



Adam Marshall and Chancellor Philip Hammond at our Fringe Event during Conservative Party Conference last week

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- **BCC Engagement**

The BCC team headed to Manchester last week for the Conservative Party Conference. As part of the busy schedule of meetings and speaking events, we held a [fringe event with the Chancellor](#) on Tuesday. During the conversation Adam outlined the Brexit priorities of Chamber business communities, emphasising the desire for trade talks to begin, and answers to the practical questions. The Chancellor spoke of the importance of agreeing a transition period and providing certainty to businesses to shore up investment.

Many thanks to Greater Manchester Chamber for allowing us to use their space to watch the Prime Minister's speech! To hear more about our trips to Party Conferences, listen to our latest [podcast](#).

Director of Research and Economics, Mike Spicer, spoke at a Fife Chamber event and visited a number of their members.

- **International Trade Summit**

With four days to go, there is still time to book tickets for the International Trade Summit in Birmingham. We've got a [great line up of speakers](#) this year from exciting exporting businesses across the Chamber Network.

We're looking forward to welcoming as many Chamber members and businesses to the Trade Facilitation Forum on Wednesday and the International Trade Summit on Thursday as possible. We would appreciate a final push to promote the Summit across the Network to ensure that we have the best turnout.

Registration for the Summit will be open from 9:00am with the main plenary beginning at 09.45am. Further details will be sent to delegates tomorrow.

Any questions, please contact [Claire Harding](#), and don't forget to follow [@BCCExport](#) and tweet #BCCtrade on the day!

- **World Mental Health Day**

Tomorrow, Tuesday 10th, is World Mental Health Day, and the theme for this year is 'Mental Health in the Workplace'. [Acas has launched](#) updated and revised advice for line managers to help promote positive mental health in the workplace. Employers are encouraged to read the guidance, and develop practices and policies which work for them and their employees to help ensure everybody is as supported and as productive as possible.

- **Nigeria Agri-Tech Inward Mission Seminar**

The Department for International Trade is hosting an event for companies to discover agri-tech opportunities and meet project owners from Nigeria. The Nigerian government is diversifying its economy, and agriculture is fast becoming a priority sector for long-term economic sustainability, and this offers high-value opportunities for UK exporters.

Taking place on 17 October, at the Waldorf Hilton Hotel London, the one-day seminar provides an opportunity to meet 30 key Nigerian buyers and government stakeholders in the agriculture sector. The seminar is free of charge, and you can register through [email](#).

- **Shell Springboard Programme**

The Shell Springboard programme is now open for applications for up to £150,000 of equity-free funding for low-carbon businesses. Applications are open until 6 November, more information and links to apply are on the [website](#).

BCC national media highlights this week

- Our comments on the Chancellor's speech at Conservative Party Conference were picked up by the [Times](#), [Telegraph](#) and Evening Standard.
- The BCC's reaction to the Prime Minister's speech was covered by the Independent, Daily Mail and Mirror.
- While at the Conference Adam spoke to BBC's Today, [Bloomberg](#), BBC News, LBC and ITV News.

Economic update

The latest Markit/CIPS [UK Manufacturing PMI](#) (Purchasing Managers Index) fell to 55.9 in September from 56.7 in August, although it's still above the neutral 50 mark which separates manufacturing growth from contraction. The Markit/CIPS [UK Construction PMI](#) registered a reading of 48.1 in September, down from 51.1 in August. The latest Markit/CIPS [UK Services PMI](#) stood at 53.6 in September, up from an 11-month low of 53.2 in August.

For more information, please contact [Suren Thiru](#).

Coming up

- Oct 11** BCC Trade Facilitation Forum and International Trade Dinner
 - Oct 12** BCC International Trade Summit
 - Oct 13** BCC Quarterly Economic Survey Q3 2017
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