PRESS RELEASE

70% of Franco-British businesses still experiencing delays importing from the EU to the UK six months after Brexit

- **A first-of-its-kind study by the French Chamber of Great Britain and data science firm Ekimetrics demonstrates the impact of Brexit on goods and trade as well as people and immigration.**
- **70% of businesses are experiencing delays as a result of regulatory changes, as the French Chamber launches a tool that will track the impact of Brexit on Franco-British business in the medium to long term.**
- **Live data dashboard offers a window into the impact of Brexit for the first time: find the link here**

London, 1 July 2021: EU import and export delays are slowing the flow of goods between France and the UK according to a new tool from the French Chamber of Great Britain, in partnership with global data science consultancy, Ekimetrics. 70% of British businesses are still experiencing increased delays importing goods from Europe six months after Brexit.

Of those businesses experiencing import delays, 75% are seeing them last over a week, with over 18% reporting delays exceeding 3 weeks. With increased regulations and checks coming into force from 1st July, this impact may increase further, with over a quarter (27%) of businesses already reporting a reduction in the volume of their imports.

The French Chamber of Great Britain, which supports Franco-British business, commissioned the new tool to track the impact of Brexit on cross-channel business in the medium to long term.

The data shows that exports to the EU have also been impacted, with nearly half (47%) of firms experiencing delays in Q1 2021, with 22% of those delays lasting longer than two weeks.

Despite the delays, only 17% of firms said the volume of goods being exported to the EU had decreased, with the majority (71%) reporting it had stayed the same. For imports, 67% of firms have reported increased logistics costs, whilst this number was lower for exports, at 48%.

Meanwhile, the UK continues to have strong appeal, with 67% of firms stating that they have kept their UK headcount the same with just over one fifth (21%) of businesses reducing their UK workforce and extending into the EU.

Marilise Saghbini, Managing Director at the French Chamber commented: – "This dashboard will help track the state of Franco-British business, particularly as the pandemic impact subsides, and provide data to help inform decision-makers as they shape the post-Brexit chapter. We can see there are challenges and potentially more to come, but businesses will continue to bring pragmatism to the table, underpinned by the depth and breadth of the Franco-British relationship, to build beyond Brexit and drive jobs and growth so desperately needed in the wake of Covid."

Matt Andrew, UK Managing Director, Ekimetrics, adds: "Our data analysis reveals a unique window into the true picture of trade between France and the UK, equipping the French Chamber with vital

real-time information, enabling it to make dynamic and informed decisions about the support it provides its members."

The data forms part of a live dashboard created by Ekimetrics for the French Chamber of Great Britain, which monitors the impact of Brexit on businesses operating between France and the UK.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

Survey data is collected on a quarterly basis from the membership of the French Chamber of Great Britain (>400 companies and individual memberships).

In order to calculate estimates for the entire UK population from the sample survey data, Ekimetrics uses standard statistical weighting methods that are in line with ONS methodologies for the Annual Business Survey. In particular, the industry of respondents (declared within the survey using SIC sections*) is used to correct for any bias in the sample. Essentially, responses are weighted according to the following two factors:

Population weight - the proportion of companies in the UK that operate in a given industry.

Sample weight - the number of companies in a given industry within the sample for a given question.

*SIC, or Standard Industrial Classification, is a standardised hierarchy used in the UK to classify businesses by economic activity. Sections is one level within this hierarchy. You can find out more about the SIC here.

The dashboard is best viewed on desktops or tablets.

About Ekimetrics

Founded in 2006, Ekimetrics is the European leader in data science for business. It brings together over 240 data scientists, has a presence in more than 50 countries worldwide, and has implemented in excess of 1,000 data science projects that have generated over EUR 1 billion in profits for its clients since 2006. Ekimetrics helps its clients to optimise their performance marketing, engagement with the end customer, and operational efficiency. Ekimetrics also uses data to advise companies on how to upgrade their products and services.

About French Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1883, the French Chamber of Great Britain fosters business relationships and deepens the strong economic ties between France and the UK by delivering connections, insight and a voice to its members.