

News story: Robin Walker Speech at Community Outreach event

As a Minister at the Department for Exiting the EU, I have spoken at a number of these events with our EU communities here in the UK and I am delighted to be here tonight to hear from you directly.

The purpose of our meeting today is to bring you, the French community here in the UK, together with officials from the Department for Exiting the EU and the Home Office to reassure you on your rights and discuss the issues that matter most to you.

I know that many of you, your friends and your families, will want to know what our EU exit means for your future in the UK. As we have made clear throughout this process, and as the PM emphasised in her speech in Florence: EU citizens who have made their lives in the UK are highly valued, we want you to stay; and we thank you for your contribution to our country.

The United Kingdom and France are very close partners and friends – as has been shown in recent weeks – and I hope that tonight's event can help to demonstrate our desire – as we prepare to leave the EU – to maintain the strong bonds that we have created over generations, indeed centuries.

Everyone in this room, and members of the French community across the whole of the UK, make a contribution to British society and culture. You help save lives, you teach children, you enrich our business, tech and finance industries, and you help to make Britain the inclusive and diverse society it is. So I want to stress that you are an important part of our community. We want to make sure that everyone here continues to feel welcome – and that you're able to carry on living your lives as before, in the country you have chosen to make your home.

I hope that today's event will demonstrate that commitment.

From the start of our negotiations we have prioritised citizens' rights. I am delighted that in March we were able to announce real progress on the legal drafting of the Withdrawal Agreement. This includes successfully translating all the commitments made in the December political agreement between us and the EU commission on citizens' rights into the Withdrawal Agreement legal text. This agreement will enshrine your rights in international law, securing your rights, and those of the other 3 million EU citizens in the UK, and 1 million UK nationals in the EU.

This agreement gives certainty not only about residency, but also healthcare, pensions and other benefits. We understand that the arrangements on which citizens rely need to go beyond broad political declarations and deal with the realities of people and their lives. The point of meetings such as today is to hear from you and learn about these realities.

It will enable families who have built their lives together in the UK and EU to stay together. And will ensure close family members can join after the implementation period, on the basis of current EU rules, as long as the relationship existed at the end of the implementation period – 31 December 2020.

Let me stress – the guarantee we are giving on your rights is real. We have committed to incorporating the Withdrawal Agreement fully into UK law. This will mean that the UK courts can refer directly to it and your rights are protected fully in law both here and internationally.

Details of the agreement are set out in a Joint Report published on 8 December and the Withdrawal Agreement legal text, published on 19 March.

Our agreement with the EU will protect your right to residency through granting settled status.

You will hear fuller details of this proposed scheme later in the evening but let me summarise:

Settled status will be granted to those who have been in the UK for five years or more at the end of the implementation period. For those of you – or your friends – who don't yet have five years residency on that day, the 31st December 2020, we will make sure that you will be able to stay to make up these years, so you can apply for settled status when you have.

We have committed to giving you until June 2021 to submit an application for settled status – and we have made a commitment in the Withdrawal Agreement that this application system will be smooth, streamlined and low cost. I know that the French community in the UK is long established, and for those who have already acquired permanent residence documents I would like to stress that there will be a simple process to exchange this for a settled status document completely free of charge. This will also be available to people who have documents demonstrating Indefinite Leave to Remain, such as those who came before the UK joined the EU.

In addition, those who acquire settled status will be able to leave the country for up to 5 years, without losing their right to return. In this respect we have gone further than existing EU law which only allows for an absence of 2 years in the permanent residence process.

The Home Office is currently developing this application system, which will be designed with your needs and priorities in mind. This system will be launched for voluntary applications by the end of this year, giving those of you already living in the UK, 2 and a half years to apply.

Events such as this give the officials working on the system the opportunity to hear directly from EU citizens to ensure it is carefully designed to meet your needs. I am grateful to the officials from my department and the Home Office who are here to listen to you and to take your questions.

