

Speech: European Council June 2017: Prime Minister's press statement

At this European Council we dealt with a broad ranging agenda.

We covered issues that are of critical importance to the UK now – such as counter-terrorism and climate change. These issues will remain important after we leave the EU.

That is why we will play a full role while we are members of the European Union, and why we want a deep and special partnership with our EU friends and allies after we leave.

Last night I was also able to update other leaders on the UK's proposal to give reassurance and certainty to EU citizens who have made their homes and lives in our country.

Let me deal with a few of the items I and other leaders discussed.

On security, there was strong commitment around the table to stand firm in the fight against terrorism and the online extremism that incites terrorism.

I was able to thank our European partners in person for their support and condolence following the appalling attacks in Manchester and London.

Those attacks have not just affected British citizens, but citizens from across Europe – just as British people suffered in the attacks in Paris and Stockholm.

And I say this in a city which has itself suffered great loss from terrorist attacks.

These atrocities have strengthened the need for us to work together to keep our countries safe.

So I urged other leaders to put pressure on technology companies to do more to rid extremist content from the internet and to ensure that law enforcement agencies can access encrypted data.

That is what has been agreed at this European Council, and it builds on the recent work I have done with President Macron of France.

We must continue to work together to combat this evil, to defend our values, and to keep our citizens safe.

On defence, we have welcomed plans for Europe to step up cooperation on capabilities, and for the EU and NATO to work more closely together. The UK will always be committed to the defence of Europe.

On climate change, this European Council reaffirmed the commitment of the EU

and all Member States to fully implement the Paris Agreement.

The UK welcomes that joint commitment.

We discussed the importance of the EU pursuing an ambitious trade policy, delivering jobs and growth. That trade must be fair as well as free. The UK will continue to play a leading role in pushing for openness in global trade.

On migration, I emphasised the UK would continue to play its part in tackling the ongoing migration crisis – which is a challenge for our entire continent.

The Council recommitted to a comprehensive approach to the crisis. That means dealing with the drivers of migration while also doing more to stem the flow of migration.

This summit focussed on the Central Mediterranean route, and I confirmed a new UK bilateral commitment of £75 million to meet urgent humanitarian needs while also facilitating voluntary returns of migrants making these treacherous journeys.

Finally, after the constructive start to our Brexit negotiations earlier this week, I wanted to briefly set out to my fellow European leaders the UK's approach to giving reassurance and certainty to EU citizens living in the UK.

I want all those EU citizens who are in the UK, who've made their lives and homes in our country to know that no one will have to leave. We won't be seeing families split apart. People will be able to go on living their lives as before.

This is a fair and serious offer – it gives those three million EU citizens in the UK certainty about the future of their lives, and we want the same certainty for the more than one million UK citizens who are living in the European Union.

On Monday, I will publish my proposals in full – and look forward to reaching an agreement at the earliest possible date.

News story: Insolvency Live! 2017

Join us for our annual forum for insolvency and debt advisory professionals in London on Monday, 17 July 2017.

We will be hosting an expanded forum this year

10.30am to 4pm, Monday 17 July 2017, Westminster

At Insolvency Live! you will have the opportunity to hear from members of our

Board and senior staff, ask questions and give us your feedback.

Insolvency Live! will include presentations, workshops and a question and answer panel. There will also be the chance to speak to representatives from a broad range of Insolvency Service teams to find out more about their work.

Topics of discussion will include:

- our recent activities and plans for the year ahead
- reviewing the first year of online bankruptcy applications
- Brexit and the insolvency profession
- introducing our new criminal enforcement team
- insolvency practitioner regulation
- our evolving approach to tackling director misconduct
- working with the profession to manage insolvency cases
- how should the Insolvency Service measure our effectiveness

If you would like to attend please [register your interest](#). As places are limited we will need to confirm your attendance with you directly. There is no cost to attend the event.

If you are unable to attend we will be tweeting from the event using the hashtag #InsolvencyLive and posting highlights on this page.

Construction of International Convention Centre Wales begins

Once complete in 2019, ICC Wales will provide total floor space for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and events of 26,000sqm – the equivalent size to nearly 4 international rugby pitches.

An £83.7m joint venture between Celtic Manor and Welsh Government, ICC Wales will accommodate 5,000 delegates and includes a 4,000sqm pillar-free main hall, a 1,500 seated auditorium, 12 flexible meeting rooms, a double-height glass atrium and a 2,500sqm outdoor plaza.

First Minister Carwyn Jones said:

“The International Convention Centre Wales is vital to fulfilling our ambition of making Wales a leading international destination for business. In order to compete in a highly competitive international market, Wales needs a convention centre of this quality and size. A world-class venue such as this will allow us to capitalise on Wales’ growing reputation as a destination for major events. The Celtic Manor has already demonstrated its ability to

host global events and I'm confident our partnership with them on this project will deliver significant economic benefits for Wales."

Sir Terry Matthews, Chairman of the Celtic Manor Resort, said:

"ICC Wales will be a game changer for the country on the international business events scene. For far too long, Wales has not had the share of this lucrative market that the country deserves. This is going to change. I'm positive that we have begun a new era in staging major events in Wales and our new state-of-the-art convention centre will continue that momentum for decades to come. It's an incredibly proud moment for me to see this amazing project start to come to life and I pay tribute to the leadership of our partners in both public and private sectors who have helped to make this dream a reality."

[Mark Drakeford congratulates new WLGA Leader Debbie Wilcox](#)

Following the WLGA's Annual General Meeting in Cardiff earlier today, Mark Drakeford said:

"I'd like to send my warmest congratulations to Cllr Wilcox. I am sure she will lead the WLGA with the utmost professionalism and expertise in the years ahead.

"This is a very significant moment for the WLGA which today sees the election of its first female leader since the body was created in 1996.

"While it is clear we still have some way to go before our councils are fully reflective of the people they serve, it is encouraging to see women leading Anglesey, Ceredigion and Powys councils as well as Newport.

"We also now have a new generation of councillors in Wales – all of whom will bring new ideas, different ways of doing things and a fresh perspective.

"I hope to continue the constructive working relationship I've had with the WLGA since I took up this post last year.

"I have been encouraged by a willingness to engage on areas such as

local government reform and have been pleased with the positive progress we've made.

"It is vital that we continue to make progress on reforming local government and I look forward to working with Cllr Wilcox and the leadership of the WLGA on the serious and credible set of proposals that the Welsh Government has put forwards."

News story: Allegations of malpractice in Edexcel's C4 maths paper

We are aware of the allegations of malpractice or wrongdoing in relation to Edexcel's C4 maths paper taken today. We are working with Pearson to establish the facts and any action that may need to be taken to ensure that the examinations are fair and that standards are maintained. If anyone has information relevant to these allegations we would urge them to contact Pearson or us in confidence.

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