



## **BPA Briefing #6**

### **Prime Minister's Brexit speech, EU Ports Services Regulation and Industrial Strategy response**

#### **Prime Minister's Brexit speech**

Following the Prime Minister's speech on the Government's objectives for Brexit negotiations, a wider debate has been opened on what the UK's future trade and customs policy should look like. The BPA is looking forward to holding discussions with the government to understand the details of its post-Brexit vision and how customs and other procedures at ports might be affected

With the Prime Minister indicating that the UK will be leaving the Single Market, the BPA will be seeking to ensure that the logistical flows of goods and passengers at ports will not be disrupted.

There are different Brexit related challenges and opportunities for ports across the UK. Many ports with intra EU trade will welcome the indication from Mrs May that the UK would look to negotiate a deal that allows a free trade agreement with the EU.

#### **European Ports Services Regulation**

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision it now appears highly likely that the European Port Services Regulation has come into force before the UK has formally left the EU, which means that UK ports sector will have to adhere to it.

The UK Government opposed the PSR and now following its implementation they may decide to include it in their 'Great Reform Bill' helping to remove unwanted EU

legislation and red tape.

The UK Government will decide if it wishes to revoke the PSR legislation in the UK after Brexit and the BPA will be encouraging UK ministers and officials to remove these requirements once the UK leaves the EU.

Throughout the negotiating process UK Government has indicated support and sympathy to the industry's opposition to the PSR, therefore we are confident that there will be an opportunity to overturn the regulation post-Brexit.

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### **BPA welcomes Industrial Strategy and urges focus on connectivity and planning**

The Government has recently launched its "Industrial Strategy" and the BPA has pressed for a greater focus on port connectivity and on the fast tracking of planning to help ports develop and grow.

The Strategy's strong focus on growing the economy, investing in transport and increasing trade is a welcome initiative and rightly recognizes that ports are hubs for employment and improving connections to ports can help promote trade and create jobs.

The BPA also encourages measures that enable ports to develop and grow, these include the above fast tracking and also protecting ports from development conditions. This is something that the BPA has suggested in our post-Brexit 'Port Zones' concept, which would see port areas classified as areas for growth and we have written to ministers around the U.K outlining this idea.

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