Even while we're leaving the EU, we want to continue to deepen the strong relationship we already have with France, after decades, indeed centuries, of

cooperation.

The UK's relationship with France is one of the longest, most complex and, arguably, most important in the world. In 48 years' time, it will be one thousand years – a millennium – since William the Conqueror landed near Hastings, and the Duke of Normandy became the King of England. The famous Bayeux Tapestry chronicles William's triumph and we are delighted that, at the 35th Franco-British Summit hosted at Sandhurst earlier this year, President Macron agreed the loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to the UK –an important signal of the depth of our relationship and a marker for how far we have come since William landed on UK shores.

Of course, the UK and France have a partnership like no other. We work closely together across a full spectrum of issues from defence, to science, to culture and we reinforced this co-operation at this year's Franco British Summit. We agreed to: strengthen our security co-operation, including on military engagements, counter terrorism and cyber security; collaborate further to deliver cutting edge technologies in areas such as medicine and space; develop our partnership on education, and work together to protect our cultural heritage. And there's more.

We also have a strong economic relationship – France's total trade with the UK is worth nearly 100 billion euros. And over 5,000 of our companies invest in each other's countries. As immediate neighbours it is in the interests of both the UK and France to forge a strong economic partnership between the UK and the EU on goods and services.

But of course, the relations between our two countries are not only, or primarily, about the relations between the Governments. It's the human stories and links that underpin our shared history and future. These are ties of family, friendship, work and beyond. There are hundreds of thousands of British and French citizens living in each other's countries. And there are no fewer than 12 million British visits to France each year – more than any other country in the world. Likewise, more French people visit the UK than those of any other nationality. It is no coincidence that the French language is the first language, after English, that is taught in schools here.

French schools have been operating across the UK for years – there are over a dozen such schools in London alone. And at our recent summit the UK and France agreed to deepen cooperation across all education sectors, to increase opportunities for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We also have very close ties in the higher education sector, which were set out to me when I visited the University of London Institute in Paris recently. It is clear to see that the lives of hundreds of thousands of French and British people are intertwined every day, and it is these people who will make the Franco-British relationship such a rich one for years to come.

All of you here today are a big part of that and, as the Prime Minister said at the Franco British Summit reception at the V&A Museum: "I am proud that more than three million EU citizens [including hundreds of thousands of our French friends] have chosen to make your homes and livelihoods here in our

country. We greatly value the depth of the contributions you make – enriching every part of our economy, our society, our culture and our national life. We know our country would be poorer if you left and I want you to stay”.

I echo these remarks and I know that President Macron feels the same about the British Community in France.

So I hope that you leave today more informed by the steps we’re taking to secure your future. I also hope that you leave today able to share the information you learn with your friends and relatives in the French community and have the chance to share your views with us.

Reassuring and informing our citizens is best done when it is a shared endeavour. That’s why we hope to host more events such as this with EU citizens across the country.

We value enormously the French community in the UK, and I hope today’s event will help to ensure we provide reassurance to as many people as possible that, despite the challenges of Brexit, there is a bright future for French people in Britain.

Both our Foreign Secretary and the President of France have spoken about London as the sixth biggest French city in the world. We want our French neighbours to continue to enjoy the UK, to contribute to our communities and to continue to be part of the fabric of our nation. The UK and France will remain partners, neighbours and friendly rivals for generations to come.

[News story: Scam emails claiming to be from Companies House](#)

We’re aware that some customers have received suspicious emails about company complaints. These emails are not from us.

The email is sent from: “noreply@cpgov.uk” with the following message:

If you receive any emails from this sender, forward them to phishing@companieshouse.gov.uk as soon as possible. Do not open any attachments.

If you receive a suspicious email, you should report it to us immediately. Do not disclose any personal information or open any attachments. Companies House will never ask for your authorisation code.

You can read our guidance for more information on [reporting fraud to Companies House](#).

Speech: Home Secretary speech on cyber security to Commonwealth Business Forum

It's a great pleasure to be here today with so many representatives from across the Commonwealth and business to celebrate the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit.

