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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 16th May



EIA Update

The EIA have been preparing to meet with Martin Rhodes, Labour MP for Glasgow North and member of the Events APPG which is due to take place next week. This meeting will be an opportunity to emphasise the need for our industry to have an agreement with the EU particularly around movement of professionals for business events.

The EIA are also preparing for any announcements coming out of the EU-UK reset and are continuing to ask to create a mutual recognition agreement between the EU and the UK for the Events Industry.

Political Update

This week the UK has been preparing for the upcoming EU-UK reset next Monday. Throughout the week it has been briefed that the meeting on Monday will announce the result of a number of ongoing discussions rather than begin any negotiations. The topics expected to be covered are; defence, fishing, youth mobility, and veterinary medicines amongst others. More on this can be found below.

The other focus for this week has been migration. On Monday, Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, gave a press conference to launch a new White Paper on immigration to “close the book on a squalid chapter” in British history during which annual net migration quadrupled. Following Reform UK’s success in the May local elections, and the rise of immigration as the second most important issue facing the country, Starmer set out his Government’s plans to reduce net migration by restricting visas in several sectors – including adult social care – and raising the thresholds for skills and English proficiency.

News

EU-UK Reset

European leaders are urging Prime Minister Keir Starmer to enhance the nation's youth mobility and fisheries policies ahead of the UK-EU summit on Monday. In exchange, Brussels is offering improved arrangements for UK touring artists and a long-term sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) deal to ease food trade barriers. Negotiations are focused on a "fish for food" swap, with the EU seeking extended access to UK fishing waters and regulatory alignment in food and electricity markets. The potential deal could also include a security and defence pact. However, Conservative Leader Kemi Badenoch criticised the concessions as threats to UK sovereignty, a claim Starmer dismissed, emphasising the strategic value of the deal.

Economic Growth

The UK economy grew by 0.7% in the first quarter of the year, surpassing forecasts and prompting Chancellor Rachel Reeves to say it is "beginning to turn a corner." The rise, driven by consumer spending and business investment, makes the UK the fastest-growing G7 economy this quarter. However, analysts warned the pace may not last, as US tariffs and National Insurance hikes are set to hit in the current quarter. Critics argue Government tax rises could hamper sustained growth despite early optimism.

Levy to potentially be introduced on promoters on arena shows

During a session of the Culture Media and Sport Committee on Grass Roots funding, Creative Industries Minister Sir Chris Bryant has warned legislation may be introduced to enforce a £1 ticket levy on arena shows, urging promoters like Live Nation to act. While progress has been made through the voluntary LIVE Trust scheme, only 8% of eligible shows have contributed. Bryant stressed urgency, aiming for over £1 million pledged by year-end to support grassroots music.

Rail replacement transport to become easier to navigate

The Government has awarded £800,000 to four innovative projects aimed at improving accessibility on rail replacement coaches. Announced by Local Transport Minister Simon Lightwood, the funding supports new onboard tech—such as 3D avatars and AI-powered audio—to deliver clear, real-time travel information.

New Rail Agreement signed between the UK and Switzerland

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander has signed a landmark deal with Switzerland to advance plans for a direct UK-Swiss rail link. The agreement, signed with Federal Councillor Albert Rösti at St Pancras Station, aims to boost tourism, strengthen trade ties and promote greener travel across Europe. The move aims to support the Government's broader strategy to expand international rail connectivity, tackling border and safety issues, and pave the way for faster, more sustainable passenger journeys between the UK and central Europe.

Parliament

House of Commons

Written Question on events industry and double taxation

Suella Braverman, Conservative MP for Fareham and Waterlooville, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

"Whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential impact of the Double Contribution Convention on employment opportunities for British citizens in the seasonal entertainment industry?"

James Murray, Exchequer Secretary to Treasury, responded:

"The OBR will certify the impact of the trade deal including the Double Contributions Convention in the usual way at a fiscal event, once the deal is finalised and ratified. The agreement to negotiate a Double Contributions Convention was made in the context of the wider deal, which will bring billions into the economy"

Written Question on Visas from EU Countries

Graham Leadbitter, Scottish National Party MP for Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey asked, the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

"Whether she has had discussions with her European counterparts on improving visa-free travel arrangements to Europe for British citizens?"

Seema Malhotra, Minister for Migration and Citizenship responded:

"The Home Office is not responsible for those arrangements."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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