

PRESS RELEASE

French trade delegation heads to Scotland on 3-4 October

London, 23 September - The French Ambassador to the UK, HE Mr Bernard Emié and the President of the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain and Executive Chairman of Cartier UK, Mr Arnaud Bamberger, are leading a delegation of French business leaders to Scotland on 3-4 October.

A fifteen-strong delegation of French companies already present in the UK, together with representatives from the French Embassy, the French Trade Commission (Ubifrance) and the French Chamber of Commerce, will make the two-day trip to meet local authorities at the highest level with the aim of fostering relationships and exploring opportunities for business and investment. The companies represented include Altran UK, Areva, Banque Transatlantique, Cartier, Chivas Brothers, easyJet, Hermès, GDF Suez, International SOS, Michelin, PAUL UK, Société Générale Hambros, Spie, Thales, Total UK and Veolia Water.

EasyJet is providing flights to Scotland for the delegation and the company's Head of Scotland will join the group.

Jointly organised by the French Chamber of Commerce and the French General Consulate in Edinburgh, the trip is sponsored by International SOS and Société Générale Hambros.

Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland, will host a dinner for the delegation. On this occasion, a letter of intent on cooperation in education will be signed by the First Minister and the French Ambassador. This text aims at fostering the links between both ministries and promoting links between Scottish and French local education authorities and schools. The key element of the text is mobility for teachers and pupils alike, in order to improve mutual understanding of language learning strategies.

The delegation will also be accompanied by David Mundell, Scotland Office Minister, on a visit to Rosyth Royal Dockyard.

While in Edinburgh, Mackay Smith Scottish Development International will give a presentation on Scotland as a place to invest and do business, and the delegation will meet French companies already established within the Scottish capital.

A Scotch whisky tasting will be organised by Chivas Brothers.

On the second day of the trip the delegation will head for Dundee to visit the Michelin factory before travelling to Aberdeen where they will visit Total. Following a meeting with the Lord Provost, George Adam at the Town House, the delegation will hear about Aberdeen's economy from Robert Collier, Chief Executive of the Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and Gordon McIntosh, Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure at the Aberdeen City

Council. A civil reception hosted by Council Leader Councillor Barney Crockett on behalf of the Lord Provost will take place at Aberdeen Art Gallery before the delegation returns to London.

Trade delegations to UK regions are organised by the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain and led by the French Ambassador to the UK every year. This trip to Scotland follows very successful trade delegations to Birmingham in 2011 and Leeds in 2012, and form part of the French Chamber's strategy of developing relationships and business opportunities, not just in London but on a countrywide basis, to help forge links of mutual benefit.

More than 60 French companies are active in Scotland, making France the second largest foreign investor after the United States. During the years 2006 to 2011, French investments have made up to 16% of total FDI from the EU and contributed to creating or maintaining over a thousand jobs, mainly in the fields of energy (Total, EDF Energy), financial and corporate services (SGPB Hambros, Capgemini, BNP Paribas) and food and drinks (Pernod Ricard, LVMH, Sodexo).

In 2012 only, out of 76 Foreign Direct Investment projects in Scotland, eight were made by French companies. France is also the second client of Scottish products, buying 8.1% of all Scottish exports.

Lately French companies have also invested in renewable energy (Areva, Alstom, GdF Suez, Technip). Michelin and Thalès Optronics UK also have major plants in Scotland, each of them employing close to one thousand employees respectively in Dundee and Glasgow, as well as Veolia.