



Provisional programme

The future of the UK's bilateral relationships in Europe

Wednesday 31 January - Friday 2 February 2018 | WP1603

How should the UK and European countries work together in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU?

This Wilton Park conference will create space to look at the longer term picture of bilateral relationships in Europe. It will explore how the UK and European partners can best work together to maximise their shared values and interests and renew and strengthen bilateral relationships, to complement future cooperation at the EU level.

Issues to be discussed include:

- What is the long-term vision for how UK and European partners will work together in 2030? What should a new bilateralism look like? How will this differ from the previous bilateralism?
- Where will European partners be most focussed in partnering with the UK after it leaves the EU? Where should the UK focus its efforts? What are the opportunities and risks for the UK?
- How should the UK (including government, business, academia and others) engage differently with European countries after Brexit to build strong partnerships in Europe?
- What is the role of government in fostering new bilateral partnerships? What is the role of other organisations / groups?
- How can momentum be built in the new relationships? At what stage can this be done and how can the process be managed during the exit negotiations?

With support from:

DTCC

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Wednesday 31 January

1500-1600

Participants arrive. Tea/coffee available

1600

Welcome and introductions

Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

1620-1730

1. Rewiring bilateral relationships: what is the long-term vision for how UK and European partners will work together in 2030?

What is the long-term vision for the bilateral relationships between the UK and European partners? Where are the opportunities and risks for the UK? Where will European partners be most focused in partnering with the UK and vice versa? Where will relationships need to be rewired, existing relationships developed and new relationships built?

Caroline Wilson

Director, Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Frank Feighan

Irish Senator, Fine Gael, Dublin

Kristian Fischer

Director, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Copenhagen

1730-1800

Tea/coffee

1800-1900

2. The future of bilateral relationships

Discussion in four smaller groups to discuss the anticipated changes to bilateral relationships, for example:

- What is going to remain in terms of strong bilateral relationships?
- Where are relationships likely to be reduced or lost?
- Where are the opportunities to rewire or build new bilateral relationships? How may UK and European countries approach this?

Chairs to include:

Group 1:

Fidel López Álvarez

Chairman, British-Hispanic Foundation, Madrid

Rosa Balfour

Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), Brussels

Group 2:

Jiri Zrust

Senior Managing Director, Head of Continental Europe, Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets, London

John Peet

Political and Brexit Editor, The Economist, London

Group 3:

Przemyslaw Biskup

Senior Analyst, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw

Maya Sivagnanam

Deputy Head, Europe (North) Department, Europe Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Group 4:

Zsolt Barthel-Ruzsa

Chairman, Századvég Foundation, Budapest

Drew Scott

Professor of European Union Studies, School of Law, University of Edinburgh

1900

Reception followed by dinner hosted by

Sharmila Nebhrajani

Chief Executive, Wilton Park

2045-2130

Setting the UK political context

Fireside conversation (optional)

Tony Barber

Europe Editor, Financial Times, London

in conversation with

John Curtice

Professor of Politics, School of Government and Public Policy, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Thursday 1 February

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1015

3. The future of Europe and bilateralism

What does the broader landscape of bilateral relationships within Europe look like in the coming years? How do European countries see their future bilateral relationships with the UK after the UK has left the EU? Where might European countries seek stronger bilateral cooperation in future between themselves, and with the EU?

Chair: Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Bernardo Pires de Lima

Partner and Head of Political Risk, FIRMA - Portuguese Business Agency, Lisbon

Gisela Stuart

Chair, Change Britain, London

Daniela Schwarzer

Director, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

1015-1045

Keynote: The future of the UK's bilateral relationships in Europe – a UK perspective

Alan Duncan

Minister of State for Europe and the Americas, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1045-1130

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1130-1300

4. Future bilateral relationships: economic cooperation

How to maintain and build economic ties between EU countries and the UK after the UK has left the EU? What are the emerging areas for new cooperation? Where are the new opportunities to work together maximising the opportunities emerging from the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digital disruption, artificial Intelligence, etc? How can government and others support this?

Chair: Louise Harvey

Member, Wilton Park Advisory Council; Non-Executive Chair, FTI Consulting, Brussels

Peter Mather

Group Regional President, Europe and Head of Country, UK, BP plc, London

Paul Maeser

Senior Manager, Bundesverband des Deutschen Industrie eV (BDI), Berlin

Davorin Stetner

Presidential Economic Council member at Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia; President, Croatian Business Angel Network; President and Chief Executive Officer, Kreator Group, Zagreb

John McGrane

Director General, British Irish Chamber of Commerce, Dublin

1300-1415

Lunch and informal conversations

1415-1545

5. Future bilateral relationships: security and defence

Where are the strongest synergies for UK cooperation with European countries on security and defence issues? Which geographic areas and which sectors? How can bilateral cooperation on security and defence complement cooperation at the multilateral level? What should be done now, recognising that the exact future shape of this will depend on the exit agreement reached?

Chair: Jussi Tanner

Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Helsinki

Christian Mölling

Deputy Director, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin

Linda Dann

Head, European Bilateral Relations and EU Exit, Ministry of Defence, London

1545-1615

Tea/coffee

1615-1800

6. Wider partnerships and people-to-people links

What can be done to strengthen people-to-people links and wider partnerships between the UK and Europe after the UK leaves the EU? Where are the current gaps? What scope is there for greater cooperation in education (student exchanges, movement of academics, languages, etc), arts and culture, tourism, sport and diaspora? What is achievable with limited resources? What organisations (government linked and not) can help support these linkages?

Chair: Rebecca Walton

Regional Director, EU Europe, British Council, London

Introduction

Alexandre Holroyd (by video conference)

Deputy, French National Assembly, Paris

Followed by World café with each theme hosted by a facilitator.

1. Academic links: Higher Education, Science and Innovation

Triona McCormack

Director, Research, University College Dublin

2. Language and Youth Exchanges

Herbert Grieshop

Director, International Affairs and Center for International Cooperation (CIC), Freie Universität Berlin

3. Arts and Creative Industries

Pauliina Ståhlberg

Director, The Finnish Institute in London

4. Diaspora Linkages

Jakub Krupa

UK Correspondent, Polish Press Agency, London

5. Government to Government

Melanie Sully

Director, Institute for Go-Governance, Vienna

6. Political engagement and Civil Society

Rebecca Walton

Regional Director, EU Europe, British Council, London

Questions to be addressed in three rounds:

1. What exists now? Where are the anticipated gaps after the UK leaves the EU?
2. What more can be done? Identify 4 areas of innovation outside government
3. How? Who? Where can governments support (with limited resources)?

1800-1830

Short reflections in plenary

1900

Reception followed by dinner sponsored by The Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation

After dinner speaker:

Andrew Douglas

Chief Executive Officer, The Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC), London

Introduced by

Caroline Wilson

Director, Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Friday 2 February

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-0915

7. Reflections

Chair: Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Vanni Xuereb

Head, Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee (MEUSAC), Valletta

Catherine De Vries

Professor, University of Essex and Free University Amsterdam, Colchester

Kalypto Nicolaidis

Professor of International Relations, University of Oxford

0915-1030

8. How should the UK work with EU countries on foreign policy issues of mutual interest?

Where might the UK and the EU and member states focus their cooperation on foreign policy after the UK exits the EU? How to work together on the critical international challenges of the next 50 years, including climate change, demographic shifts, technological disruption, development and insecurity? What will partnership relationships look like? How might bilateral relationships work best on these themes in the future?

Chair: Matthew Kirk

Former Ambassador, Former Vodafone Executive, Melksham

Angus Lapsley

Director, Defence and International Security, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Rem Korteweg

Head of Unit 'Europe in the World'; Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute - Netherlands Institute of International Relations, The Hague

Marko Mihkelson

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Estonia, Tallinn

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

9. Building future relations: reflections

Discussion in smaller groups, with same facilitators and participants as Session 2.

- What are the key reflections?
- What specific actions can the UK, other governments and other partners do to strengthen bilateral relations?
- How can momentum be built to support this work now?

1200-1210

Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey.

1210-1300

10. Recommendations and conclusions

Reflections from discussion in Session 9, followed by round-table conversation about future bilateral relationships.

Chair: Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Closing remarks:

Caroline Wilson

Director, Europe, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart