



John Forrest

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, LONDON

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John Forrest practices in the area of international trade law, with a particular focus on economic sanctions, export controls, embargoes, customs regulation the negotiation and implementation of free trade agreements and preference schemes and trade defence instruments.

His client relationships embrace major multinational corporations and small start-up companies across a range of sectors including financial services, energy, high tech and telecommunications, manufacturing, defence, agribusiness and mining.

John is a member of the DLA Piper Brexit Committee, which coordinates the firm's approach to the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union.

EXPERIENCE

John regularly counsels clients on the handling and coordination of multijurisdictional investigations involving alleged violations of international sanctions, export controls and customs regulations. He works with clients to assess their compliance risk profile and develop and implement fit for purpose policies and procedures for the identification and management of risk associated with cross-border activity, including: trade financing, import and export activity, investment transactions and enhanced counter-party screening and due diligence.

John regularly provides support to clients to assess compliance key considerations for specific transactions on issues such as:

- Export control and customs related product classifications
- The impact of restrictions on key equipment
- Prohibitions on ancillary services such as technical assistance, transport and financing
- Tariff classification and customs valuations

RELATED SERVICES

- Administrative Law
- EU Law and Policy
- Global Governance and Compliance
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- International Trade
- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Investigations
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Oil and Gas
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Tax
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- Real Estate
- Construction and Engineering

RELATED SECTORS

- Financial Services
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Industrials
- Technology

- Preparation, submission and handling of authorisation requests
- Voluntary disclosures to relevant competent authorities
- Internal and external compliance reviews and audits
- Remedial measures and mitigating circumstances
- Free trade agreements and preference schemes

KEY EXPERIENCE

- Advising a major private equity company on risk profiling and the development and implementation of associated policies and procedures to identify and manage trade compliance risk for its international group entities
- Advising a number of international financial institutions, manufacturers, trading houses and consultancy companies on the scope and application of measures restricting the supply of goods and services, financing and technical assistance in relation to jurisdictions such as Russia, Iran, Syria and Libya
- Advising clients in the financial services, manufacturing, telecommunications and energy sectors on the coordination of multi-jurisdictional investigations into alleged violations of economic sanctions and export control obligations and associated strategic advice in relation to engagement with relevant competent authorities
- Advising a major international manufacturing company in the aerospace, energy and defence related sectors on the coordination of an internal investigation and handling of a voluntary self-disclosure to relevant export control and customs authorities for alleged violations of trade and customs regulations
- Advising an international software developer and telecommunications company on product classification issues for the identification of export controlled hardware and software, compliance risk associated with distribution networks and cloud computing solutions and regulatory obligations associated with export authorisations, licensing conditions and regulatory reporting
- Advising an international oil and gas development, exploration and production company on the management of third party risk associated with its sub-contractors, suppliers and customers and the drafting of appropriate contractual terms and conditions and representations and warranties

CREDENTIALS

Prior Experience

John previously served as a senior official within the UK civil service and as an advisor to the UK government on trade and investment issues.

Recognitions

John provides strategic advice on international trade law and compliance with associated regulatory obligations. Legal 500 UK recommends John as "an impeccable individual" who "provides practical advice" in relation to the complex framework of international trade and customs law.

Education

- Kingston University, Bachelor's Degree in Law, LLB (Hons), 1994

INSIGHTS

Publications

Rules of Origin - what you need to know

9 October 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

With less than two months before the end of the Brexit Transition Period, importers and exporters of goods between the UK and both the EU, and the rest of the world, are preparing for the impact of significant changes to UK and EU trading arrangements upon their businesses and operations. Recent articles in the DLA Piper Trade Truths series have examined the realities of trading on so-called 'World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms', should there be no deal at the end of the Transition Period, including the impact on customs procedures and tariffs on goods, together with the UK's post-Brexit trading landscape.

Beyond the EU-UK Negotiations: Planning for trade with the rest of the world after Brexit

30 September 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

Whilst clients are rightly focused on the current status of negotiations between the UK and EU, some 12 weeks before the end of the Transition Period, it is easy to lose sight of the impact of Brexit on the UK's trading relationship with the rest of the world and the commercial consequences of this for businesses.

Trading on WTO terms – what does it actually mean for your business?

24 September 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

It is now more important than ever to prepare your business for trading on WTO terms. In the third Trade Truths article, we outline the key principles of the WTO, what trading on WTO terms means for the goods and services sectors, and how you can best prepare your business for the end of the transition period.

The Northern Ireland Protocol and the UK Internal Market Bill

15 September 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The second article in the DLA Piper Trade Truths series explains why the Internal Market Bill has attracted such controversy, and what it could mean in terms of preparing your business for trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland from next year.

DLA Piper launches Trade Truths

8 September 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

In our first article we discuss how trade policy is developed and implemented in the UK and EU.

UK imposes targeted human rights-based sanctions in first autonomous move

9 July 2020

On 6 July 2020, UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced the first autonomous sanctions designations since the UK formally left the European Union on 31 January 2020.

Publication of the UK global tariff

22 May 2020

On 19 May 2020, the UK Government published the details of its new UK Global Tariff (UKGT), which will replace the EU's Common External Tariff following the end of the Brexit Transition Period (currently scheduled to last until 31 December 2020).

