
UK WON'T PAY TO ACCESS SINGLE MARKET POST-BREXIT

-

12.01.2018

EurActiv (12 January 2018)

The British government yesterday (11 January) ruled out paying the European Union to access the single market after leaving the bloc, as Prime Minister Theresa May tried to reassure finance sector players over Brexit.

Alongside her finance minister Philip Hammond, May hosted at Downing Street around 15 senior executives from global banking institutions, including the heads of Barclays, Deutsche Bank and HSBC.

The meeting – the first of its kind since Britain and the EU made progress in divorce talks in December – was held to discuss the opportunities and challenges for the financial sector posed by Brexit, a Downing Street spokesman said.

We will not be paying for market access, he told reporters ahead of the gathering.

The stance follows a Bloomberg News report that EU officials are considering a proposal to require Britain to pay for financial companies to access European markets following Brexit.

While on a trip to Germany on Wednesday, Hammond had told reporters that paying for access would be among the issues discussed in future EU divorce talks which are set to restart, with a focus on agreeing a transition period, at the end of this month.

UK ministers make Brexit pitch to Germany over Barniers head

Facing a tough line from Brussels on what economic ties between Britain and the European Union will look like after Brexit, a pair of senior British ministers made a direct pitch to Germany to cut Britain a good deal.

Finance minister Philip Hammond and Brexit minister David Davis said it made no sense for Germany or ...

Finance sector chiefs have long advocated an implementation phase after Britain leaves the EU as planned on 29 March 2019, to avoid disruption as both sides adjust to a new trading relationship.

Britains exit from the single market could mean these companies lose financial passporting rights that allow them to offer products and services on the continent from regional headquarters in the UK.

UK banks to lose EU 'passport' post-Brexit, warns ECB boss

Financial institutions based in Britain will lose so-called passporting rights allowing them to operate across the European Union unless post-Brexit Britain is at least part of the European Economic Area, ECB policymaker Jens Weidmann has said.

Many companies are preparing for Brexit by obtaining banking licences in other European countries and drawing up plans to move activities and jobs to financial centres in Europe.

At Thursdays meeting May asked the finance titans to emphasise the benefits for Europe as a whole of the UKs financial centre during any conversations they have in European capitals, the Downing Street spokesman said.

The Prime Minister gave an overview of the UKs position and updated on Brexit negotiations □ including the UKs aim to agree an implementation period by the end of March, he added.

The business leaders were united in emphasising the need for as much certainty as possible, the spokesman said.

There was agreement that fragmentation of the European market would likely benefit centres outside of Europe, he added.

Kaynak/Source: