

Associated British Ports

Presented by David Leighton, Group Head of Corporate Affairs

TRAN Committee hearing on the impact of Brexit on maritime transport

20 February 2018

1. Introduction to ABP and UK/EU trade.

- UK's largest port operator with 21 ports handling around one quarter of UK seaborne trade (c.90 million tonnes).**
- As a group, 45% of trade with EU by volume (55% non-EU).**
- ABP ports include Port of Southampton (over 80% non-EU trade) and major ports on the Humber Estuary (c.60% EU trade).**
- Majority of Humber EU trade unaccompanied Ro-Ro and containers.**

2. Potential impact of Brexit on ABP and British Ports.

- Observations based on assumption UK will leave Customs Union.**
- Main concern is accompanied Ro-Ro trade with EU in ports with limited space (e.g. Port of Dover) if UK leaves the Customs Union.**
- Current customs regime for non-EU trade suggests additional customs checks need not cause delays at ports.**
- Political approach to management of borders will be key.**

3. Approach to dealing with potential impact of Brexit.

- Impact of potential disruption to accompanied Ro-Ro can be reduced by increasing use of routes on the east coast of England to the near continent.**
- Above may also require a switch to unaccompanied Ro-Ro and containers.**
- Above may reduce distance of cargo moving by HGV in both UK and mainland Europe.**
- Ongoing co-operation between UK and European ports which share commitment to ensure trade can continue to flow and grow.**