



To be released on 31 December 2020

PRESS RELEASE

The Deal and immigration, a mixed picture

German business in the UK, like the rest of business, is very relieved to have a Deal, after more than 4 years of uncertainty. We rather expected it (see our survey on the Challenges of Brexit and COVID-19 Facing German Business in the UK, published on 2 December 2020, available on our website www.gi-uk.co.uk).

We set out the key German business priorities for the UK – EU negotiations for Brexit in January 2017 and said we would like continued free access without tariffs and non-tariff barriers to the UK and EU markets and the red tape around the future movement of labour kept to a minimum as we need to deploy skilled people to and from the EU.

What have we got in December 2020?

According to the Summary of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement we have Zero Tariffs and Quotas on goods traded, but... provided agreed rules of origin are met. According to New Immigration Rules, German citizens will continue to be able to travel to the UK for short trips on business without needing a visa but... German citizens moving to the UK for work will need to get a visa and their employers will need to have a Sponsor License.

Dr Bernd Atenstaedt, Chairman and Chief Executive of GIUK said: “As it is, there will be practical and procedural changes, changes to documentation, more bureaucracy, delays at borders, more cost for us. Not a happy picture and so last minute. We need, at least, a long implementation period to adjust.”

End

Note to Editors:

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK, the voice of German business in this country, is a private organisation of some 100 members of the board of German businesses in the UK with a German majority shareholding. They represent 250 businesses, employing 250,000 (British) people here.

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