS & INITIATIVES

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 17 March 2021 | 18:00 – 19:30 (Athens time) | 16:00 – 17:30 (UK time): Virtual New Year's Reception co-organised by the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the British Embassy in Athens.

Guest Speaker: Mr Nikolaos Papathanassis, Alternate Minister of Development & Investments / Private, Strategic Investments and PPP's at Government of the Hellenic Republic.

A high-profile business and social event **co-organized every year with the British Embassy,** where BHCC Members, business affiliates and colleagues celebrate together the traditional "Pitta Cutting". With a high sense of responsibility and given the special conditions that have developed due to the spread of COVID-19 disease, **this year instead of a live reception we are planning a hybrid event**.

Strictly following the hygiene and safety rules imposed by the Greek Government, the British Ambassador, our Guest Speaker, the Presidents of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, will join the event live from the British Residence. Our distinguished guests will attend the event via live streaming, while we **plan to have special virtual connections with specific guests**.

PAST EVENTS

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

The event focused on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed on December 2020 between the European Union and the United Kingdom. Its purpose was 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.

The Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Miltiadis Varvitsiotis honored the event with an opening speech. Greetings were addressed by the Secretary General of International Economic Relations and Extroversion and President of Enterprise Greece Mr Ioannis Smyrlis, the President of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce Ms Anna Kalliani, the President of the Panhellenic Association of Exporters Mrs Christina Sakellaridis and the President of the Greek Exporters Association-SEVE Mr George Kostantopoulos. Mr George Pitsilis, Governor of the Independent Authority for Public Revenue ($AA\Delta E$), also participated in the event.

In the context of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed between the European Union and the United Kingdom and the new challenges that Greek export companies face, a number of questions were approached and answered by officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Infrastructure and Transport, Labor and Social Security, from the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AAAE), the British Embassy in Greece, the Greek Embassy in London, while Greek entrepreneurs with significant presence and activity in the United Kingdom, presented their views and proposals.

The event's Press Release can be found <u>here</u>.

SUPPORTING EVENTS

 BHCC Support to "Better Boards - The Say on Pay, Challenges for the Remuneration Committees" and "Better Boards - The CEO Chair/Board Relationship" 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 March and April 2021. In association with the FT Board Director Programme, 'Better Future' has the pleasure to announce the virtual sessions "Better Boards - The Say on Pay, Challenges for the Remuneration Committees" on 23 March and "Better Boards - The CEO Chair/Board relationship" with Patrick Dune on 22 April. Both Conferences will be hosted at the British Residence in Athens.

For more information, you can visit <u>BetterFuture - Unleash your potential.</u>

BHCC INITIATIVES

Announcement of Cooperation of the British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and Hazlis
 Rivas – Economist Events



From left to right: **Nectaria Passarivakis**, President and CEO of **Hazlis & Rivas – Economist Events**, **Anna Kalliani**, Greek President and **Kenny Evangelou**, British President of the **British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce**.

8 March 2021: The British Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and the company Hazlis & Rivas, official representative of the Economist "Events" for Greece, Cyprus, Malta & SE Europe and Official Licensee for Greece and Cyprus, announce their broader cooperation. The cooperation in the organisation of events and the undertaking of targeted initiatives in order to approach the political and business community in Greece and the United Kingdom, by offering expertise and insights on new developments, will stand at the core of this new collaboration, which will contribute towards the strengthening of British-Hellenic business relations.

8 Μαρτίου 2021: Σε ευρύτερη συνεργασία προχωρούν το Ελληνοβρετανικό Εμπορικό Επιμελητήριο και η εταιρεία Hazlis & Rivas, επίσημος εκπρόσωπος των "Συνεδρίων" Εconomist για Ελλάδα, Κύπρο, Μάλτα και ΝΑ Ευρώπη και Official Licensee του Economist για Ελλάδα και Κύπρο. Η συνεργασία στη διοργάνωση εκδηλώσεων και η ανάληψη στοχευμένων πρωτοβουλιών για την προσέγγιση της πολιτικής και επιχειρηματικής κοινότητας της Ελλάδας και του Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου, προσφέροντας γνώση και ενημέρωση για τις νέες εξελίξεις, θα αποτελέσουν τον πυρήνα της νέας αυτής συνεργασίας και θα συμβάλουν στην περαιτέρω ενδυνάμωση των Ελληνοβρετανικών επιχειρηματικών σχέσεων.

