Challenges & opportunities for the UK ports industry

Ahead of the 9th Annual UK Ports Conference on the 23rd - 24th May in London, we spoke to Tim Waggott, Chief Executive Port of Dover, on the challenges facing the ports industry in the UK.

Tim Waggott
Chief Executive
Port of Dover

What are the possible implications of Brexit for Ports?

The UK’s ports are the key link providing business with access to global markets. Leaving the EU single market and customs union in any form triggers a series of concerns for UK ports. Britain must keep trading and goods must keep moving. The Brexit talks must achieve the stated aim of a frictionless border. Due to the nature, volume and speed of trade passing across the Dover Straits (representing 30% of the UK’s trade in goods by value), these concerns are particularly acute on the fastest growing shipping corridor in the UK and maintaining the rapid transit of goods through ports such as Dover is essential.

How does the rail and road network currently support UK ports and what changes are needed?

Road and rail connectivity to UK ports is essential in efficiently facilitating the demands of international trade and tourism whilst ensuring that communities are able to go about their business unimpeded. As the economy grows, improving access to and from international gateways is critical and there needs to be increased and targeted investment in the strategic road and rail network to feed and match that being delivered by the ports such as Dover. This is needed in order to ensure adequate capacity, resilience and fluidity in the whole transport chain to deliver national economic success. This is particularly important at such a critical time for the nation as we look to continue an effective trading relationship with the rest of Europe and stimulate further economic growth.

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(Continued overleaf)
How important is having a port master plan?

A port master plan is an essential tool in developing a shared vision for the future of a port with its customers and community. The Port of Dover was the first UK port to develop a 30-year master plan and, from first-hand experience, it creates long term certainty that drives business confidence while also generating the conditions to act as a catalyst for local regeneration and economic success. There are obvious linkages between master plans and a cogent industrial strategy.

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Hear from this senior level speaker...

As well as PD Ports, Port of London Authority, Peel Ports, UK Major Ports Group, British Ports Association, Department for Transport and many more at 9th Annual: UK Ports Conference 2017, taking place in London at Cavendish Conference Centre on Tuesday 23rd - Wednesday 24th May.

Tickets start from just £299+ VAT, (group booking discounts available) for full details of the programme and how to secure your place visit bit.ly/2hrg63F