

## **The Franco-British Chamber Accelerates its Strategic Transformation with a strengthened Board of Directors, an Expanded Global Network and a New Website**

**19 September 2019 – Paris, France – The Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry - the oldest international chamber of commerce in Europe - is accelerating its strategic transformation by continuing to strengthen its Board of Directors, is benefiting from the new global network of British Chambers of Commerce, and is launching a new website to help companies and entrepreneurs find solutions to better meet their business expectations.**

At its Annual General Meeting, the Franco-British Chamber assessed the significant increase in the attractiveness of their offer over the past two years (+19% of new members), evaluated their action to prepare their members for the implementation of Brexit (+85% participation in their Master classes, +50% media coverage) and reviewed the launch of the 1st Barometer of Franco-British Economic Relations through their co-founded Think Tank, the Cross-Channel Institute.

The Meeting also led to the election of Jimmy Zou - Senior Partner of PwC, in charge of Financial Services Consulting and Insurance Market in France, Maghreb and French-speaking Africa - to the Board of Directors.

It was also opportunity to announce that the members of the Franco-British Chamber will benefit from the recent merger of the Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe (COBCOE) with the Association of British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) under the banner of the GBN "Global Business Network". As the United Kingdom prepares to leave the EU, British companies have chosen to consolidate their links with European companies, including French ones, through an economic "remain". Access to all the services and business opportunities of these two networks combined in a single network provides additional development leverage for French companies that are members of the Franco-British Chamber, the only organization in France that is a member of the Global Business Network (GBN).

Thierry Drilhon, President of the Franco-British Chamber, stated at the Rentrée Réception on 19 September: "Our strategic transformation plan continues to produce results with a much-enhanced appeal for our members and many companies that come to benefit from our unique network of experts and partners. I am very pleased to welcome Jimmy Zou, who brings to the Chamber his expertise in the strategic and economic issues of Franco-British business relations. We also welcome the integration of the two networks of British chambers of commerce, which will accelerate growth in the United Kingdom and around the world for French companies who are members of the Chamber. In fact, it is the new Europe that we are going to help to create together.

Finally, as part of our new communication strategy, we are launching our new website today. It has three objectives: to facilitate access to our services and business network, to help prepare our members for Brexit and to foster economic and cross-cultural relations. For 146 years, the Franco-British Chamber has actively participated in the development of Franco-British economic relations and our new site will be part of a new digital relational dynamic for the many years to come".



Jimmy Zou, new director and founding member of the Cross-Channel Institute, said, "It is an honour for me to join the Board of Directors of the Franco-British Chamber as our companies and organizations finalize their preparations for Brexit. Here, we are part of the long-term special relationship between our two nations, and the Cross-Channel Institute Barometer will be the benchmark of its evolution."

#### **Board of Directors of the Franco-British Chamber:**

- **Thierry Drilhon**, *President*
- **Marie-Christine Bilbow**, *Vice-President, Chief Financial Officer - Treasurer*
- **Oliver Campenon**, *Vice-President*
- **Michel de Fabiani**, *Vice-President*
- **Bob Lewis**, *Vice-President*
- **Michel Dubarry**, *Director*
- **Hubert Dupont L'Hotelain**, *Director - Business Development*
- **Rachael Hughes**, *Director*
- **Marie-Alix Michel**, *Director, Honorary Secretary - Legal Counsel*
- **Françoise Rausch**, *Director - Cross Channel Institute*
- **Guy-Antoine de La Rochefoucauld**, *Director*
- **Jimmy Zou**, *Director*
- **Catherine Le Yaouanc**, *Managing Director, Franco-British Chamber*

New website for the Franco-British Chamber : [www.francobritishchamber.com](http://www.francobritishchamber.com)

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#### **Franco-British Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

The Franco-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry, founded in 1873, is the oldest international Chamber of Commerce in Europe. The Chamber is offering its members - French and British companies of all sizes and from all sectors of activity - a vast range of services to help them to develop their cross-channel activity. Located in Paris, for more than 145 years, the Franco-British Chamber is a powerful business network which helps and links companies. The Business Connect service, from member to member, allows a privileged and efficient relationship.

[www.francobritishchamber.com](http://www.francobritishchamber.com)

The "Cross-Channel Institute for the promotion of Franco-British sustainable prosperity" is an independent think tank that aims to promote the development of Franco-British business relations in the long term. Through studies, analyses and debates, it seeks to provide companies and institutions on both sides of the Channel with an innovative and sustainable vision of post-Brexit economic relations. Created in January 2019, the Institute periodically publishes the Barometer of Franco-British Economic Relations to provide a global, dynamic and detailed overview of trade in goods and services between the two countries.

[www.crosschannelinstitute.com](http://www.crosschannelinstitute.com)

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