

Industry Forum July Newsletter

Tough decisions and bold actions needed

With evidence of a radically changed economic landscape and the continuing menace of Covid 19, businesses are moving on from pandemic crisis mode. They are working to maintain viable operations, shed non-viable operations, and grasp emerging opportunities. This will be painful in some cases and success will require close cooperation with the government.

So far, government action has been dominated by muscular Treasury interventions but there are few signs of integrated industrial recovery and trade strategies to help compensate for the longterm damage the pandemic has done in some sectors. To balance the wave of job losses and insolvencies now beginning, it is a vital to take early action to help businesses expand and create jobs in sectors such as green energy and the digital infrastructure. The further disruption of a no-deal or poor deal Brexit should be ruled out now.

Industry Forum plans are to keep all meetings online until, at least, the New Year. We will increase our number of virtual roundtables for members and guests. We will also introduce Industry Forum policy workshops where we look at key issues and use the depth of knowledge and experience of our members and friends to outline innovative policy initiatives.

Our first September meetings are listed below:



8 September

Lessons on managing procurement and supply chains in an emergency - A panel discussion led by Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister for International Trade

16 September

How should business contribute to equality and diversity? - A panel discussion led by Femi Otitoju, Founder and MD of Chalcon Consultancy



For the next few months we are planning meetings on the following topics:

- The outlook for UK international trade
- The new landscape for building and construction
- Pivot to India
- Preparing for Cop 26
- UK/China trade prospects and security risks
- Upgrading our digital infrastructure to 5G
- New thinking about funding and pricing life sciences treatments
- Improving government understanding and use of science
- Future European cooperation
- Prospects for future German/UK trade

- Transport in a post-Covid 19 World

We will be piloting policy workshops during August. The first will be on 'The Challenge of Digital Inequality'.

Please send us comments and suggestions for topics and speakers.

Details of our most recent meetings are shown below:

A successful business recovery strategy for the UK



Darren Jones MP, new Chair of the cross-party UK Business Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee led a wide-ranging Industry Forum discussion on 'A successful business recovery strategy for the UK'.

The meeting was hosted online by leading law firm, Pinsent Masons, who were represented by Yvonne Dunn, the partner who leads the Pinsent Masons financial services technology practice.

The key challenges discussed included: recovery from the economic and employment damage from the pandemic, adjusting to a new relationship with the EU, and the urgent need to transition to renewable energy. Despite enormous efforts we could not solve all these problems in an hour and thus the Industry Forum will be organising many more discussions in the months ahead.

Prospects for future US/UK trade



The Industry Forum was delighted that Rosemary Gallant, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the US London Embassy could lead our online roundtable on future US/UK trade prospects. She outlined the US objectives and progress to date in the current trade talks.

The meeting was hosted online by KPMG UK who were represented by Bina Mehta a partner who leads the Business Services sector team and chairs KPMG's Emerging Giants practice in the UK. It was attended by Industry Forum members and guests.

New member offer

We are keen to sign up new members to work with us and expand our meetings and research activities. For 2020, we are offering new joiners from August to December the benefit of starting their annual renewal period on 1 January 2021. If you're not already a member and would like to help shape our agenda, host events, and receive invitations to all meetings, get in touch by email at info@industry-forum.org, or give us a call to find out more on 0207 434 0090.

Next meeting

Lessons on managing procurement and supply chains in an emergency
8 September 2020 - Morning online roundtable
A panel discussion led by Bill Esterson MP, Shadow Minister for International Trade



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