

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 22 May

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### CBI – EU membership is in UK’s national interest

CBI President Sir Mike Rake has outlined the business organisation’s position in relation to the forthcoming referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU. Sir Mike made the case for Britain remaining at the heart of a reformed EU and the importance of maintaining the integrity of the UK’s single internal market at the CBI’s Annual Dinner. The CBI has called for UK businesses to be more vocal in their support of continued EU membership with Sir Mike saying that businesses should “speak out early”. It is expected that the EU referendum might be pulled forward to a date in 2016, in order to avoid a clash with the French and German elections in 2017. The Prime Minister has committed to a referendum by the end of 2017. The CBI have moved to say that they recognise the need for reform in the EU to take place, but as part of a “market of 500 million people, of which 50% of our exports go to”, Sir Mike said that now is the time for business to “turn up the volume” on this “crucial issue”.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/president-s-speech-to-annual-dinner/>

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### Developments in Labour leadership contest

In the Labour leadership contest, the number of candidates was reduced after Chuka Umuna, Shadow State Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills, announced that he would no longer stand for leadership. Tristram Hunt, who had been listed as a potential candidate announced that he would not stand for election, providing his support instead to Liz Kendall. Andy Burnham, Yvette Cooper and Mary Creagh are the other candidates who have declared their intention to run. It has also been announced that the results of the Leader and Deputy Leader contest will be announced on 12 September 2015.

(Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/may/18/and-y-burnham-backed-by-dan-jarvis-in-labour-leadership-race>

### Queen’s Speech – 27 May

The Queen’s Speech will take place on Wednesday 27 May, and will mark the re-opening of parliament following the 2015 General Election.

Expected legislation includes:

- EU Referendum Bill
- Cities Devolution Bill
- Enterprise Bill
- Employment and Trade Union Bill
- British Bill of Rights
- Tax Lock Bill

(Source: Bellenden)

<http://www.bellenden.co.uk/friday-focus-what-to-expect-from-the-queens-speech/>

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### CBI - Manufacturing exports strengthening

The manufacturing sector expanded again in May, as export orders improved, according to the CBI Industrial Trends Survey. The survey of 501 manufacturers has found that total order books were weaker than last month, but that they remain well above average. Meanwhile, export order books matched February’s six-month high. The strength was reasonably broad-based with export orders above average in 12 of the 18 sectors surveyed, while the gap between total and export order books narrowed sharply. Growth in output volumes recovered from April’s twenty-two month low in May, but remained relatively modest. Expectations for the coming three months are at a similar level to the previous month, remaining somewhat above average. Manufacturers’ expectations for price inflation are still subdued.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/manufacturing-exports-strengthening/>

## Q1 Quarterly International Trade Outlook launched

A quarterly report released on Monday by the British Chambers of Commerce and DHL Express shows that British manufacturing firms are rising to the global challenge, reporting increased export orders and sales in Q1 2015. The survey of more than 2,300 exporting firms has revealed that 46% of manufacturers reported increased export orders in Q1, compared to 36% in Q4 2014. Meanwhile, the proportion of service firms that recorded increased export sales remained steady at 33%. This level of growth has been achieved in the face of increasing pressure from higher exchange rates in particular the rising pound against the euro, which reached a seven-year high in early March 2015. More than half of manufacturing firms surveyed (55%) said that exchange rates are having an impact on their ability to trade globally, compared to 48% in Q4 2014 and 34% at the same time last year.

(Source: British Chambers of Commerce)

<http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/press-office/press-releases/manufacturing-exporters-buck-the-trend-despite-exchange-rate-challenges,-says-bcc-and-dhl-quarterly-export-confidence-tracker.html>



## Week ahead

### Tuesday 26 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 2:30PM: Swearing in of Members of Parliament

### Wednesday 27 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 11:25am: State Opening of Parliament.
- 2:15pm: Business in of Members of the Commons if required.
- 2:30pm: Queen's Speech debate
- Adjournment: Zero-hours contracts – Mr Richard Bacon.

### Thursday 28 May

#### Commons Chamber

- 10:30am: Business statement
- Queen's Speech debate

#### Lords Chamber

- Queen's Speech debate on foreign affairs, European affairs, international development and defence