



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.

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
- Preparation, submission and handling of authorisation requests

- Public and 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

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

- Voluntary disclosures to relevant competent authorities
- Internal and external compliance reviews and audits
- Remedial measures and mitigating circumstances
- Free trade agreements and preference schemes

- Technology

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

Solutions to the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland trade

29 October 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The Northern Ireland Protocol (the Protocol) has been back in the headlines recently as politicians in the UK, Ireland, and EU try to ease

the difficulties faced by many businesses as they move their goods between Great Britain (GB), made up of England, Wales, and Scotland; Northern Ireland (NI) and Ireland, which is an EU Member State.

Export controls: the EU's new dual-use regime

27 September 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The EU has amended numerous aspects of the export control regime by implementing the Recast Dual Use Regulation which governs EU exports of dual-use items. We summarise the key changes and what you'll need to know about dual-use items.

Further postponement of post-Brexit border checks in Great Britain

16 September 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

On 14 September 2021, Lord David Frost, the Brexit Minister, announced an additional delay to the introduction of stage 2 and 3 of the post-Brexit Border Operating Model. This article outlines the details of that delay and what it means for businesses.

DLA Piper's Sanctions Matrix – September issue

7 September 2021

The September issue of DLA Piper's Sanction Matrix offers latest developments on key sanctions-related legislation. This issue highlights extensions of measures targeting Belarus, the softening of sanctions targeting Egypt and Tunisia and the imposition of the UK's Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regime.

Establishment of new freeports in England

29 April 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

England announced the location of eight new freeports with the hope they will act as national hubs for global trade and investment across the UK; promote regeneration and job creation as part of the Government's commitment to "levelling up"; and provide hotbeds for innovation.

Postponement of post-Brexit border checks in Great Britain

23 March 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The UK Government introduced a Border Operating Model for a phased introduction of full customs and regulatory checks on imports from the EU into Great Britain. It gives supply-chain managers six months more to ensure affected EU imports are ready for the new SPS checks which will be put in place from October.

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Rules of Origin

8 February 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

In this week's article we explore some of the challenges that the Rules of Origin in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement are presenting businesses, and the potential mitigation measures available.

What happens when trade goes wrong? Understanding trade remedies and what they mean for you

7 January 2021

DLA Piper Trade Truths

Trade remedies have previously been assessed and implemented by the EU on behalf of the UK under the multilateral WTO framework. From 1 January 2021, the UK has implemented an independent trade remedies framework; the aim being to defend UK business interests from potentially injurious market distortion.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for business

31 December 2020

Boardroom Brexit

Welcome to this last edition of Boardroom Brexit, marking the end of the negotiations and the agreement of a new trade deal, the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). In this edition, we summarise the impact of the deal on all aspects of business operations in one place – please use the hyperlinks below to help you navigate the report.

Boardroom Brexit: What the deal means for transport

31 December 2020

Boardroom Brexit

There will be continued market access rights for UK and EU road haulage operators, while under the TCA, UK and EU air carriers will continue to enjoy flyover rights and operating rights on routes between the UK and EU. However, UK carriers will not be able to operate cabotage routes in the EU (and vice versa)

Continuity or Change? Procurement Rules after Brexit

12 November 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

This week's edition of DLA Piper Trade Truths, we look at how the UK's accession to the WTO's plurilateral procurement agreement is likely to change the UK's procurement regime at the end of the Transition Period.

A "Global Britain" – the UK's changing role at the World Trade Organisation

29 October 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

This edition of Trade Truths looks at how Brexit will change the UK's relationship with the WTO and sheds light on the election of the new WTO Director-General, and what this means for the UK's post-Brexit future.

State aid: Levelling the playing field or moving the goalposts?

21 October 2020

DLA Piper Trade Truths

The European Commission unveiled plans on 17 June 2020 to take a tougher line on subsidised foreign companies in the EU market. Under this proposal, the Commission seeks to “safeguard critical EU companies” in strategic industries such as pharma and agri-food so that they do not fall victim to “hostile takeovers conducted by large dominant player”.

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.

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?

- 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