



**Meeting Notes: Digital Single Market & Brexit
2nd November, 4pm in Committee Room 21**

Parliamentarians

- **Pete Wishart MP (Chair, APPG for IP)**
- **Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP**
- **Lord Clement Jones**
- **Baroness Rebuck**

Speakers

- **John McVay (FACT)**
- **Ian Moss (BPI)**
- **Stan McCoy (MPA)**
- **Susie Winter (Publishers Association)**
- **Bill Bush (Premier League)**
- **Lavinia Carey (BASE)**
- **Eddy Leviten (Alliance for IP)**
- **Dan Guthrie (Luther Pendragon)**

Pete Wishart (PW) welcomed the attendees. He explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Digital Single Market and Brexit and invited John McVay to set out the CIC paper on post-Brexit priorities for the industry.

John McVay (JM) explained the need for assurances from the Government that they would seek a deal with the EU that would secure the supply of skills and talent for the industry. In addition, he said the industry is also looking for assurances that the creative industries will be placed at the heart of the Government's industrial strategy. This includes supporting the industry by prioritising broadband, regional funding, and helping to better foster young talent in the UK.

PW then invited the representatives of the publishing, audio visual and music industries to share their perspective on the Digital Single Market and the consequences of Brexit.

Ian Moss (IM) explained the background to the IP legal framework governing the creative and other industries and the need to have the framework transposed into UK law. IM emphasised the need to ensure that access to talent is retained by ensuring that the process for securing visas for touring remains simple and accessible. He also suggested that the UK, while working in cooperation with the EU, has the opportunity to better enforce intellectual property rights and also use the UK's many well-known cultural figures to promote the UK in the post-Brexit world.

Stan McCoy (SM) was optimistic about the future of the industry post-Brexit. He explained how the UK is still a good place to make films and TV programmes, and that due to the popularity of the UK's products worldwide the sector is not necessarily overly-dependant on the EU, though it is still important. He emphasised the need to consider a new solution for securing market access in Europe and outlined that some foreign diplomats in Europe are wary of giving the UK too positive a deal in order to discourage other countries from leaving. SM was confident that a pragmatic deal would be reached and that the EU will remain an important export market. He also explained that the UK has a chance to influence the development of the Digital Single Market and that it is important for the UK to keep speaking up and working with allies in Europe while it still remains a member.

Susie Winter (SW) outlined the strength of the UK publishing sector and was optimistic that as only 35% of publishing exports go to Europe there is still a very large export market elsewhere allowing for new international trading opportunities to be promoted with North America, the Middle East, and Asia. SW did express concerns about a loss of EU funding (particularly for research which is an important area for the publishing sector) and also emphasised the importance of freedom of movement and access to talent. SW expressed concern about the UK losing its voice in developing the DSM, particularly around copyright measures and that this could be quite damaging for the sector.

PW thanked them for their contribution and opened up the debate to other attendees.

Bill Bush (BB) explained how a large part of what made the Premier League so popular globally was that it was so incredible diverse, attracting the very best talent from around the world. Ensuring that access to this talent is maintained is crucial to ensuring the Premier league remains competitive when compared to the Bundesliga in Germany and La Liga in Spain which are seen as excellent but more remote.



Lavinia Carey (LC) set out a recent piece of research commissioned by the Audio-Visual sector regarding the importance of territoriality. She compared the report's findings to a report produced by the EU Commission, and outlined the need for the UK to maintain its voice and to use the report as their evidence base for arguing about territoriality.

Dan Guthrie (DG) voiced that Brexit does not necessarily mean a loss of influence, citing America's influence in the EU despite not being a member. He emphasised the need for the UK to follow suit by building new alliances in order to ensure its voice is heard.

IM agreed and discussed the need to change the way the UK lobbies Brussel's following Brexit. He emphasised the role of industry associations and also the need to move away from representatives who have previously been part of the bureaucracy to people skilled at lobbying from the outside.

PW asked what type of Brexit the industry would like to see in regards to building new relationships with the EU post-Brexit.

SW said this is still being discussed among members. She said it is important to know what the Government's proposals are so they can understand the impact on their businesses.

John Whittingdale (JW) said that the Select Committee for Exiting the European Union had met for the first time and that it will be a useful forum for the creative industries to have their voices heard.

PW said that once Article 50 is triggered in spring 2017 the Government's proposals will become clearer, but that there will be new pressure on the industry to decide what special arrangements the sector will need following Brexit.

JM said that Government still doesn't have a full understanding of the industry and the role it plays. He said that Europe should not be their only focus and the Government should also concentrate on growing market opportunities outside the EU.

BB said that they need to know what the Government's objectives are as there are positives and negatives to different Brexit scenarios. He also said there needs to be better engagement between the Government and industry regarding the impact of various Brexit outcomes.

SW emphasised the need to promote the strength of the creative industries and argue their importance to the UK economy and Europe.

PW also asked what Parliament can do to help promote their cause.

LC emphasised that clarity on the copyright framework going forward is definite priority.

PW suggested securing a backbench business debate on the EU and creative industries. He also suggested that the report stage of the Digital Economy Bill would provide an opportunity to suggest useful amendments.

Eddy Leviten (EL) said that moving forward the APPG will be looking to do a session on enforcement in the New Year.

Baroness Rebuck (BR) argued that the publishing industry needs to be more ambitious in its post-Brexit goals. She said it would be crucial to establish how many EU nationals work in the sector in the UK and that an analysis needs to be done on the impact Brexit will have on access to talent and also on the UK's cultural and intellectual life more broadly.

PW thanked the attendees for their contributions and said moving forward the creative industries sector should work to secure a backbench business debate. It was also agreed a letter would be sent to ministers ahead of the next meeting of European Culture and Competiveness Council. The Group will also seek a backbench business debate and invite Karen Bradley to speak before them. Amendments will also be suggested to the Digital Economy Bill and the Lords thereafter.