



Media release from Global Britain

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Britain should leave the EU and become a beacon for global free trade

Global Britain, the think tank that has advocated leaving the European Union for over twenty years and produced over 100 briefing papers building this case, has published a new research paper announcing its recommended option for Brexit - the Global Britain Free Trade Option.

By adopting the Global Britain Free Trade Option the UK would trade under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules like most nations outside the EU - such as Australia, the USA, Japan, India and China. In addition to saving the net £14.8 billion costs of EU membership the UK would remove all trade tariff barriers and benefit from lower import costs - making it the largest free trade economy in the world.

Commenting on the report, Richard Tice, one of its authors and Chairman of Global Britain Business Group said,

"The Global Britain analysis found that of the four trading options that would be available to the UK on leaving the EU, all are better than the status quo of remaining in EU membership.

"The option offering the UK most benefits was the Global Britain Free Trade Option where the UK would become a beacon for free trade by encouraging cross border commerce and investment, challenging other nation states and the EU itself to follow its example.

"Under the Global Britain Free Trade Option the UK would have more international influence, create more jobs and deliver greater prosperity through trade with the whole world.

"Our report argues conclusively that there is more to be gained from leaving the EU than waiting a cosmetic "re-negotiation" with elusive benefits, if any. With other business leaders such as Sir Rocco Forte backing brexit the business case for leaving the EU is gaining momentum."

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In response to the report major City investor Hugh Osmond, said:

"Contrary to the poorly-analysed platitudes repeatedly trotted out by European apologists, leaving the EU will be a major boost for business and especially for entrepreneurs. The Global Britain Free Trade alternative would be a far better and far less expensive option both for businesses and for their customers, retaining access to the EU, without the soul-sapping weight and immense cost of Eurocratic red tape."

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Editors' notes:

The Global Britain Free Trade Option was found to bring the following benefits:

1) Internationally, the UK will have more influence, not less. Crucially, the UK will regain its own seat and vote at the WTO (which it surrendered to the then EEC on joining in 1973). The UK is already the 5th largest global economy and an influential member of the G8, NATO, the OECD, the United Nations Security Council and the Commonwealth.

2) Following Brexit, the UK will create more trade and jobs, not less. By removing tariffs and being free to negotiate its own trade agreements globally with all nations, export growth and inward investment will be able to accelerate. Additionally, outside the EU, the UK will be able to maximise the opportunities flowing from its leading position in the Commonwealth.

3) The UK will restore sovereign control and democratic accountability to its parliament at Westminster. Currently, over 64% of UK laws are forced on the economy by the EU, with no ability to withstand demands that are perceived as unnecessary. The UK can ensure that the City of London grows its position as a global financial centre of excellence rather than have further damaging EU regulations and costs imposed upon it.

4) The UK will regain control of its own borders. Global Britain supports immigration to bring additional labour from the EU and the rest of the world into the UK to help grow its economy, but believes that the UK must be able to determine the numbers and required skills of those who wish to work in the UK.

The Global Britain Free Trade Option means that the UK would not be a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), or the EU Customs Union.

A copy of the report can be obtained from the Global Britain website at www.globalbritain.co.uk

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