

THE
Windsor Debates
PROGRAMME



SEPTEMBER 2026

EUROPE AND THE
COMMONWEALTH

Vicars' Hall, St George's
House, Windsor Castle

In partnership with



Co-Sponsored by **Heathrow**

EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH

September's Windsor Debate will focus on the strategic pathways for doing more effective business with Europe and the Commonwealth – two of the world's largest economic trading blocs (and the constituent countries within them) and how this can benefit the Thames Valley.

In a challenging global environment, characterised by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA), there is renewed political drive for closer ties with the European Union and significant opportunities to boost UK economic growth with the Commonwealth - home to major trading partners such as India, Canada and South Africa, and six of the world's ten fastest-growing economies - the 'Commonwealth Advantage'.

We will consider and debate:

- Why a fresh perspective on the ways of doing business with Europe (the new reset) and the Commonwealth (e.g., Connectivity Agenda), can benefit the UK and Thames Valley business.
- What are the key components of unlocking trade and investment opportunities in the Thames Valley? How do we understand and maximise the potential of Trade Agreements (e.g. India:UK) and the UK's membership of, for example, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), for maximum benefit?
- The political perspective, with a MPs panel discussion.
- How the state of global 'VUCA' has and is likely to impact business; the value of the UK's 'soft power' in shaping global business interests; and a reflection on Niels Bohr's famous observation: "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future".



THE WINDSOR DEBATES

The Windsor Debates importantly provide time for business leaders to discuss, listen carefully and argue cogently; the opportunity for participants to disagree civilly, test each other's intellectual position, find common ground and perhaps even reach consensus.

To facilitate this engagement the Debates operate under the Chatham House Rule so, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

TIMINGS

09:00 - 09:30	Arrival and Registration, Vicars' Hall
09:30 - 09:55	Welcome and Introduction
09:55 - 10:55	Session One
10:55 - 11:25	Coffee Break
11:25 - 12:30	Session Two
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:45	Session Three
14:45 - 15:10	Coffee Break
15:10 - 16:10	Session Four
16:10 - 16:35	Reflections
16:35 - 16:40	Closing Remarks
17:00 - 17:50	Evensong In St George's Chapel (optional)
17:50 - 18:50	Drinks Reception in The Dean's Cloister
19:00 - 21:15	Evening Dinner With Keynote Speaker
21:15 - 22:00	Private Guided Tour of St George's Chapel (optional)
22:00	Event Close