The first ever Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting was back in 1971 in Singapore.

But 1971 was an important year for another reason too.

That year, computer engineer Ray Tomlinson, working at MIT, sent the first ever email.

Now, this message itself wasn't particularly earth-shattering, just a series of letters that Tomlinson sent from his computer to the neighbouring one. All the same, it marked a historic moment in the evolution of communication.

Fast forward to now and it is estimated that globally we send a staggering 269 billion emails a day.

The internet is now an integral part of all our lives.

I expect that even since I started talking, some of you have glanced at your phones.

The growth of access to the internet is phenomenal.

It's estimated that 48% of the population used the internet last year.

71% of the world's 15 to 24 year olds are now online.

And the internet has revolutionised how we do business too.

Today, a business in India can sell goods to someone in Barbados over the internet and can receive payment in seconds.

A farmer in Kenya can crowdsource a loan from people across continents to pay for new farming equipment.

The internet is now the backbone of our banks, our power grids, our schools, universities and governments.

But we know that while the internet has brought many obvious advantages, it's also brought new threats.

Threats that continue to grow in scale, sophistication and severity.

And cybercrime costs billions.

In the UK, nearly 7 in 10 large businesses have experienced cybercrime with an average cost of £20,000 per business. Some breaches leave companies on their knees.

And then of course, there's the broader cyber threat.

Hostile state activity in cyberspace is the most alarming expression of that threat.

Over the last year we've seen a significant increase in the scale and severity of malicious cyber activity globally.

We know that there are several established, capable states seeking to exploit computer and communications networks in contravention of their obligations under international law.

Consultations conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation show that members are concerned about the scale and complexity of cyber attacks from hostile states, groups and individuals who use cyber tools to commit crimes, to project power, to intimidate their adversaries, and to influence and manipulate societies in a manner which makes definitive attribution difficult.

But we have started to call this sort of activity out.

For instance, in 2017, countries across the Commonwealth were hit by the Wannacry ransomware attack, with cases reported in India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Australia among others.

Wannacry was one of the most significant cyber attacks to hit the UK in terms of scale and disruption. It disrupted over a third of NHS Trusts in England and thousands of operations were cancelled, putting lives at risk.

But in partnership with others, we publicly attributed the Wannacry attack to North Korean actors known as the Lazarus Group.

And in February, again in partnership, we called out the Russian military for the destructive NotPetya cyber attack of June 2017.

And on Monday, our National Cyber Security Centre partnered with the US Department for Homeland Security and the FBI and issued, for the first time, a joint technical alert about malicious cyber activity carried out by the Russian government. I know that some Commonwealth partners have supported that statement and it marks an important step in our fight back against state-sponsored aggression in cyberspace.

Together, we need to continue to call out this sort of destructive behaviour.

And when it comes to cyber security, working together really is the best

approach.

I know that Australia and New Zealand are doing great work supporting our Pacific Commonwealth Partners with cyber security and that Ghana is sharing expertise with others in Africa. Our very own National Cyber Security Centre and National Crime Agency work globally and with our Commonwealth partners to address cybersecurity and cybercrime.

They've supported the Central Bureau of Investigation of India to provide training on reverse engineering and analysis of malware.

We worked with the Kenyan Police and provided expertise for their first high profile cybercrime investigation which resulted in a successful prosecution.

And we want to continue to build on projects such as the Commonwealth Cyber Crime initiative with Barbados, Botswana and Grenada amongst others. We must continue to work together to address the shared cyber threats and opportunities.

That is why the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration, which foreign ministers and leaders will be considering this week, is such a powerful demonstration of common resolve to address our collective cyber security.

As the world's largest inter-governmental commitment on cyber security co-operation, it sets out our agreed principles and ambitions, and agreement to work more closely together to enhance our collective ability to tackle threats and foster stability in a free, open, inclusive and secure cyberspace.

