

# DECLARATION OF THE ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN CHAMBERS (AEMC)

## Adopted at London City Hall on 5 April 2017

We, the Alliance of European Metropolitan Chambers (AEMC) represent the interests of hundreds of thousands of businesses employing tens of millions of workers fostering economic activity generating billions of euros annually across the continent of Europe.

Over recent decades Europe has prospered due to the collective efforts of metropolitan chamber member businesses, large and small, working in all sectors and industries across cities, regions and states.

Our shared European economy has been underpinned by an evolving economic framework with collaboration on trade and commerce as its ideal alongside cooperation on competition and growth as its objective. As a result, business has overcome borders to succeed and flourish.

We recognise that while the UK may be poised to exit the EU, Britain is not leaving Europe. However, the process of Brexit will inevitably present varying challenges to the good functioning of pan-European business. We believe that a hard Brexit could pose significant risk to job creation and wealth production in the UK, the EU and wider Europe.

The Alliance of European Metropolitan Chambers commits to act as a forum to discuss real concerns and a platform to offer potential solutions.

As the UK Government and the EU institutions move to commence their negotiations we call upon them to actively consider a **realistic transitional period for Brexit**.

Such a transitional period would create sufficient space for European business and European governments to adjust to a new situation.

The resilience of the European economy partly rests on the interdependency of European businesses. To maintain a successful future European economy, several key aspects need to be addressed in a transitional period:

- **Ensuring access to a skilled workforce** – securing flexible migration of labour across Europe
- **Sustaining commerce** – minimising barriers to trade and exports activity between the regions of Europe
- **Keeping Europe moving** – preserving open aviation and maritime arrangements, safeguarding land transportation links
- **Safeguarding innovation** – maintaining competitiveness in R&D, science and technology and promoting the circulation of intellectual capital

We, the Alliance of European Metropolitan Chambers, as advocates for businesses in our cities, regions and states undertake to harness our collective energies, resources and experiences and work together to make a positive contribution in the months and years ahead.

Signed this day 5 April 2017 in London:

Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Barcelona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry

Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Paris Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Turin Chamber of Commerce