

London, 30 May 2017

Coface Country Risk Conference will help steer businesses through UK and global challenges

Coface UK's next Country Risk Conference will provide an early chance for businesses to consider trade risks and opportunities at a critical time for the British economy.

As the dust settles on the General Election and Brexit negotiations formally begin, Coface has brought together leading economists and analysts to assess the domestic and international trading environments for UK businesses. This is the twelfth annual conference held by Coface, a specialist in trade credit risk, and the event programme features expert insights on the challenges facing the UK; whether the global recovery is sustainable; the impact of geopolitical risk; and a focus on the defence sector.

This year's Country Risk Conference will be held in **London on Wednesday 28 June 2017** and also video streamed live to Manchester, where a local economist will be on hand to provide a regional perspective. The half-day morning event includes round-table discussions about the issues raised and delegates will be able to put their questions to the experts during these sessions.

Frédéric Bourgeois, Managing Director of Coface UK and Ireland said: "There is still a considerable amount of uncertainty surrounding the UK economy and this is compounded by the changes in the political landscape. Our Conference, with its knowledgeable speakers and live discussion, will help steer businesses through the UK and global challenges faced by British companies at this critical time. And uniquely there is also going to be a focus on the defence sector where the growth in budgets is not only a reflection of the environment but will impact on a number of industries."

The 2017 Conference programme features:

- **Dr Rebecca Harding, CEO, Equant Analytics** appraises the outlook for the UK economy post-election and as Brexit negotiations begin in earnest.
- **Julien Marcilly, Coface Group Chief Economist** assesses the staying power of the global recovery and asks whether regions as diverse as Europe and South America have finally turned the corner.
- **John Raines, Head of Political Risk, IHS Markit** looks at the rise of geopolitical risk as a result of the emergence of 'strongmen' in the West and East along with cross border risks such as cyber security and terrorism.
- **Professor Trevor Taylor, Professional Research Fellow in Defence Management, Royal United Services Institute** analyses the global growth of the defence sector, where budgets are spent and the trade sectors likely to benefit.
- **Tanya Beckett, Presenter of BBC World News' Business Live and the Business News on Radio 4's Today Programme**, will facilitate two round table discussions on the issues raised by the presenters who will be joined by representatives from industry and questions from the audience.



P R E S S R E L E A S E

A buffet lunch is provided for delegates and there will be opportunities to network and ask questions. Places at the 2017 Conference are limited: to register your interest, email crc_uk@coface.com

Note for journalists

If you would like to attend the conference, please register your interest at crc_uk@coface.com

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About Coface

Coface, a world-leading credit insurer, offers 50,000 companies around the globe solutions to protect them against the risk of financial default of their clients, both on their domestic and export markets. The Group, which aims to be the most agile global credit insurer in the industry, is present in 100 countries, employs 4,300 people, and posted consolidated turnover of €1.411 billion in 2016. Coface publishes quarterly country and sector risk assessments based on its unique knowledge of companies' payment behaviour and on the expertise of its 660 underwriters and credit analysts located close to clients and their debtors.

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The company's [credit insurance](#) offer integrates credit assessment, [collection services](#) and cover for unpaid debts. Multinational businesses can protect their worldwide subsidiaries through Coface's international network.

The company also provides access to domestic and international [business information](#) and a collection network at home and overseas. Coface is also a recognised operator in the London [political risk](#) market. www.cofaceuk.com and www.coface.ie