

## **Slovenia attracts British investors ahead of Brexit**

London, 2 December 2017

Investors looking for new destinations, especially in Central Europe, in the lead-up to the UK's exit from the European Union are looking to Slovenia. The rationale for this was given at a conference in London on Friday 1 December organised by the British-Slovenian Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) in cooperation with the Council of British Chamber of Commerce in Europe (COBCOE) and the Slovenian Ministry of Economic Development and Technology.

Aleš Cantarutti, Slovenian State Secretary for Economic Development and Technology, presented Slovenia as an exceptionally open country to new investments and highlighted a number of projects that are ready for new investors. "According to recent successful FDIs in Slovenia, also GDP growth at its highest since 2008 and still growing, we believe that our country is an excellent starting point for doing business in the CEE region, especially due to its excellent geostrategic position, great infrastructure, ICT knowledge and language skills, and highly educated workforce," said Mr Cantarutti.

British Ambassador to Slovenia Sophie Honey underlined the opportunities for growing trade and investment in both directions. "The UK is open for business – I'm confident that UK investors will find many opportunities for doing business in Slovenia. We also want to increase Slovene investment into the UK, with many opportunities across the UK, underpinned by a great business environment, unique openness to FDI and global perspective. Our bilateral trade and investment grew by over 16% between 2014 and 2016 and I am excited by the opportunity for this to grow further in the coming years" she said.

The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates who acknowledged Slovenia is a hidden investment gem in the middle of Europe. It is also one of the world's safest countries with an enviable quality of life.

Barbara Uranjek, CEO of the BSCC, concluded: "Many current opportunities were presented by the Slovenian Sovereign Holding and the Slovenian Bank Asset Management Company, reflecting the continuation of the Government's privatisation process and fast economic growth. Attracting British investors to Slovenia will strengthen our economic cooperation and make Slovenia even more oriented towards smart, green and hi-tech. We will organise similar investment conferences next year – not only in London, but also where we find new opportunities in this large economy – and will be part of the International Business Festival in Liverpool, as we open doors for Brits in Slovenia and vice-versa."

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