



Press release – for immediate release

What will be the knock-on effect of Brexit on the cruise industry?

London/Hamburg, 26 June 2017

Top of the cruise industry's agenda is how Brexit will impact the industry in light of last week's negotiations with the European Commission (which started on June 19).

The Seatrade Cruise team talked to some of the industry's key cruise lines and associations to gather their thoughts about what the future might mean - ahead of a full Brexit discussion which will take place later this year at Seatrade Europe.

Tim Reardon, Policy Director – Taxation, Ferry and Cruise, UK Chamber of Shipping, said: "Despite endless punditry about how everything is caught up in uncertainty, the travel business is very much working on the assumption that life will continue much as it is now."

However, he did continue to say that "Such an approach is based in part on the fact that Brexit will make no difference to where ships may go or to the services they may offer. The regulatory frameworks of the UN and the OECD, which bind both the UK and the countries of the EU, ensure that there will be no dislocation to itineraries. British cruise ships will be free to continue sailing to EU ports, and European ships will be free to continue sailing to British ports, just as American and other ships are currently free to sail to both."

Giving a cruise line perspective, Stuart Leven, Chairman, CLIA UK & Ireland, Vice President, EMEA and Managing Director, RCL Cruises Ltd, feels that "the industry enjoys global frameworks which mitigate any risk to ongoing marine operations. However, the freedom of movement of our guests and the customs union are two areas which will be determined during the Brexit negotiations. As negotiations start ministers have been made aware of the potential impacts. It is critical that they listen to the industry, and that we collectively continue to lobby both sides of the debate through the full negotiation process".

From a legal perspective, Maria Pittordis, Partner, Head of Marine Trade & Energy for Hill Dickinson, says that "consumers should have confidence and continue to book their cruises as CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) is working closely together with DfT and the UK Chamber of Shipping to address legal issues that are relevant to cruises, ports and commercial shipping and must be resolved for 2019. The industry is addressing these in the appropriate manner including lobbying so as to ensure legal and regulatory provisions are addressed during the Brexit negotiations."

The impact of Brexit on the European cruise industry will be discussed in full at Seatrade Europe 2017, which is being held at Hamburg Messe und Congress in Hamburg, Germany. This session will take place on Thursday 7 September from 0930-1015 hrs. Tim Reardon will lead the discussions and joining him on the panel will be Stuart Leven and Maria Pittordis.

To download Tim Reardon's full report on his views about Brexit, please [click here](#).

To find out more about the full programme, and for regular updates, please visit www.seatrade-europe.com/programme/conference

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Notes to the editors:

About Seatrade Europe

Seatrade Europe, the leading trade event of the European cruise and river cruise industry, organised by Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH, in partnership with Seatrade (UBM EMEA), is held in Hamburg, Germany's famous seaport on the Elbe River. Industry decision-makers and professionals will meet to exchange ideas, set new trends and expand their business networks. Exhibitors include shipyards, ship chandlers, food and beverage suppliers, classification societies, cruise ports and shipbrokers, among others. From small-scale on-board hospitals to huge restaurant kitchens, from waste disposal to entertainment equipment, operations on board a cruise ship are highly complex, requiring perfect logistics. At the conference held in parallel with the exhibition, high-level experts will discuss current industry topics. Seatrade Europe will open doors from Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 September 2017.

For full details about Seatrade Europe, visit www.seatrade-europe.com

Find out more about Seatrade and UBM, visit [Seatrade](#) and [UBM EMEA](#)

Cruise Week in September 2017

From 1 to 10 September 2017, the port of Hamburg will again be transformed into a giant stage for major cruise events. For the second time, Hamburg will be bundling its cruise events and welcoming both the public and industry experts for ten days. The highlights are: Seatrade Europe (6-8 September) – Europe's meeting point for the cruise industry, the Hamburg Cruise Days (8-10 September) – Europe's largest public cruise event as well as two events organised by CLIA (5-6 September), the world's largest cruise association. Throughout the events, the port will again be illuminated and transformed into Blue Port Hamburg by lighting artist Michael Batz (1-10 September).

More information at www.hamburgcruisedays.com/cruiseweek

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