

CBS celebrates Conference success

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Conference, which took place on Friday March 29, was a huge success! The event, titled 'B-Day: Making a Success of Brexit?' took place at The RSA in London on the day the UK was set to leave the European Union.

The Conference brought together people from all walks of life, and our panel debates attracted those with interests around the automotive industry, the media and much more.

We were delighted with our keynote speakers at the Conference. The event started with a welcome from Centre for Brexit Studies Director Professor Alex de Ruyter, who went on to discuss the 'left behind regions' in the UK following the EU Referendum.



Sir Bernard Jenkin discussed what he believes the next steps in the Brexit process should be, and Professor Vernon Bogdanor talked about the consequences of Brexit and the impact it will have on the UK.

Unfortunately, Sir Vince Cable was no longer able to attend, but he was replaced by Tom Brake, MP for Carshalton & Wallington, and Liberal Democrats Spokesman for Brexit and International Trade, who arrived from Parliament and was able to give us an insight into what had happened that day. However, Sir Vince was still able to record a short message for us via video, which the audience were able to enjoy before Tom took to the stage.

Our panel sessions were a huge success and attracted all walks of life. 'Brexit: Where do we go from here?' gave us a lively discussion between Vicky Pryce, Dr Leslie Budd, John Mills and John Clancy, who all shared their views and debated.



This was followed by 'Brexit and the Automotive industry' which saw our panel experts, Professor David Bailey, Tom Leeson, Ian Henry and Beverley Nielsen discuss insights into what's next for the industry without the EU.

In the afternoon, we were joined by Journalists Liz Gerard and Raymond Snoddy to discuss 'Brexit and the Media' alongside John Mair, before ending our sessions with 'Young People and Brexit', which gave us a lively debate between BCU students and staff and what they want from UK politics.

We were also fortunate enough to be joined, via Skype, by business owner and activist, Gina Miller. Gina was interviewed by John Mair on Brexit and her thoughts on what should happen next, and members of the audience also had the opportunity to ask her opinion.



Conference attendees were also given plenty of time to network, and enjoy a wide variety of refreshments and lunch options.

It was always going to be somewhat of a landmark day, whether we left the EU or not. But the atmosphere at the venue was electric throughout the Conference, with people keen to get involved and find out what is next for Brexit, and what impact it will have on them.

For those of you who were able to attend the Conference, we hope you enjoyed it and we look forward to welcoming you next year! Bring on Annual Conference 2020 – where will Brexit be by then?

If you want to find out more about what we got up to at the Conference, search the hashtag #CBSBrexitDay on Twitter. Footage from the day will also be uploaded to our [YouTube](#) channel this week.