

# BCF's Brexit Seminar: The Future Relationship



Government panel Q&A

BCF's second Brexit seminar took place on March 28th 2019, the day before the UK was supposed to leave the EU. 'Brexit: the future relationship' explored concerns surrounding the delay to the divorce proceedings and the implications of a no-deal Brexit to the industry. Government speakers involved in feeding into Brexit negotiations offered insight into the withdrawal process and industry speakers addressed what Brexit may mean for their businesses.

Make UK's Richard Rumbelow kicked the morning off with an overview of the latest Brexit insights and intelligence as they engage regularly with government on Brexit in relation to UK manufacturers. He cautiously noted that over half of businesses in the UK were not prepared for a "hard Brexit". A pre-lunchtime session welcomed a few government perspectives including Dave Bench, HSE; James Dancy, Head of EU Exit at DEFRA; Jo Bray, Deputy Director, BEIS; and Alastair Gardner, Trade Specialist DIT. Since Brexit, the coatings sector and the wider chemicals industry has increased its awareness with government, which was reflected in the discussions, as the officials have been feeding into negotiations on chemical regulations.

A panel discussion from BCF member companies followed with U-POL, HMG Powder, Sun Chemical and Synthomer among those represented. The general view from the panel was that UK businesses will survive after Brexit, regardless of the shape the divorce takes, key for members is staying in the EU chemical framework, frictionless trade and avoiding a "No Deal" Brexit. Providing a more positive view of life outside the UK, Mattias Baumberger, Managing Director of the Swiss Coatings Federation, talked about the benefits for the UK outside the European frameworks. Terry Rees-Pedlar succeeded, on behalf of ADS Group, and provided an overall analysis of the huge impact Brexit will have on the aerospace industry and how important it is that the supply chain communicates.

The seminar was an important milestone for industry as much lingering uncertainty was addressed. It demonstrated how hard the industry is working to remain positive and forward-thinking despite the ambiguity introduced by Brexit's delay.

Thanks to the event sponsor NETZSCH Mastermix.



Matthias Baumberger, Swiss Coatings Federation



Member panel



Government panel