The First German-British Customs Summit

For the first time, leading customs experts, trade professionals, business leaders and public-sector representatives from the United Kingdom and Germany come together on 16 October 2026 in Central London for a day of insight, discussion and practical learning focused on the future of international trade.

Join a unique gathering of customs practitioners, compliance leaders, policymakers, academics and technology specialists as they examine the developments shaping customs, supply chains and cross-border trade.

Why Attend?

- Hear from some of the most respected voices in customs and international trade
- Gain practical insights from leading UK and German experts
- Participate in live boardroom discussions and audience polling
- Exchange ideas with peers facing similar challenges
- Leave with actionable insights for your organisation

Register on

In Person & Online | Complimentary Attendance

https://www.germanbritishcustomssummit.com/

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION & INTERACTION

This is an interactive summit, not a webinar. Participants attending in person and online will be able to contribute questions, insights and experiences throughout the day via live discussions and audience polling. Have your phone ready!

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Agenda

All Times are expressed in British Standard Time (BST).

09:30 – 09:40 | Opening Remarks

- **Arne Mielken**, Organising Committee of the German – British Customs Summit
- **Philip Trouwen**, Sales Manager Europe, MIC GmBH and main sponsor of the event.

09:40 – 10:00 | Welcome Words from Leaders in German – British Relations

- **Lars Gemp,** Chairman of the European Forum of Foreign Trade (EFA), Germany (pre-recorded)
- **Andrew Marsden MStJ,** Master-Elect, Worshipful Company of World Traders
- **Michael Schmidt,** President, British Chamber of Commerce in Germany (BCCG)

Keynote: The Evolving Trade Environment: What Businesses Need to Know

10:00 – 10:20

International trade is evolving faster than ever.

From shifting regulatory landscapes and heightened compliance enforcement to digital customs transformations, operating across borders requires far more than just reactive logistics—it demands forward-looking strategy.

Kick off the summit with a high-level strategic roadmap of the global trade environment.

This fast-paced keynote sets the stage for the day, breaking down the macro trends, regulatory headwinds, and critical operational shifts every trade leader, CFO and supply chain director, in the UK, Germany and the EU must build into their planning for the year ahead.

Featuring:

Graham Ziegner, Head of the North and West EU Member States Team, UK Department of Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST).

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Morning Session: What is Changing in Customs & What Deserves Your Attention?

10:20 – 11:00 | PART 1: Three Perspectives

The customs landscape is evolving rapidly.

Digital transformation, changing compliance expectations, increasing data requirements and geopolitical uncertainty are reshaping how businesses move goods across borders.

This session brings together leading voices from business, government and academia to identify the developments that matter most and what organisations should be preparing for next.

Featuring:

1. **Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolffgang**, Head of the Institute and Founder and partner of AWB International, and Professor of international trade and tax law and Head of the Institute of Customs and International Trade Law (ICTL) in Münster, Germany.
2. **Syed Khaja Mohi Moinuddin MBE**, Senior Policy Advisor, International Customs Agreements HM Revenue & Customs (Borders and Trade). Lead adviser on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Assistance frameworks

11:00 – 11:20 | Break

11:20 – 12:00 | PART 2: Extended Boardroom Discussion (In Person & Online)

Move beyond presentations and join a live, expert-led discussion exploring the customs developments businesses cannot afford to ignore.

Participants attending in London and online will be able to contribute questions, views and insights throughout the session.

Moderator: **Arne Mielken**, CEO & Managing Director, Customs Manager Ltd.

Discussion contributions will be received from:

- **Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolffgang,** AWB & ICTL, Germany
- **Syed Khaja Mohi Moinuddin MBE**, Senior Policy Advisor, International Customs Agreements HM Revenue & Customs (Borders and Trade). Lead adviser on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Assistance frameworks
- **Michael Schmidt,** President, British Chamber of Commerce in Germany (BCCG)
- **Andrew Marsden MStJ,** Master-Elect, Worshipful Company of World Traders

Joining online? REACT LIVE – leave comments in the chat, take the floor or react with SLIDO style interactive polling.

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12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch Break

Online Exclusive | Customs Masterclass: "R-UCC Navigator Masterclass: How to Find Your Way Through the New Union Customs Code"

Online participants can keep the learning going over lunch with an exclusive customs masterclass, livestreamed on YouTube from 12:30 BST. Join from wherever you are and gain practical insights from Customs Manager Ltd., bringing the day's customs discussions to life.

Afternoon Session: What Works (and What Doesn't) in Daily Customs Operations?

13:30 - 14:30 | PART 1: Four Perspectives

Theory is valuable. Experience is invaluable.

Hear directly from senior customs and trade professionals responsible for managing compliance, reducing risk and supporting international operations in complex global organisations.

Real-world lessons. Proven approaches. Honest discussion.

Featuring:

- **William Bain**, Head of Trade Policy, British Chambers of Commerce
- **Isabel Menger,** Head of Global Customs & Global Logistics, Hugo Boss AG (online)
- **Robert Hina**, Group Customs Compliance Manager at Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems (Europe) Ltd (TBC)
- **George Riddell**, Managing Director at Goyder Ltd, former Director for Trade Strategy at EY

Joining online? REACT LIVE – leave comments in the chat, take the floor or react with SLIDO style interactive polling.

14:30 – 15:00 | Break

15:00 – 16:00 | Part 2: Extended Boardroom Discussion (In Person & Online) on "Building Effective Customs and Trade Compliance Programmes"

What separates good customs compliance from great customs compliance?

A highly interactive boardroom discussion exploring governance, controls, technology, training and organisational success factors that help businesses thrive in an increasingly complex trade environment.

Moderator: **Patrick Nieveler,** Managing Director, PASANI Academy GmbH

Contributions will be received from:

- **William Bain**, Head of Trade Policy, British Chambers of Commerce
- **Jane Stanley**, Director at Francis Howard Stanley partnership LLP, former Head of Customs, Lidl UK
- **Lesley Batchelor**, CBE, Chair of the Paddy Ashdown Centre for Global Affairs, former Director General of the Institute of Export & International Trade
- **Thomas Glanzer,** Member of the Board, Europäischen Forum für Außenwirtschaft e.V. (EFA), Germany
- **Robert Hina**, Group Customs Compliance Manager at Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems (Europe) Ltd
- **Hugh Digan**, Expert on Trade Management Software Solutions, MIC GmBH

16:00 – 16:30 | Closing Executive Briefing

The Lessons That Matter

The day concludes with a focused executive synthesis from **Jeremy White, leading UK barrister specializing in international trade and Customs & Excise law**, bringing together the key themes, practical lessons and future considerations emerging from the summit.

Final Reflection

As the inaugural summit draws to a close, Prof. **Dr. Hans-Michael Wolffgang** and **Arne Mielken** share their reflections on the future of customs, compliance and international trade.

16:30– 17:30 | Closing Drinks Reception – Courtesy of MIC GmBH

The Closing Drinks Reception for those participating in the in-person summit will be in a traditional British Pub close to the summit venue.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Summit is an educational forum dedicated to the exchange of practical customs and trade compliance experience. Views expressed are those of the individual speakers and participants and do not represent any collective position.

The Summit does not formulate policy recommendations, does not seek to influence legislative processes, and does not represent any common UK-German position on matters falling within the competence of the European Union, its Member States or the United Kingdom.

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