UK – GREECE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION TO FOSTER COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN UK & GREEK UNIVERSITIES

Νέο πρόγραμμα συνεργασίας μεταξύ Ελληνικών Πανεπιστημίων και Πανεπιστημίων του Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου

«Γέφυρα» μεταξύ των Ελληνικών Πανεπιστημίων και των Πανεπιστημίων του Ηνωμένου Βασιλείου μέσω του προγράμματος "UK-Greece Strategic Partnership in Education to foster collaborations between UK and Greek Universities" δημιουργεί το Υπουργείο Παιδείας σε συνεργασία με τη Βρετανική Πρεσβεία και το British Council.

Read more

BHCC MEMBERS' SECTION

SPACE HELLAS | ARTICLE

Space Hellas & BT Cybersecurity offering

Space Hellas is a Digital Integrator and Value Added solutions/Service Provider, holding a leading position in the high technology arena since 1985. For more than 35 years, Space Hellas has been dynamically present in the field of Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT). The longstanding and proven experience of Space Hellas in designing, providing, deploying and supporting large, complex networks for Global Providers, Financial Institutions, Large Enterprises and organizations of the Public Sector have ranked the company at the top of the market in its field.

By investing in its human resources with the continuous trainings and certifications from established manufacturers and providers, Space Hellas can guarantee efficient provision of services at an exceptionally high standard.

The high degree of technological competence of our personnel in conjunction with an impressive track record of success in the field, have served as the pedestals for the company's dynamic development by successfully facing the technological challenges that abound in the contemporary business network environment.

Space Hellas has a 25-year business relationship with BT acting as a provider and a reseller of their products and services in the region.

Space Hellas is collaborating with BT to form a solution that aligns with Customer's Cybersecurity strategy.

Analytical details and benefits to joining forces with Space Hellas and BT, follow in the below link.

Read more

DIRECTION BUSINESS NETWORK | PRESS RELEASE

ΠΡΟΪΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΧΡΟΝΙΑΣ 2021 - Οι μεγάλοι νικητές

Προϊόντα και υπηρεσίες από 39 κατηγορίες διακρίθηκαν φέτος για την καινοτομία τους, στο πλαίσιο του θεσμού «Προϊόν της Χρονιάς», που διοργανώνει η Direction Business Network.

Read more

KPMG IN GREECE | UPDATE

Special Tax Regimes in Greece – Greece, an attractive tax destination

In an effort to attract high net worth individuals, an alternative taxation on foreign source income earned by individuals (and/or their relatives and spouses) who transfer their tax residence to Greece is established.

Moreover, to attract foreign pensioners, the alternative taxation regime on foreign source income earned by individuals who transfer their tax residence to Greece is expanded. In particular, the new provisions provide the option to foreign pensioners to benefit from the alternative taxation of their total foreign source income.

Read more

WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS | REPORT

The Sustainability Imperative: ESG - Reshaping the Funding and Governance of Shipping

For the shipping industry, inaction is no longer a viable option. The key issues facing the industry are sustainability and wider environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns, with the pressure coming from multiple sources; governments, industry bodies, financiers and end-users.

Watson Farley & Williams surveyed 545 senior industry participants, supplemented with in-depth interviews with 10 well-respected industry figures to compile the most in-depth and comprehensive report on the impact of ESG in the funding of the shipping sector to date.

Read more

BREXIT NEWS & UPDATES

GREEK GOVERNMENT - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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:

- ATTIKH: 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: <u>telperachaias@2702.syzefxis.gov.gr</u>

BREXIT UPDATES – UK GOVERNMENT

24 February 2021

Joint statement by the co-chairs of the EU-UK Joint Committee

Read more

19 February 2021

UK government welcomes the European Commission's draft data adequacy decisions

Read more

18 February 2021

Help and support for UK transition

Get help on UK transition with online webinars from HMRC.

Read more

15 February 2021

Introduction to the Trader Support Service

Read more

12 February 2021

Subsidy control: designing a new approach for the UK

Read more

11 February 2021

Government announces £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund

Read more

7 February 2021

Response to points raised in Road Haulage Association letter to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Read more

6 February 2021

Measures announced to boost international study and global opportunities.

Read more

3 February 2021

Trading electricity with the EU

How cross-border trading and supply of electricity has changed.

Read more

28 January 2021

Student Finance Eligibility: 2021 to 2022 academic year

Information on who will be eligible for undergraduate, postgraduate and further education financial support from Student Finance England.

Read more

18 January 2021

Reasonable steps for frontier operators using the pre-lodgement model to control goods from the EU into Great Britain

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 gueries. 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.qov.uk

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/

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

UK GOVERNMENT NEWS & UPDATES

3 March 2021

Budget 2021 sets path for recovery

In a Budget which 'meets the moment', the Chancellor has today (3 March) set out a £65 billion three-point plan to provide support for jobs and businesses as we emerge from the pandemic and forge a path to recovery.

