

Press release: Trade Secretary announces £1 billion to support trade with Iraq

Dr Fox announces £1 billion increase in support on offer from UK Export Finance for British firms exporting to Iraq.

Speech: Focusing on children's safety and a need for enhanced political process in Yemen

Thank you Mr President and thank you to all our briefers.

I'll split my remarks if I may into what we heard from Mark and Martin and then what we've heard from Ms Gamba and from Muna Lugman but I think it was all very powerful. Thank you to Mark, Martin and General Lollesgaard, who we will hear from later, for their tireless efforts to push implementation of the agreements reached in Stockholm. I think Muna's testimony was very powerful, but we know that the UN has been working very hard to get implementation. And I think I speak for everyone in the Council in saying the Council really wants to stay united behind you in pushing for that. The fact that you've got agreements to the concept of operations for Phase 1 as you say is helpful. I don't think we underestimate the scale of the task. Martin, you referred to the fact that voluntary withdrawals would be the first time this has happened in the Yemeni context so we appreciate the scale of the task. But at the same time, we do want the parties to be aware that the lack of implementation is very worrying and we urge all the parties to put in place whatever steps need to be taken to get Stockholm implemented in full. And we also look to the parties to remove all the impediments to the UN's ability to operate effectively in Hodeidah. And we'll have a couple of questions to follow up on when we go into closed consultations.

I wanted to turn to what Mark said; I think it's shocking that we can't get access to the Red Sea Mills after all this time. We were very hopeful after the last briefing but it's very disappointing to hear that those obstacles still continue. And I just want to echo Mark's call; if it's possible for the grain to be salvaged, even at this late stage, then I think we look to the parties to redouble their efforts to work with the UN to ensure that can happen. I think obviously the figures Mark gave us about the 80 percent drop in humanitarian assistance in what we know is already the greatest

humanitarian crisis in the world. The contrast between those two statements is extremely alarming and Mr President, I'm running out of superlatives to echo how worrying this is. There's been some very welcome pledges from Saudi Arabia and the UAE and they have just announced disbursing \$200 million of the pledges that they've made. But there's still a \$1.5 billion funding gap in the humanitarian response plan. For our part, we have pledged \$300 million and we've brought forward our disbursement so we can support the UN. But I would like to encourage all donors today to disburse their funds rapidly and to pledge additional funds throughout the year.

Turning to the very powerful testimonies we heard from the SRSB and from Ms Muna Luqman, thank you for putting the focus on children. Today is a very good moment to reflect quite how desperate the plight of children is in Yemen. And I just want to pay tribute also to the Belgium PR and his mission for all the work they have done on children in the Yemen conflict. We need to consider very carefully what you've told us. And we heard from Muna a very graphic account of what the continuing conflict means for individuals. And I think you're quite right, Muna to hold the Council to account and to ask us to work with the UN to do more. So we will take that very seriously and we will do what we can.

Finally, Mr President, I just wanted to end going back to the Stockholm Agreement. It was designed to build confidence and prepare the road for a comprehensive political process to end the conflict. That's such an important goal. The stakes are too high for us to let that fail and the Council, in our view, Mr President, should be ready to take stronger measures if there's no progress by our next meeting. And I'd like to follow that up in consultations, if I may. Thank you.

News story: Joint statement on the UK-U.S. marine technology SME best practice exchange

First sectoral-focused SME dialogue hosted in the UK successfully enables shared learnings on innovation and trade for UK and U.S. SMEs in marine technology.

News story: Joint statement on the UK-U.S. marine technology SME best practice exchange

The UK and the U.S. held a marine technology small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) best practice exchange at the Ocean Business 2019 exhibition in Southampton, UK on 8 April 2019. This was under the auspices of the [United Kingdom-United States Trade and Investment Working Group](#).

This was the first sectoral-focused dialogue bringing together over 50 marine technology SMEs and industry experts on both sides of the Atlantic with government officials from:

- the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- the UK Department for International Trade
- the U.S. Department of Commerce
- the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

The exchange highlighted the opportunities for marine technology SMEs in the UK and U.S. and identified the support available from governments and the private sector to help them access one another's markets.

The UK and U.S. welcomed the creation of a business-to-business contact group of UK and U.S. SMEs in marine technology under the leadership of the Society of Maritime Industries for the UK and The Maritime Alliance for the U.S.

During the best practice exchange, UK and U.S. SMEs learned how they would be able to benefit from the [Mutual Recognition Agreement \(MRA\) on marine equipment](#) signed in February 2019 by the U.S. and UK in Washington, DC.

Under this agreement designated products which comply with U.S. requirements will be accepted for sale in the UK without any additional testing, and vice versa. The MRA will help ensure that U.S.-UK trade in these product sectors is not disrupted when the UK leaves the European Union.

Based on 2018 data, an estimated \$344 million in U.S.-UK marine equipment trade would be covered under the MRA, creating opportunities for small businesses on both sides to access transatlantic markets. Bilateral trade in this sector has been growing in recent years.

News story: UK and India strengthen

defence ties with new agreement

At bilateral defence and security equipment talks in London this week, the two nations agreed to re-double efforts to identify mutual defence and security capability needs and collaborate on solutions.

Air Marshal Richard Knighton signed the Defence Equipment Memorandum on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence, while Shri Barun Mitra, Additional Secretary Defence Production at the Ministry of Defence, signed on behalf of the Indian Government.

Defence Minister Stuart Andrew said:

As major world economies, Britain and India both have a proud global maritime history, with impressive futures ahead. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding underpins the collaboration between our two nations, building on our defence ties, and ensuring our nations are able to combat emerging threats for generations to come.

The agreement, which marks a step change in India and United Kingdom's defence relationship, comes after a visit by India's chief of naval staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, to HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth last month. It also follows HMS Dragon's visit to Goa in December last year, where the ship took part in the longstanding naval exercise, The Konkan Series.

By collaborating and exploiting procurement opportunities together, both nations will be able to benefit from technological and manufacturing capabilities and support long-term cooperation between their defence and security industries.

In addition to the bilateral talks this week, UK and Indian industry met to discuss how they would forge deeper and broader partnerships to contribute to these efforts.

Minister of State for Trade and Export Promotion Baroness Fairhead said:

I am delighted that the Ministries of Defence of India and the United Kingdom have signed this Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement will help us develop closer, mutually beneficial relationships between our respective defence and security industries.