

Management Consulting after Brexit

A statement from European associations of management consulting firms, agreed at the FEACO General Assembly on 16th October 2017.

We are the leaders of the many national associations and industry bodies that represent management consulting firms within the European Union. Between us, we speak for a large majority of Europe-based firms.

We are proud that Europe is a global centre and powerhouse for high-quality management consulting capability.

Our industry is an important source of economic strength. Our member firms create wealth, jobs, tax revenues and export earnings that benefit our governments, citizens and wider societies.

Even more important is the impact of the work our members do to improve wider economic and business performance. The contribution of consulting firms enables client businesses to grow and innovate, employ more people, digitise their operations and win work around the world. Consulting is an essential driver in the adoption of advanced technologies, organisational excellence, new ways of working and the advancement of science and research. Consulting firms also provide vital support in the progressive development of efficient public services for European citizens.

The ability of European nations to compete successfully in major global markets, develop cutting edge products and build major new industries, is substantially aided by the work of our leading consulting firms. Consulting has enabled European economies to manage and integrate the pan-national value and supply chains in manufacturing, infrastructure and digital on which so much of our success depends. A vibrant and expert consulting sector is a key component of a strong economy and healthy society.

In recent decades, our industry's achievements have increasingly been underpinned by the ease of trade in consulting services throughout the EU and the free movement of people across our borders. These have provided client organisations with a greater choice of expert and skilled consultants, facilitated greater learning and sharing of good practice throughout Europe, and enabled European consulting firms to build multi-national and diverse teams of talented consultants and to deliver the highest quality outcomes for their clients.

We are therefore united in our efforts to ensure that our industry is not damaged and, if possible, is strengthened after the UK leaves the EU. The risks associated with Brexit are many. It is already harming the UK's ability to attract talented EU nationals and investment.

While many of us regret the UK's decision, we believe that we must now work together to create the best outcome for all.

We urge political leaders of both the UK and the EU27 to agree to:

- *maintain at least the current levels of free and open trade in consulting services between our countries. Where possible, we should reduce trade and tariff barriers, not add to them;*
- *maximise the ability of UK and EU27 nationals who are consultants to travel, live and work freely within the EU27 and the UK;*
- *enable all European and British consulting firms to invest easily and establish offices through the UK and EU27, helping to build capability and serve clients throughout Europe.*

UK management consulting has long been a great asset and inspiration for us all and a vital part of the wider European consulting industry. We are all committed to maintaining the closest possible links and greatest possible integration after Brexit.

Supported by:

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