Read more

Budget 2021: documents

This is the Budget in full. You can find supporting and related documents below.

Read more

The UK Budget and BBC's response

A good summary to read at-a-glance.

Read more

Current Funding Opportunities from Innovate UK

UKRI offers funding and support across all academic disciplines and industrial areas from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, economics, environmental sciences, and the arts and humanities. Search current funding opportunities from across UKRI, research councils and Innovate UK. Before you apply, find information and guidance on preparing to apply for funding.

Read more

For more information, visit the UK Research and Innovation website.

Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government.

Launched in April 2018, UKRI is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The organisation brings together the seven disciplinary research councils, Research England, which is responsible for supporting research and knowledge exchange at higher education institutions in England, and the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK.

BCC NEWS & UPDATES

5 March 2021

BCC announces Shevaun Haviland as new Director General

The Board of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) has today announced the appointment of Shevaun Haviland as the new Director General of the organisation.

Shevaun joins the BCC from the Cabinet Office where she has worked for the last five years running the Business Partnerships team and leading the Inclusive Economy Partnership which aims to build a stronger economy and fairer society through partnerships between government, businesses and civil society.



Read more

4 March 2021

Budget 2021 - BCC reaction and resources

Yesterday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP delivered the 2021 Budget. Here is a reminder of the resources which the BCC policy team has prepared:



- Economic summary: Budget 2021
- Policy grid: Budget 2021 outlining key measures and the business impact
- BCC press release on Budget 2021

Webinars for EU-based organisations that trade with the UK

The Department for International Trade (DIT) has a series of upcoming webinars on UK border requirements which may be of interest. Businesses can register for an upcoming webinar or industry day, or view previous webinars here.

Guidance for businesses that trade with the EU

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has published an updated toolkit which covers actions for businesses to take. Take a look at the two-part toolkit, <u>Part A here</u> and <u>Part B here</u>, includes sector specific guidance and information for businesses. A full list of webinars and videos for businesses that trade with the EU can be accessed <u>here</u>

LIBOR Transition - guidance for businesses

With input from BCC team, UK Finance has put together an introductory guide to help businesses with the transition away from the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). The LIBOR benchmark that lenders use to calculate the interest rate for financial products will end after 2021 and move to a safer more transparent benchmark rate. LIBOR is the most common interest rate benchmark in the UK and this will impact a significant proportion of British businesses. Take a look at the guide here and share with your members as relevant.

Cyber Aware self-assessment tool for sole traders and micro businesses

Online security is as important as physical security. Even small businesses are a valuable target to cyber criminals. <u>Cyber Aware</u> is the UK government's national campaign on cyber security, designed to empower and enable the public, sole traders and microbusinesses to better understand how to stay secure online.

As part of the campaign, they have recently launched a <u>self-assessment tool</u> to help sole traders and micro businesses check how safe they are from cyber threats, and to give advice on areas of improvement. To use the tool, business owners will be asked to complete a short questionnaire, before being sent a personalised list of actions linked to the Cyber Aware behaviours.

25 February 2021



VAT deferral new payment scheme opens

HM Revenue and Customs's VAT deferral new payment scheme has opened. The new scheme lets businesses pay deferred VAT payments due in interest-free instalments. The earlier a business joins, the more months they can spread their payments across. The scheme is open until and including 21 June 2021. Find out more here.

More help for Self-Assessment taxpayers

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has announced that <u>Self-Assessment taxpayers</u> will not be charged the 5% late payment penalty if they pay their tax or set up a payment plan by 1 April 2021. The payment deadline for Self-Assessment is 31 January and interest is charged from 1 February on any amounts outstanding. Normally, a 5% late payment penalty is also charged on any unpaid tax that is still outstanding on 3 March. But this year, because of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, HMRC is giving taxpayers more time to pay or set up a payment plan.

Updated materials on Rules of Origin (RoO)

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has shared the following materials which you may wish to share with your members including:

- An <u>updated slide deck</u> with additional sector-specific examples (correct as of 17 February);
- An updated <u>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)</u> document
- A summary explainer <u>'one-pager'</u> document for SMEs; and
- A link to the RoO video explainer

Important Event Dates

• Tuesday 16 March The Future of UK-EU Trade Relations: Building on the deal

18 February 2021

BCC COVID-19 impact survey: cashflow remains critical

Take a look at the <u>results</u> from the latest BCC survey on the impact of Coronavirus on businesses. Findings from the survey of more than 1,100 businesses show that businesses have been pushed to the brink by the effect of multiple lockdowns.