And earlier today, the UK Prime Minister announced a £5.5 million UK programme supporting cyber security in the Commonwealth to support the implementation the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration by 2020.

This will bring the UK's total programme of support for Commonwealth partners to nearly £15 million over the next 3 years to help improve cyber security capabilities.

So there's important work ahead.

And whether you're here today representing a government, a business or just yourself, one thing should be very clear. And that is that we need to get our cyber security right.

From understanding where the gaps are in our national cyber security, to ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the skills and expertise to investigate cybercrime and provide victims with support. We need to increase public awareness of what good cyber security looks like and what the basic changes – like strong passwords – can make to this.

As today's panellists will I'm sure make clear, cyber security is a shared endeavour. Governments, businesses and individuals must all play their part.

And we also need to ensure that the pipeline of talent going into the

technology sector is capable, expert and diverse. As Jeremy Flemming, Head of GCHQ, noted last week, we continue to “need to seek out diversity of talent, to recruit and retain the best minds”. And we are. We’re throwing our support behind initiatives from the private sector in the UK, like the Tech Talent Charter – a commitment to improve female representation in the tech sector – to demonstrate this.

And I encourage all of you to consider, and share how your businesses and governments are meeting this challenge.

Because diversifying the way we think about security helps combat the diversity of threats.

I want to conclude today by saying this.

Ray Tomlinson was inspired by the promise of the internet to send that first email.

Every day, businesses across the Commonwealth are growing and thriving because of it.

And while there are threats that we all now recognise, I believe that by working together we can make sure that the promise of the internet is realised while the threats are combated.

Thank you.

[Speech: Sir Alan Duncan Gallipoli Commemoration Speech](#)

I stand before you as the son of a Royal Air Force officer who just saw the end of the Second World War and as the grandson of an army corporal from Scotland who fought in the First.

Respect and admiration for those who have lived and died for their country rests deep in my soul. It is therefore a profound personal honour to be here today to represent the former Entente Powers as we remember the service, sacrifice and suffering of those on both sides of the seismic military encounter which took place here over a century ago.

War exaggerates the natural qualities of its combatants: it turns the bad into monsters and the brave into heroes. And there were many heroes amongst the hundreds of thousands who died fighting on the beaches, in the gullies, and in the pine woods of this beautiful peninsula.

For the school child of today, Gallipoli – like Passchendale – is the image they hold of what war was like a hundred years ago. May they also learn of

the remarkable moments of decency within the many months of misery, such as when Turkish and Australian soldiers in May 1915 at Anzac Cove suspended hostilities in order to allow both sides, with dignity, to bury their dead.

As a Turkish Captain said of it: 'At this spectacle, even the most gentle must feel savage; and the most savage must weep.'

Today we salute those from Turkey, from Australia, from New Zealand, from other Commonwealth countries, and from the Entente Powers, who died or were injured during the lengthy sufferings of the campaign.

The pain and losses endured here were a source of grief, but also of pride and inspiration for the young and new nations that have since emerged from the sand, the mud and the ashes of the First World War.

The good that has arisen out of the foulness of conflict teaches us that it is the duty of all of us here today to learn from the past and look to the future.

That vision was no better expressed than by the words of Kamal Ataturk who called on all people to aim for 'peace at home, and peace in the world.'

It is a fitting legacy of what happened here at Çanakkale that, despite such ferocious battles, the historic bitter enmity that used to exist has so widely been replaced by binding friendships and steadfast alliances.

It is a remarkable testament to the value of reconciliation that a century after Turkey and Great Britain were on opposite sides, we now stand shoulder to shoulder as NATO allies and trusted friends.

Whereas my grandfather then could have found himself standing here looking at a Turkish soldier as an enemy, I can stand here now as a British minister looking at all of you as friends.

Together, we all must honour those who fought in the past, and we must strive together for a better world in which there is less need to fight in the future.

