

CAVENDISH

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**Weekly
Monitoring
Friday 28th
February**



EIA Update

This week, we met with Jo Platt, Culture Media and Sport Committee member. During the meeting we talked Platt through our recent submission to the CMS Committee inquiry into the 'state of play' as well as the other benefits of our industry and the challenges we face. We plan on continuing our line of engagement across the Culture Media and Sport Committee as they plan for the year ahead.

Cavendish Consulting presented the EIA 2025 Public Affairs Strategy to the AEO board this week and look forward to upcoming meetings with the AEV and ESSA boards next week.

Political Update

UK politics this week has predominantly focused on the Prime Minister's movements abroad, with his visit to America hitting the headlines. Besides inviting President Trump for a second state visit to the UK, the US trip primarily centred on the war in Ukraine and a potential trade deal between the UK and the US. Reporting on the meeting has been mixed, with some praising the friendly relationship between Trump and Starmer, while others criticised Starmer for being too paly.

The visit followed Starmer's announcement that the UK would increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027, with an end goal of reaching 3% in the next Parliament. The increase in spending is partly funded by a 40% cut to foreign aid. This has caused controversy across Parliament and led to the resignation of International Development Minister Anneliese Dodds.

Meanwhile, in Germany, the CDU/CSU led by Friedrich Merz received 28.5% of the vote, while the right-wing AfD achieved the second-highest number of votes at 20.8%. Merz will now attempt to form a coalition government, with hopes of having it in place by Easter. Once Merz becomes Chancellor, he has stated that his government will look to strengthen ties with the EU.

News

eVisas

Since the launch of the evisa, the Home Office has said that over 4 million UK visa holders have created accounts to access their eVisa, with 600,000 yet to switch from physical documents. The Home Office has extended the grace period for expired biometric residence permits (BRP) and EUSS biometric residence cards (BRC) until 1 June 2025. This extension is to help ensure a smooth transition to eVisas. From 2 June 2025, expired BRPs and EUSS BRCs will no longer be valid for travel. Minister Seema Malhotra encouraged those yet to switch to eVisas to do so promptly to benefit from the digital system.

Manchester tourism tax

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, has faced criticism from UK Hospitality's Chief Executive for supporting a new mandatory tourist tax in Manchester. Burnham proposed replacing the current optional £1-per-night 'city visitors charge' with a compulsory levy to fund the Accommodation Business Improvement District. Critics argue the tax would harm tourism competitiveness, reduce visitor numbers, and burden businesses. Burnham's comments follow his plan to boost Greater Manchester's economy by £13bn annually.

Department of Culture Media and Sport economic output for December

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport published economic estimates for December 2024 excluding tourism. The estimates found that Gross Value Added (GVA) by DCMS increased by 1% on November 2024 outpacing overall GVA for the UK of 0.4%.

For the quarter ending December 2024, GVA by the included DCMS sectors is estimated to have decreased by 1% compared to the previous quarter (ending September 2024), whereas the UK economy as a whole saw a slight growth of 0.1%.

Global Growth Team appointed

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, has appointed a new 'global growth team' of 32 UK Trade Envoys to boost exports and investment. These Parliamentarians will target markets across six continents, identifying trade opportunities and promoting the UK as an investment destination. The Trade Secretary emphasised the importance of trade and investment for economic growth, highlighting the team's role in unlocking new markets. The announcement precedes the new Trade

Strategy, which will focus on rebuilding EU relations and accessing new markets. Trade talks with FTA partners, including the GCC, Switzerland, and South Korea, are also resuming.

EU likely to reject UKs proposed youth mobility

The EU is expected to reject the UK's proposal for a capped under-30s migration scheme, favouring a broader youth mobility deal. The UK plan includes a cap on the number of Europeans allowed, a two-year limit, and restrictions on NHS access and benefits. The EU prefers a more extensive scheme, allowing 18- to 30-year-olds to travel visa-free for up to four years. This report comes following a [YouGov poll](#) which demonstrated that 66% of respondents would support an 'Australian style' youth mobility scheme with the European Union. Negotiations continue, with the UK aiming to balance reducing net migration and meeting EU demands.

Parliament

House of Commons

EU - UK Musician Movement

During a debate on Creative Industries, Max Wilkinson, Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Culture Media and Sport said:

"Touring performers contribute hugely to the creative industries, but, sadly, Best for Britain estimates that, since Brexit, the number of UK performers touring in the EU has fallen by a third. Elton John and David Furnish back the Cut the Red Tape campaign, which asks for an exemption to the trade and co-operation agreement. Touring performers are "still standing", but they should not be asked to make a sacrifice imposed by the previous Government's failed Brexit deal. Will Ministers show me that they do not have "a cold, cold heart" by agreeing to meet me and representatives of the campaign, and will they promise me that it will not be "a long, long time" before touring performers get the support they deserve? I am pleading with Ministers: "Don't go breaking my heart"."

Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, Lisa Nandy responded:

"All I can say is that the hon. Member is lucky that I am answering this question, not my hon. Friend the Member for Rhondda and Ogmore, or we would be here for several hours. My hon. Friend met the EU commissioner on precisely this issue yesterday. We firmly believe that closer co-operation with our friends and allies across the European Union is not just in our interests, but in their interests, and we are seeking closer agreement on this issue."

House of Lords

Ticket Resale

Lord Moynihan asked His Majesty's Government:

"What assessment they have made of the impact of lowering the proposed cap on ticket resales?"

Baroness Twycross, Lords Minister for Culture Media and Sport responded:

"The Government has published a consultation on introducing new consumer protections on the resale of live events tickets. We are seeking responses on a range of proposals, including a price cap on resales and new requirements on resale platforms.

"The consultation invites views about what the most suitable level would be for a price cap on ticket resales, ranging from the original price of a ticket to an uplift of up to 30% on that original price to cover admin costs. We will consider these views in determining the best route forward, once the consultation has concluded on 4th April."

**For any queries regarding this round-up
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Get in touch



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