New Business Banking Resolution Service launched

The new Business Banking Resolution Service (BBRS) was launched as an alternative approach to settle unresolved complaints from larger SMEs with participating banks. BBRS will look at two types of unresolved complaint:

<u>The contemporary scheme</u> covers cases for the period from 1 April 2019 onwards: it is for businesses with a turnover up to £10m per annum; and a balance sheet of up to £7.5m; and which are not eligible to take their complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

The historical scheme covers cases for the period from 1 December 2001 to 31 March 2019: it is for businesses with a turnover up to £6.5m per annum; and a balance sheet of up to £5m; and which were not eligible to take their complaint to the Financial Ombudsman Service and have not had access to an independent review.

See further details here.

Immigration - Right To Work Checks

The UK Home Office has produced information for employers on Right to Work Checks with information for individuals on their rights and obligations depending on when they arrived in the UK. This includes:

- a leaflet for employers to use during the grace period to clarify requirements to EEA employees
- a <u>factsheet</u> providing key information and responding to the most frequently asked questions

Both assets are included in the updated version of the employer partner pack which can be used to promote awareness and understanding of the points-based immigration system.

Industrial Strategy Council publish report on greener supply chains

Dame Jayne-Anne Gadhia DBE and Rupert Harrison CBE, members of the UK government's Industrial Strategy Council, have <u>written to Adam</u> to highlight their recent publication looking at how businesses can develop greener supply chains. The publication can be found <u>here</u>.

Power to the People - Penrose Review published

The findings from an independent review of UK competition policy led by John Penrose MP were published. The <u>report</u> recommends reform of competition laws to improve consumer confidence, lower costs for businesses and boost the UK economy post-Brexit, including launching a new parliamentary act to update Britain's consumer institutions to reflect the rise of the digital economy.

11 February 2021

BCC Brexit survey: Half of UK exporters report difficulties adapting to changes relating to EU-UK goods trade

Take a look at the results from BCC's <u>first Brexit survey of 2021</u> which found that half (49%) of exporters are facing difficulties in adapting to the changes in the trade of goods following the ratification of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on 1 January 2021.

The release features great case studies from Shropshire Chamber, Liverpool Chamber and West and North Yorkshire Chamber.

See media coverage in <u>The Guardian</u>, <u>Bloomberg TV</u>, <u>The Times</u>, <u>The Telegraph</u> and <u>The Financial Times</u>.



Pay As You Grow Scheme Launched

HM Treasury and the British Business Bank have released further details of the Pay As You Grow Scheme. It is confirmed that the scheme will enable businesses who have started repaying their Bounce Back Loans to:



- request an extension of their loan term to 10 years from six years,
 at the same fixed interest rate of 2.5%;
- reduce their monthly repayments for six months by paying interest only. This option is available up to three times during the term of their Bounce Back Loan; and
- take a repayment holiday for up to six months. This option is available once during the term of their Bounce Back Loan

More information can be found on the BCC's Coronavirus Hub.

4 February 2021



Rules of Origin campaign

Rules of Origin have been in the news a lot recently. Businesses up and down the country have been struggling to make sense of the new arrangements for exporting inside and outside of the EU.

To support businesses during this period of change, the BCC has put together a <u>new resource</u> on the BCC website including information, FAQs and directing to the Chamber Network for expert advice.

DWP launch Job Finding Support service

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has launched the new <u>Job Finding Support service</u>, which will provide more than 150,000 jobseekers across Great Britain with employment support, helping them build their interview skills, find local vacancies and quickly get back into work. The Job Finding Service will run in parallel to existing support available in jobcentres and by work coaches, as part of UK government's Plan for Jobs.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Welcoming the new Members, who have joined the Chamber in February 2021:

- BETTER FUTURE IKE, <u>www.betterfuture.gr</u>
- CREMER, MARCEL, <u>www.bhcc.gr/business-index/cremer-marcel</u>
- EVDEMON & PARTNERS INC., <u>www.evdemonpartners.com</u>
- HAZLIS & RIVAS COMMUNICATIONS Ltd. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND LICENSEE OF THE ECONOMIST GROUP, <u>www.hazliseconomist.com/gr</u>
- KRI KRI SA, www.krikri.gr
- MARRIOT, CAROL ANN, <u>www.bhcc.gr/business-index/marriott-carol-ann</u>

BECOME A MEMBER

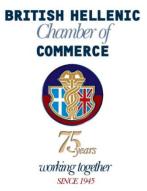
If you wish to become a BHCC Member, please click here.

CONTACT DETAILS

To subscribe to our Newsletter and 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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