



CHALLENGES FOR SRI LANKA'S EXPORTS WITH BREXIT



Dr Lakmini Mendis is the Minister Commercial at the Sri Lanka High Commission in London, since May 2019.

She has more than 20 years of work experience in public, private and

semi-government organizations bearing different responsibilities and performing diverse roles as a country representative, a trade expert, negotiator, commercial/trade officer, lecturer, resource person, management consultant, market researcher and a banker.

Working for the Department of Commerce, Sri Lanka (DOC) which contributes towards trade policy formulation and implementation for more than 18 years, she has gained firsthand work experience as a bilateral, regional and multilateral trade expert, negotiator and a trade/investment/tourism promotion officer.

As a Diplomatic officer responsible for commercial and economic matters, she represented the interests of Sri Lanka as the Second Secretary Commercial at the Sri Lanka High Commission in Malaysia (2003-2005), First Secretary Commercial, London (2005-2009), and Chargè d' Affairs/Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the WTO and the UN Organizations in Geneva (2011-2013) and at present Minister (Commercial) Sri Lanka High Commission, London.

Dr Mendis holds a PhD from the University of Adelaide, Australia for her thesis "How can the Global Food Security Challenges be addressed in the Multilateral Trading System", MBA from the Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM) Sri Lanka and BSc in Business Administration from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

On 31st January 2020, the UK left the European Union following an unprecedented Brexit vote. On 19 May the UK Government announced its new tariff regime - the United Kingdom Global Tariff (UKGT) scheme or the Most Favoured Nation tariff regime of the UK, designed specifically to suit the UK economy. It is the first independent tariff policy in almost fifty years. UKGT will replace the EU's Common External Tariff (CET) and will be effective from 01 January 2021 ie, after the Brexit transition period.

The UKGT regime has differences compared to the current EU CET and it is important to understand the competitive position of Sri Lankan exports in the UK market after 2021 in the light of the proposed preferential scheme that will be introduced.

The purpose of this webinar is to educate the Sri Lankan exporters on the upcoming UKGT regime and explain the post Brexit market challenges and opportunities

You are invited to Share your thoughts

At the end of the webinar, we invite you to take part in our live Q&A session, to further explore any concerns or opportunities under this topic.

ZOOM Registration link

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_aybl5VqwTGq-2YefLCEkj0Q



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