Iran nuclear deal: the launch of the 'Dispute Resolution Mechanism' and the 'potential snapback' of UN and EU sanctions

17 January 2020

This week, France, Germany and Britain have triggered the Dispute Resolution Mechanism against Iran under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Will this process lead to the re-imposition of UN and EU sanctions on Iran?

No-deal Brexit: Impact on supply chains and international trade

1 September 2019

While a range of outcomes, including [a departure under the terms of the current Withdrawal Agreement](#), remains possible, it is important for businesses to plan for a no-deal Brexit, in which the UK leaves the EU without a withdrawal agreement or other deal. Here we look at the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit on businesses engaged in international trade and supply chains

EU Policy & Regulatory Update: EU prolongs sectoral sanctions on Russia

4 July 2019

On 27 June 2019, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/1108, extending the economic sanctions on Russia in response to Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine until 31 January 2020.

Engaging with UK Parliamentary Select Committees

21 June 2019

Giving evidence to a Parliamentary Select Committee can be a daunting experience. Select Committee hearings are high-profile events which can attract significant media attention. Evidence sessions expose witnesses to cross-examination by MPs or Peers, which at times can be hostile.

Preparing for new customs procedures post-Brexit: Focus on UK and EU EORI numbers

8 MAY 2019

As companies prepare for a range of potential Brexit outcomes, including a no-deal scenario, among the key considerations for businesses engaged in international trade will be the potential introduction of additional customs procedures for UK-EU trade following the UK's departure from the EU customs union.

Local Election Results And Why They Matter

3 MAY 2019

On Thursday 2 May local elections were held across the United Kingdom. 248 local councils and six directly-elected mayoral positions were contested in England, as well as 11 local authorities in Northern Ireland.

Engaging with the UK's post-Brexit trade negotiations

26 APR 2019

As the UK Government continues to consider the UK's post-Brexit bilateral trade and investment relationships, it has been clear of its need to fully understand business and civil society's offensive and defensive interests. An increased focus on stakeholder engagement is now crucial to developing informed and representative negotiating positions with third countries.

Policy & Regulatory Update: Liability of U.S. parent companies in case of foreign subsidiaries' sanctions violations

11 APR 2019

On 14 March 2019, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") concluded a settlement agreement with Stanley Black & Decker, Inc. ("Stanley Black & Decker")

EU Policy & Regulatory Update: EU Adds 8 Russian Officials on Sanctions List in response to Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov Incident

19 MAR 2019

On 14 March 2019, the Council of the European Union adopted Council Implementing Regulation 2019/409 and Council Decision (CFSP) 2014/145 adding eight Russian officials to the list targeting those "undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty or independence of Ukraine".

No-deal Brexit: UK Government publishes temporary trade tariff

14 MAR 2019

This week the UK Parliament voted against leaving the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement and a Framework for the Future Relationship on 29 March 2019 - i.e. a no-deal Brexit.

Unpacking INSTEX - the new mechanism to facilitate trade with Iran

15 FEB 2019

On 31 January 2019, the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the UK announced the establishment of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), a new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) designed to facilitate legitimate trade by European businesses with Iran.

EU Policy & Regulatory Update: First Designations under EU's Chemical Weapons Sanctions Regime

24 JAN 2019

On 21 January 2019, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/86 amending Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons, listing nine individuals and one entity under the EU's Chemical Weapons Sanctions regime.

EU Policy & Regulatory Update - EU Adds Three Iranian Persons to EU Terrorist List

14 JAN 2019

On 8 January 2019, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/25 amending and updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP.

- First Round of US Sanctions Reintroduced and EU Blocking Statute Updated, 7 Aug 2018
- Office of financial sanctions implementation
- HM Revenue & Customs
- EU Policy and Regulatory update: EU extends sectoral sanctions against Russia, 20 Jul 2018
- EU Policy and Regulatory update: EU Blocking Statute to Protect EU Companies from US Sanctions against Iran, 12 Jun 2018
- EU Policy and Regulatory update: EU Legislation to Block US Extraterritorial Sanctions against Iran, 21 May 2018
- US to re-impose sanctions on Iran as it withdraws from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, 9 May 2018
- The prospect for deep and comprehensive trade agreements with the Commonwealth post Brexit, 27 Apr 2018
- New US section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum products, 26 Mar 2018
- Navigating your business through Brexit: four ways DLA Piper can help, 1 Mar 2018
- Sanctions Bill significantly amended by the House of Lords, 26 Jan 2018
- The Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Bill and trading under WTO rules, 12 Dec 2017
- The Trade Bill - UK trade policy following Brexit, 11 Dec 2017
- The Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill
- A case of continuity? UK sanctions policy post-Brexit, 31 Aug 2017
- Extension to UK sanctions reporting requirements, 2 Aug 2017
- Beyond Brexit: Britain and the global economy, 21 Jul 2017
- The EU's Court of Justice rules that the EU alone cannot conclude "new generation" free trade agreements, 18 May 2017
- Changes to the enforcement of financial sanctions in the UK, 10 Apr 2017
- Flash update: trade compliance, 31 Mar 2017