

Seasonal Travel Industry calls for a People's Vote on Brexit

19 December 2018: Seasonal Businesses in Travel (SBIT) has today become the latest business group to call for a People's Vote on Brexit, including an option for the UK to remain in the EU.

The British seasonal travel industry employs 25,000 UK nationals every year in jobs in Europe, in roles including holiday reps, childcare, food production and transport services. Collectively the industry contributes £16.5billion to the UK economy every year from its European operations. SBIT is the trade body representing over 220 outbound British travel and service companies.

SBIT has been calling for clarity from Government regarding the implications of Brexit for British workers employed in the seasonal travel industry in Europe since June 2016. The Government's Withdrawal Agreement does not provide the security the industry needs, as it will restrict the ability of UK companies to employ British workers in European countries, and the ending of free movement will prevent British workers from easily working for seasonal travel businesses across Europe.

SBIT conducted a survey of travel operators over the summer which reported that the impact of losing British workers from the seasonal travel industry and other enforced changes from leaving the EU will be a 31% increase in the cost of British package holidays to European destinations. The loss of such employment opportunities will disproportionately affect young adults, as 64% of the people employed within the industry are aged 18-24.

SBIT has therefore today called on all Members of Parliament to back a People's Vote on Brexit, including an option for the UK to remain in the EU.

Charles Owen, SBIT Board Member and Managing Director of European Pubs Ltd said:

"British people in 2016 did not vote to make their holidays more expensive, or to limit the opportunities for their children or grandchildren to work in Europe. That's what will happen if the Government passes its proposed Brexit deal. I urge all MPs to fight instead for a People's Vote on Brexit, to protect our holidays and jobs."

Diane Palumbo, SBIT Board Member and Sales and Marketing Director of Skiworld said:

"My first job was working during a ski season, and that opportunity enabled me to develop my skills and work up to becoming a director for a major company in the seasonal travel sector. The Government's proposed Brexit deal would end those opportunities, which are particularly valuable for young people starting out in their careers. The only solution is to go back to the British people and have a People's Vote on what should happen next."

ENDS

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact Maeve McCormack on 020 7618 9176 or 07584 213844 or email maevemccormack@luther.co.uk.

To read more about the impact of Brexit on the British seasonal travel industry, please read [A Crisis Looming: Brexit and the British outbound tourism industry](#)