

International Strategy Task & Finish Group

1. As the deadline for leaving the European Union approaches, international relationships have never been more important. In recognition of this, the Welsh Government created its first ever ministerial post for International Relations in December 2018 to take forward this agenda at this critical time.
2. In the twenty years since the establishment of devolved government, we have developed strong relationships with other nations, regions and networks across Europe. The possibility of the UK leaving the EU changes the framework in which we operate, but not our ambition: whatever the shape of the future UK-EU partnership.
3. Leaving the European Union would lead to a radical change in the international trading environment and it would require a stronger partnership approach across Wales, to pull together all of our efforts, to deliver for Wales.
4. Over the coming months, the Welsh Government will be working with partners to map out a dynamic agenda which supports Welsh business and draws on our country's impressive range of assets to promote Wales internationally. The work will culminate in a new comprehensive International Strategy that will give Wales a powerful voice in Europe and beyond.
5. The development of the strategy will be supported by an independent task and finish group informed by wider public consultation, and refined further as our future relationship with the EU becomes clearer.
6. To help shape the new International Strategy, a Task & Finish Group has been brought together to advise the Minister for International Relations on the priorities for developing our international relationships. The group consists of representation from a variety of fields, including:
 - Economy – both Foreign Direct Investment and Exports
 - Service sector
 - Image
 - Diplomatic relations
 - Digital
 - Academia
 - International community
7. The Group will meet three times throughout the development stage of the strategy.
8. The Minister for International Relations will also be meeting with stakeholders to discuss the Strategy and is seeking views through wider consultation.
9. The Council is welcome to share its views on Wales' international priorities.