

Press Release

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain warns against a UK withdrawal from the EU

London, 7 March - The President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, Arnaud Vaissié, has set out the Chamber's stance on the prospect of a UK referendum on European Union (EU) membership, raising concerns about the potential damage to British and French businesses if the UK were to leave the EU.

In a statement to be published in the March/April issue of the French Chamber's bimonthly magazine *INFO*, he underlines that the French Chamber of Commerce is an active supporter of the UK in the EU, but warns that if the UK were to leave the EU it would risk damaging not only Franco-British business, but also its own influence and relevance in the world.

'If the UK opts out, actually, it will be enlarging the Channel. Pulling out of Europe would mean that Britain would no longer be a leader, but a follower,' he states. 'Britain's influence is needed in the EU. It brings understanding of the global competition, a consideration for the advantages of the market place and a strong interest in keeping European red tape in check.'

While trade between France and the UK is flourishing like never before, Arnaud Vaissié expresses concern that 'a new wave of europhobia would worry our members as it may have a negative impact on their businesses. First, because companies long for a stable environment to make investment and employment decisions. Uncertainty can only prove detrimental to their activities. Second, because the UK, which is experiencing a difficult economic recovery, needs to stay an attractive location for investors.'

The French Chamber of Commerce promotes economic activity on both sides of the Channel, by helping French companies settle in the UK and encouraging British investment in France. With over 1,500 French subsidiaries and branches now established in the UK employing 330,000 people, France is the third largest source of foreign direct investment in Britain with a stock of £67.8 billion in 2011, behind the United States and the Netherlands.

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Notes to Editors:

About the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain is the largest foreign chamber in the UK in terms of both turnover and range of services offered. Our main aims are to provide a platform of exchange and networking at the service of the Franco-British firms in the UK, to promote our 600 members' interests to key decision makers and to help develop economic and commercial relations between France and the UK. Our Business Consultancy and Implantation departments provide both British and French companies with a large range of bespoke professional services.

The 50 events we organise a year, with personalities from the British and French political and business worlds, offer great opportunities for our members to develop their business and expand their network of contacts. Additionally, the Forums and the Clubs we have launched over the past two years, focusing on issues or

sectors such as Human Resources, Climate Change, Cross-Cultural Relations, Finance, Legal, Luxury and SMEs, offer our members dedicated platforms to exchange experiences at the highest level of management and to share best practice.

About *INFO* magazine

INFO, the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain's bimonthly magazine, is the only Franco-British business publication in the UK. *INFO* covers the latest news and developments in key industries, interviews key players in the Franco-British business and political worlds, and features contributions from French and British experts in their field or sector of activities.

[*INFO* is available to read on the French Chamber's website](#)