

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

The Voice of German Business in the UK



VIP Dinner Discussion Two/24

with

Ms Sarah Jones MP

Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade (Minister for Industry) and
Minister of State in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero



Ms Sarah Jones MP

On **Tuesday, 10 December 2024**, Ms Sarah Jones MP was our **Guest of Honour and Speaker** at a Dinner Discussion, hosted by our Chief Executive, Phil McClennon, at the Royal Over-Seas Club, London SW1. Our Executive President, Dr Bernd Atenstaedt, was unfortunately not able to attend.

The discussion was chaired by Dr Markus Grüneisl, Chief Executive Officer, BMW (UK) Manufacturing Ltd (MINI) & Swindon Pressings Ltd.



Royal Over-Seas Club

We discussed with the Minister the Government's activities, policies and plans relating to promotion of further UK industrialisation and decarbonisation. The Minister highlighted that these two elements of her responsibility were not in conflict, moreover they can both be progressed together through their plans. She gave the example of how their green energy work had a positive impact on both areas, where they can advance decarbonisation through deploying wind turbines and simultaneously promote further UK industrialisation by ensuring that the UK supply chain was enhanced through this strategy. The Minister also outlined that with deeply complex topics like the UK's industrial supply chain, she and her team were deep into the detail which they see as key to identifying the best opportunities.

In discussion with Members, the Minister recognised that there are many diverse demands on the UK Government in the current climate, even before considering the influence of international politics. She went on to outline their approach to addressing each priority would be achieved by having an integrated approach to policy, where for example the earlier green energy and industrial supply chain example would also benefit the country's need to develop a broader technical skills base. The Minister went on to highlight that the UK Industrial strategy was currently in development and would likely be published in the spring of 2025 and how within those plans, the role of the recently announced 'Skills England' initiative would also be made more clear.

The Minister also recognised that there were still a number of challenges relating to red tape and mobility of people and acknowledged that these points could also be addressed in time as the Government deploys its plans.

Some 20 members and guests were present who included, along with the above mentioned, our Patron, HE Miguel Berger, *German Ambassador*, Klaus Allion, *ANT*, Patrick Borg Hedley, *Lufthansa*, Armin Brestrich, *Landesbank Baden-Württemberg*, Ramona Dienel, *BMW*, Matthias Meyer, *Formerly Heller Machine Tools*, Arne Mielken, *Customs Manager*, John Pickering, *Miele*, Clemens Richter, *CMR and GIUK*, Richard Skinner, *Voith*, James Stephens, *DHL and Richard von Braunschweig*, *MAN Truck & Bus*. Also present were our guests Markus Knauf, *German Embassy*, Thomas Gellender, *Minister's Office*, Alex Altmann, *German Business Hub*, Helen Pyman, *Miele* and Benedikt von Imhoff, *German Press Agency dpa*.

At the end of a very rewarding evening, our Chief Executive, Phil McClennon, gave the vote of thanks.