A HARD Brexit FOR CREATIVE BUSINESSES

**Brussels/London. 14 October 2016.** Creative businesses are in for a hard Brexit, according to an expert opinion report. They are unlikely to have access to the single market once the UK leaves the EU. Furthermore, there is likely to be a gap between the UK exiting the EU and a new trade deal coming into effect.

C8 canvassed opinion from across the political spectrum, in Westminster and Brussels. EU officials, UK civil servants, public affairs experts and creative industries executives were also polled. The results are published by C8 in an expert opinion report *A Hard Brexit For Creative Businesses.*

Creative businesses currently benefit from access to the EU single market through a series of Directives and Regulations. This allows a creative business to be located in the UK and trade freely throughout the EU. These are the creative industries passporting rights. Analysis of the results reveals that when a new trade agreement is concluded between the EU and the UK, it is unlikely to include the Directives and Regulations which give access to the single market.

Experts effectively ruled out the so-called ‘Norway’ solution, where Norway is not a member of the EU, but is part of the single market. It is more likely that a new trade agreement will be based on WTO rules, with limited scope for cross border trade in services and restrictions on movement of labour.

C8 Chairman, Dominic McGonigal, commented,

*“These conclusions are sobering reading for the creative sector. For decades, the UK has been at the centre of the creative industries in Europe. That is threatened by these predictions of a hard Brexit for creative businesses.”*

Further uncertainty in the market will be a created by a possible gap between the UK leaving the EU and new trade arrangements. The UK is expected to exit the EU by March 2019. However, expert opinion predicts that a new trade deal will be in place some time between 2019 and 2022. In the absence of a trade agreement, standard WTO tariffs on goods would apply.

The C8 Expert Opinion Report *A Hard Brexit For Creative Businesses* is available on the C8 website at [www.c8associates.com](http://www.c8associates.com).

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*C8 Associates is a consultancy dedicated to taking creative businesses to the next level. For more information on how C8 can work with you to manage risk and exploit opportunities, read more at* [*www.c8associates.com*](http://www.c8associates.com)*.*

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