Let us be a common voice for adherence to the international rule of law, and to treaties and binding conventions. Where we see what is right, let us prove robust in defending it: where we see what is wrong, let us prove steadfast in correcting it.

After the hideous experience of gas in the trenches a century ago all nations resolved to rid the world of chemical weapons. Let us, a hundred years on, renew and uphold that wisdom.

I pay a heartfelt tribute to all the nations represented here today. May we all turn enmity into empathy; and wounds into bonds.

May this ceremony mark remembrance and reconciliation, each to the full.

May we all respectfully embrace the memory of the fallen, and the future of

the living.

On behalf of the Entente Powers I salute the memory of Gallipoli Çanakkale, and look to our future together.

Further information

Speech: Matt Hancock speaking at the Change Makers Summit

I'm delighted to be here at this day to celebrate the changemakers.

I came here on the Tube. I was unable to get past Parliament Square, because a statue was being unveiled to Millicent Fawcett, herself a great changemaker.

And I have the pleasure of meeting and working with changemakers every single day. In the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport we think of ourselves as the department of the future.

Changemakers in the world of culture, and of course digital transformation, are having a phenomenal impact. And this is a pace of change that the world has never seen before.

I like to think of it this way.

The pace of change that we are living through now is in fact the slowest pace of change that we will experience for the rest of our lifetimes.

So as new technologies, like artificial intelligence and others, get exponentially faster, these changes will only accelerate.

But the flipside of this is that the impact on our lives is getting greater and greater.

And I just wanted to address the impact this has from the point of view of somebody in Government.

I came to Government having started life in the tech sector, and understanding the impact of these changes on businesses.

Governments have an opportunity now to create an environment that supports businesses – and tech businesses in particular – and create appropriate norms and rules for the online world.

This balance between the two is critical in a way that it wasn't even a few years ago.

Making sure that the ethics, the norms and the rules are in place, to ensure the positive development of technology for mankind, whilst also supporting mission critical innovation.

And today I want to go into three areas where I think that our focus needs to be laserlike to make this happen, and to give changemakers the help that they need.

Firstly, the right business environment. Secondly, the right talent. And thirdly, the right ethics. And I think we need all three if we're going to get it right.

Business environment

First, governments around the world need to set the conditions not just for a thriving digital economy but also one that generates positive social change.

Now, I am a deep believer that business is a force for good in the world. Successful businesses are those which solve other people's problems, and in fact solve other people's problems so well that they're paid to do so. Ensuring that we have a positive business environment is critical.

And I think increasingly more and more businesses – in the UK and beyond – are thinking deeply about their social purpose and integrating that into their core strategy.

We have seen an acceleration in recent years of digital social enterprises doing brilliant work.

Take one example, Zinc VC – it's an incubator, building new companies to solve the developed world's toughest social issues, like mental health and loneliness, through the application of new technology.

There are new companies connecting volunteers with people in their area who aren't always able to cook for themselves, commercial financial platforms that help people to become debt free, and apps that allow tuition and healthcare to be given to people in remote areas of the world.

This Tech for Good sector is a critical part of the development of new technology in a way that is both commercially and socially good – and it is growing fast.

Government clearly has a role here.

Big Society Capital, the world's first wholesale social investor fund was set up five years ago by the Government. And it has already committed a billion to social sector organisations.

We are continuing to look at how we can expand this throughout the economy.

And what I find interesting is, having been a minister now for five years, starting in the Business Department, is that the conversation around the inclusive economy, and the need to rise to major social challenges, is now

higher on the agenda than it ever has been. And I think that the UK is leading the world.

But it isn't just about the businesses that are explicitly about solving social problems as well, but also about making sure that we're at the cutting edge of the development of new technologies, including clean growth, and Artificial Intelligence.

In these areas we face a grand challenge, to make sure that Britain is leading the world and making sure that the development of new technologies happens here.

That allows us to have influence over the unlocking of this technology.

And that brings me to talent and ethics.

Talent

If we want to create the right business environment, we've got to get the talent right too.

Because technology and automation will have a radical impact on the workplace. There is no point in trying to hold back the tide.

We understand the big debate around the impact of technology but I think that there is a growing consensus on this.

The challenge we have is to ensure that we embrace the new jobs that are created by that technology, and that we give people the skills they need; and crucially support those who need to retrain.

And here I think that Britain, in many ways, leads the world.

From making coding in the curriculum compulsory at school age, through to supporting a more flexible labour market and to expanding digital training for adults, we have a far-reaching programme to support people whose jobs are being disrupted by technology.

And part of this is the need to embed these digital skills far and wide.

It is, in a way, easy, especially here in the centre of London, to focus on the need for high-end tech skills, and of course this is mission critical.

But we need to have a full-spectrum approach to getting the talent that we need, to make sure that everybody can participate, and, right up at the top, that we can continue to be the most advanced nation in the world.

And part of doing that is making sure that our tech industry itself is more representative of the country as a whole.

To address this, we are working with industry to support the Tech Talent Charter.

There is a lack of gender diversity in our tech industry. That brings with it

two problems.

The first is that if you're only fishing in half the pond you're only going to catch half the fish, and the shortage of digital skills that our country needs means that we need to expand the net and fish in the whole pond.

But the second reason that this is important is that I have never seen a decision made where the quality of decision making hasn't been improved by diversity of thought in the room.

So both to improve the diversity of thought and the quality of decisions, and to ensure that we can fulfill the challenge of filling the skills gap, we need to ensure that we get better diversity in this industry.

Over two hundred companies, from international giants like Microsoft and BT, right through to start-ups, have signed up for this, as have Government departments too.

This means filling digital, data and technology roles across the economy, and indeed across Government, so we can be more reflective of the country we serve.

We can't be a truly digital nation until we have a skilled, hi-tech workforce that makes use of all of the available talent.

Ethics

And that brings me onto the third and the final principle that I wanted to touch on. And that's the importance of answering the deep and searching ethical questions posed by new technology.

Let's take AI as an example. It presents some incredible opportunities. The faster and more accurate diagnosis of illnesses, smarter energy use to protect the planet and technology to detect terrorist videos as soon as they are uploaded and before they are viewed.

But while the digital revolution promises these vast benefits, it also raises challenging questions.

Is it right, for example, for companies to predict our sexuality and ethnicity and tailor their services as a result?

Is it right to have an algorithm to dictate who should be saved in a car crash?

And what do we do if coding starts to reflect and replicate the unconscious biases that exist in society today?

These are not questions that we can write off as philosophical puzzles. They are now real policy questions, being discussed in Parliament and in courtrooms in years to come.

We've recently embarked on a world first, setting up a Centre for Data Ethics

and Innovation. This is an independent advisory body with a bold and ambitious remit to look far and wide to identify the measures we need to make sure we have ethical and innovative use of data and to make sure that AI flourishes.

Critically, it will advise on what we need to do in law and on our statute book.

But the frameworks and the standards that it will produce on a non-statutory basis will be just as important.

And getting the ethics right around AI is mission critical to its success because it soon will be an integral part of the way we live and work and study. So it is vital that we get this right.

Conclusion

So the message I want to leave you with today is this.

Whenever people try to hold back the changemakers they will lose, and this is especially true when it comes to technology.

Whether it's the Luddites smashing up the early textile machinery, or the horse and cart drivers who protested the Victorian railways or those who rallied against commercial TV in the UK, history tells us that we can't fight new technology, but we can shape it.

So I'm on the side of the disruptors. There isn't a single business model out there that can't be improved over time through the transforming power of technology.

Because the marketplace of ideas is the best thing for customers.

It means a race to the top in how we make services better and products easier, faster and more efficient. And ultimately benefit our fellow man. And it creates wider benefits for society as a whole.

So blessed are the changemakers.

And it is the role of governments across the world to give them what they need to succeed. And that's what we plan to do.