



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Brexit & International' Series

Building a resilient and sustainable global supply chain

Expert Insight

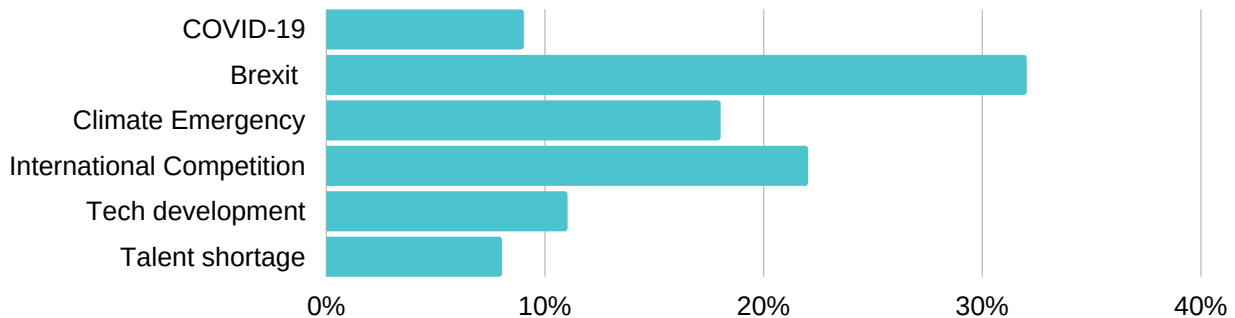
We were joined by Prof Ed Sweeney, Director of the Aston Logistics & Systems Institute, to discuss the contemporary challenges facing global supply chains, and how organisations can adapt to secure greater resilience and sustainability. During his presentation, Ed touched on points including:



- Digital technologies, when effectively deployed, enhance capabilities to manage and integrate increasingly complex supply networks. The challenge is in making sense of big data and transforming it into something usable such as predictive analytics.
- Leaving the transition period without a deal would pose significant risks to the 'just-in-time' supply chains upon which we all rely, which are dependent on frictionless trade.
- Global supply chain activities, in particular transportation, contribute substantially to Co2 and other greenhouse gas emissions - we need to seek greener logistics networks.
- Ed concluded that the 'new normal', under which global supply chains will operate post COVID-19 can be characterised as volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous.

Cross-sector Opinion

Over 100 WIG members from across the sectors tuned in live, we asked them: which of the following is the biggest challenge facing UK-centric supply chains?



Our members' questions

The attendees raised a number of important questions, with particular focus on government support to build supply chain resilience, and lessons learnt from responses to shifting demands and consumer behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the issues discussed included:

- Which disruptive technologies, such as blockchain / distributed ledger technologies, will most greatly impact or improve supply chains?
- What are the the biggest barriers to more environmentally sustainable / circular supply chains, should the government be encouraging this shift and could moving to 'shorter' more local chains be the answer?
- Where are there lessons to be learnt from international approaches to coping with the COVID-19 crisis, and will the focus on resilience remain, or will supply chain management move back to an efficiency-orientated approach?

WIG members can listen to Ed's presentation [here](#)

To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk