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London, 11 April 2016

Businesses can profit from economic insights at Coface UK's next country risk conference

Amid the question of the UK's membership of the EU, concerns about the volatility of financial markets and continued geopolitical tensions, Coface UK's annual Country Risk Conference will provide a realistic appraisal of market risks and opportunities so businesses can make informed and confident trading decisions.

Global credit insurer and expert in trade credit risk, Coface UK has brought together leading economists and analysts to discuss the outlook for the UK economy, the prospects for global recovery, cyber-security and geopolitical risk. This year's Country Risk Conference will be held in **London** on **Thursday 9 June 2016** and for the first time it will be streamed live to venues in **Manchester, Belfast** and **Dublin** where economists will be on hand to provide distinctive local perspectives. The event also includes round-table discussions about the issues raised and there will be ample opportunities for audience questions.

Frédéric Bourgeois, Managing Director of Coface UK and Ireland said: "This year's Conference will take place just before the UK's referendum on EU membership. And this is just one of several risk-factors in a challenging trading climate which has the potential to cloud decision-making and hinder confidence.

"We chose the theme *Confidence in a World of Risk* because our expert speakers will give a realistic appraisal of the major trends in the global economy, providing some welcome clarity for CEOs, FDs and their advisers as they develop their business strategy. Given the relevance of the programme and the calibre of the speakers, I'm also delighted that we are able to bring this year's event to an even wider audience in 3 additional cities."

The 2016 Conference programme features:

- **David Smith, Economics Editor, The Sunday Times** asks whether the British economy is as good as it seems and strong enough to weather weaker overseas growth. He will also address the implications of Brexit.
- **Julien Marcilly, Coface Group Chief Economist** examines the prospects for the global economy in the context of volatile markets, China's economic slowdown and the collapse in commodity prices.



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- **Oliver Fairbank, Senior Analyst, Control Risks** advises businesses how to protect themselves from the evolving threat from cyber criminals and activists, including those with state backing.
- **Richard Mallinson, Geopolitical Analyst, Energy Aspects** assesses which long-term geopolitical risks pose the greatest threat to economic security and international trade.
- **Louise Cooper, Chartered Financial Analyst, broadcaster and Times financial columnist** chairs two round table discussions on economic and geopolitical risks. These will feature the Conference speakers who will be joined by **Paul Hollingsworth, UK Economist, Capital Economics** and **Chris Torrens, Senior Managing Director, Control Risks.**

Lunch is provided for delegates and there will be opportunities to network and ask questions.

Places at the 2016 Conference are limited, to register your interest email crc_uk@coface.com

Note for journalists

If you would like to attend the conference, please register your interest at crc_uk@coface.com

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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 99 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 340 underwriters 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



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network at home and overseas. Coface is also a recognised operator in the London [political risk](#) market. www.cofaceuk.com and www.coface.ie