



Paris, 24 June 2016

Brexit : turn the crisis into an opportunity

MEDEF and French entrepreneurs recognize the democratic choice of the British people, which puts Europe in a state of increased uncertainty.

Franco-British relations are dense and strong. Medef will do everything it can to ensure that French companies do not suffer negative impacts as a result of this new situation. All members will be consulted in order to evaluate the consequences of this choice sector by sector. We stand, more than ever, united with our British partners and with all those affected as subsidiaries of French companies in the UK.

The negotiation that will open between the European Union and the United Kingdom must be conducted in a fair and faithful manner and must heed the lessons of this voluntary departure by the British. The rules must apply, but any form of punishment or sanction must be avoided. We are dealing with our friends here and indeed with our closest allies on many topics.

Europeans must, for their part, seize the opportunity created by the British debate to change, now, what does not work. A solid response must be given to the worries of citizens in order to make the European project more democratic and more understandable. We must build a better Europe that guarantees the conditions for fair competition, within a single market that respects the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. And we must commit resolutely to a deepening of political, economic, financial, fiscal and social convergence among Eurozone countries, as well as to the development of policies whose collective added value is clear, whilst respecting subsidiarity.

More than ever, Europe needs leadership in order to positively get through this challenge, and to inject the dynamism and confidence that our people expect.

*For Pierre Gattaz, President of Medef, « **this vote is not the conclusion but must be seen as the starting point for the creation of a new momentum. This is indispensable for Europe, for the prosperity of our companies, and for growth and jobs in our countries.** »*

A new process is starting in Europe. We will announce, on the eve of the summit of European leaders next week and with our German partner organisation, the initiatives that should be taken right away, at European level as well as on a Franco-German bilateral level.

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