

Press release

British Chamber of Commerce in Germany (BCCG) fears failure of Brexit schedule:

- Ratification already unrealistic
- Johnson unlikely to give in
- Extension of the transition period requested

Berlin, 12 June 2020 – On 30 June, the Brexit negotiations between Great Britain and the European Union will end as planned. But the talks are in deadlock, with Great Britain and the EU insisting on their respective positions. "But we are running out of time," warns Michael Schmidt, President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany (BCCG). "If no agreement is reached by September, ratification by the parliaments of the EU member countries will hardly be achievable. Equally, it will make it impossible for governments to translate any compromises that may have been reached into legislation and treaty formulations in time. It would be chaotic for businesses."

However, the approximately 600 BCCG member organisations anticipate that the negotiations will fail: in a recent Twitter poll, 74.1% recommend an extension of the transition phase as they do not believe a Brexit deal can be reached by 31st December this year. "The British are hard-nosed negotiators – we've known this since the Maggie Thatcher era," Michael Schmidt explains this assessment. Schmidt is convinced that anyone assuming that Boris Johnson will give in at the last moment is mistaken: "Johnson will go through with it," Schmidt asserts.

BCCG members believe that an extension of the transition phase would be the best way to cushion the dramatic economic effects of a no-deal Brexit that are expected on both sides. "We don't need a hard Brexit on top of the Corona virus. We urge Boris Johnson to request an extension of the transition period, which a significant proportion of the British population also supports," said Michael Schmidt

The British Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V. (BCCG) is the largest British Chamber in Europe, and the second-largest international Chamber of Commerce in Germany. Patron is the British Ambassador to Berlin.

Press enquiries: Corinna Schlag c/o BCCG British Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V.
mobile: +49 173 603 83 71, e-Mail: schlag@p3pr.de

Patron: His Excellency the British Ambassador

BCCG British Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V. · Friedrichstr. 140 · 10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (0)30 206 70 80 · Fax: +49 (0)30 206 70 829
Internet: <http://www.bccg.de> · E-mail: info@bccg.de
Deutsche Bank AG, Berlin · Kto./Account: 070079900 · BLZ/Sort Code: 100 700 00
IBAN DE23 1007 0000 0070 0799 00 · BIC/Swift DEUTDE33XXX