



P R E S S R E L E A S E

London, 27 June 2016

## Brexit – Risks and Opportunities says Coface

**The referendum result has caused uncertainty and volatility in the markets. But also, with the lower value of Sterling, opportunities to export. However all this comes with the risk of not being paid.**

Coface, as one of the world's leading credit insurers, helps companies protect their business from customer insolvency and increase their sales at home and overseas. With the right protection and information, UK businesses can manage the uncertainty and compete and export successfully in the global marketplace without exposing themselves to unnecessary risk.

The company is already protecting thousands of businesses from trading risks such as bad debt and geopolitical upheavals, while helping them make informed trading decisions through its country and sector credit risk assessments. Although UK businesses will undoubtedly be nervous about the consequences of the Brexit decision, Coface UK's Managing Director, Frédéric Bourgeois, believes there could also be rewards for those who are inspired to access new markets.

He said: "We are all in uncharted territory following the referendum but what we do know is that it will take at least two years for the UK to actually leave the EU. This means that exporters and domestic businesses will have to negotiate a prolonged period of uncertainty and volatility before we know the precise terms and date of exit.

"It might be easy to see this as a reason to look inwards, delay investment decisions and take an extremely conservative approach to trading. But the fall in the value of Sterling for example means exporters can take advantage of the new opportunities. However information and protection is crucial".

*Note for journalists: the attached Coface Brief explores the aftermath of Brexit.*

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#### **About Coface**

The Coface Group, a worldwide leader in credit insurance, offers companies around the globe solutions to protect them against the risk of financial default of their clients, both on the domestic market and for export. In 2015, the Group, supported by its 4,500 staff, posted a consolidated turnover of €1.490 billion. Present directly or indirectly in 100 countries, it secures transactions of 40,000 companies in more than 200 countries. Each quarter, Coface publishes its assessments of country risk for 160 countries, based on its unique knowledge of companies' payment behaviour and on the expertise of its 660 underwriters and credit analysts located close to clients and their debtors.

In France, Coface manages export public guarantees on behalf of the French State.

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In the **UK and Republic of Ireland** Coface has been a leading provider of [credit management services](#) since 1993 - its objective being to enable businesses to trade securely at home and overseas. Operating from offices in London, Dublin, Watford, Birmingham and Manchester allows Coface to provide a local service.

The company's [credit insurance](#) offer integrates credit assessment, [collection services](#) and cover for unpaid debts. Multinational businesses can protect their worldwide subsidiaries through Coface's international network.

The company also provides access to domestic and international [business information](#) and a collection network at home and overseas. Coface is also a recognised operator in the London [political risk](#) market. [www.cofaceuk.com](http://www.cofaceuk.com) and [www.coface.ie](http://www.coface.ie)