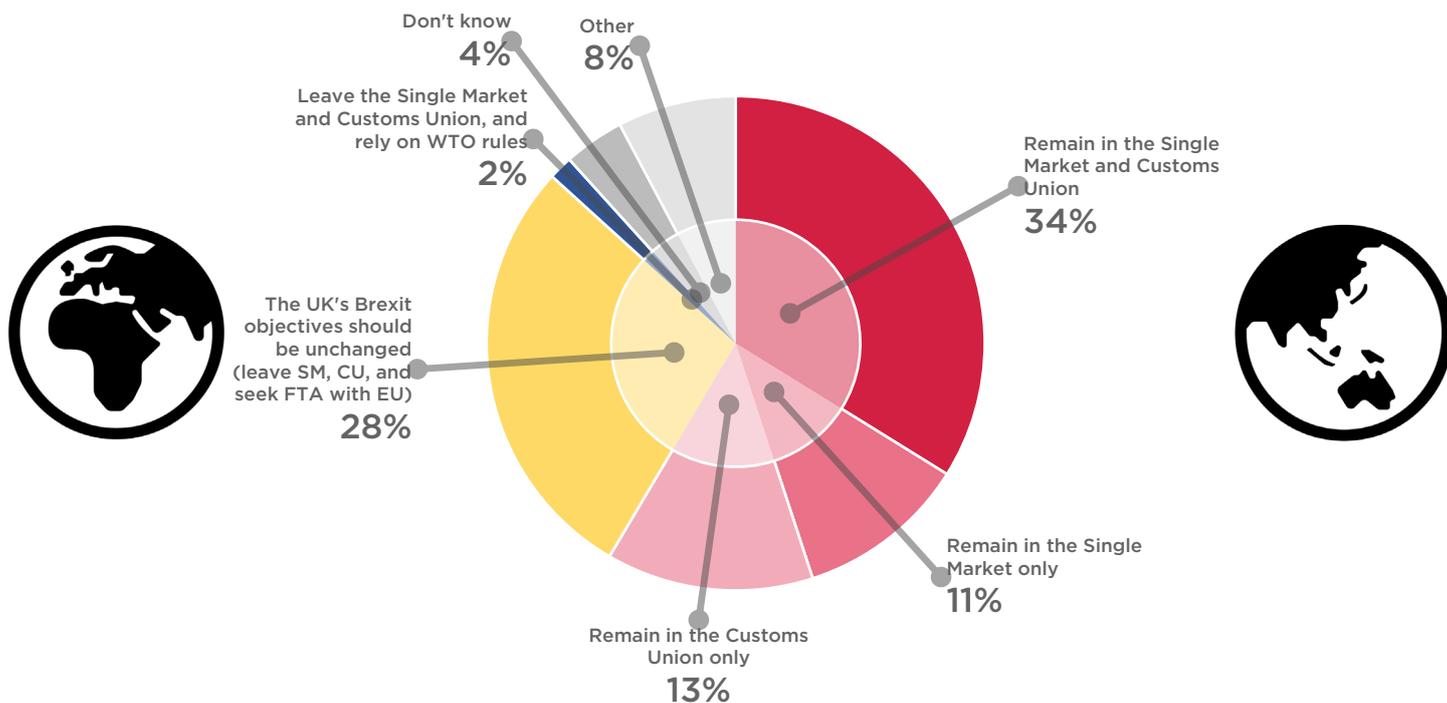


The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) surveyed over 2,400 business people from all regions of the UK online between 12 June and 14 June 2017 to understand business views of Brexit negotiations in the wake of the General Election.

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
POST-ELECTION SNAP POLL 2017

No support from business community for ‘no deal’.

While businesses have differing views on the preferred objectives for the UK in the EU negotiations, there is almost no support to conclude talks without a trade deal.



Which of the following statements, if any, comes closest to your view about what the UK's Brexit negotiation objectives should be? (n=2,422)

Transition period 68% of respondents believe it would be best for their business to have a transition period of three years or more following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Business voice Only 24% agreed that the interests of business were being prioritised by the UK Government ahead of Brexit negotiations, while 54% disagreed.

Dr Adam Marshall
Director General
British Chambers of Commerce

“Our results make it clear that there are a range of business views on what the UK should be seeking in a final deal with the EU, but there is near-universal consensus that a deep and comprehensive agreement is needed. ‘No deal’ isn’t seen as a viable option. Businesses want a pragmatic settlement on the practical, real-world issues that affect their operations, not arbitrary political red lines.

By more than three to one, businesses want a transition period on the way to a final agreement with the EU. This is critical to prevent firms facing the prospect of repeated, costly adjustments to new trading conditions. If companies have to change their business model once in 2019 and again several years thereafter, the competitiveness and investment potential of our firms will be undermined.

Getting transition arrangements on the negotiations agenda as quickly as possible would give businesses - many of whom are considering big investment decisions now - the confidence to press ahead.”



Profile of respondents: 91% of businesses surveyed were SMEs, 25% operate in the manufacturing sector, and 75% operate in the services sector. The results were weighted to align to the 2016 BEIS business population estimates data.

For further information, please contact David Bharier d.bharier@britishchambers.org.uk