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BPA PRESS RELEASE

“Legislative Program: Access for Trade, Customs and Fisheries bills essential”

The British Ports Association's Policy Manager Mark Simmonds today commented on the content of the Queen's Speech and the UK's future customs and trading arrangements.

He highlighted that the speech contained few surprises and new customs arrangements should prioritise trade facilitation and look to replicate the benefits of the EU Customs Union. Reacting to the Government's legislative program, he said:

“The Prime Minister has targeted ‘frictionless trade’ and to achieve this it’s vital that any controls are carried out, wherever possible, away from the frontier to avoid disrupting flows of traffic.”

Continuing, he commented on the new Customs Bill saying...

“Whatever the outcome the Government’s post-customs union framework must prioritise trade and passenger facilitation. Any post-Brexit customs scenario that involves additional inspections at the frontier will have a substantial impact on trade.

We have real concerns about border delays, congestion and increased costs for traders if this is not done right.”

And regarding the Fisheries Bill he said

“Any new fisheries management regime must learn lessons from the failures of the CFP. Given the complexity of UK-EU supply chains, a priority for Government in negotiations is ensuring access to market for both raw and processed seafood.”

It is vital that fishing is not used as a bargaining chip, and there is continued financial support for industry development and innovation, post-Brexit.”

The BPA and the ports industry are now looking forward to working with Government on the UK's future customs and trading arrangements in the coming months.

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General notes:

- Approximately 80% of seafood consumed in the UK is imported.
- 80% of seafood landed in the UK is exported.
- The British Ports Association represents the interests of 100 port members, covering over 350 ports, terminal operators and port facilities
- The UK ports industry plays a fundamentally important role in the country's economy. 96% of the UK's international trade – imports and exports – is carried through UK ports which also handle 60 million passenger journeys each year
- UK ports directly employ around 120,000 people, often in areas of high inequality and unemployment
- The UK port industry is the second largest in Europe, handling more than 500 million tonnes of freight each year

Contact the BPA

If you would like any more information on the above briefing or to discuss any of the issues raised please contact:

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BPA Members Guide: - Available online at: www.britishports.org.uk/our-members