

Westminster Media Forum Keynote Seminar

The UK fashion industry - challenges, opportunities and policy options

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13th November 2012

Venue: Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House Conference Centre, Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3NZ



WESTMINSTER
MEDIA FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Alison McGovern MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion
- 9.05 - 9.15 **The fashion business - the UK's comparative advantage**
What are the steps necessary for the UK fashion industry to capitalise on its international success and turn creativity into sustainable returns? How attractive is the UK as a base of operations, both for established houses and designers starting out?
Caroline Nodder, Editor-in-Chief, Drapers Magazine
- 9.15 - 9.45 **Future of fashion - strategic considerations for growth**
Analysis of the prospects and challenges for the UK fashion industry.
Caroline Rush, Chief Executive, British Fashion Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 - 10.30 **The business of fashion and UK talent in the international market**
How is the UK seen in the international fashion industry? In what areas does it hold a comparative advantage and what are the options for capitalising on this? In what ways is the industry approaching emerging markets - in particular the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) nations - for future growth? How successful has the UK been at selling itself internationally and what role do showcases, London Fashion Week and other events play at exhibiting fashion talent? How can UKTI further assist the industry? With financial support for exhibitions coming from the European Regional Development Fund, UKTI and the Mayor of London, what are the options for building a sustainable, self-financed model for the industry?
Sally Britton, Partner, Pitmans
Manny Silverman, Partner, Silverman Associates
Mark Eve, Head of Global Partnerships, New Look and Chairman, Global Retail Forum
Questions and comments from the floor with **Caroline Nodder**, Editor-in-Chief, Drapers Magazine
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Alison McGovern MP, Vice Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion
- 10.35 - 11.00 Coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Baroness Young of Hornsey, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion
- 11.05 - 11.15 **"Let's make it here" - securing the future of British fashion manufacturing**
What are the public policy and industry priorities for supporting growth in UK textile and apparel manufacturing? How can the sector capitalise on consumer demand for sustainability, as well as renewed interest in provenance?
John Miln, Chief Executive, UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT)
- 11.15 - 12.00 **Made in GB - manufacturing and fashion provenance**
What steps are needed to grow UK fashion manufacturing and reverse the past 15 years of decline? In what areas of fashion manufacturing does the UK have a comparative advantage - what can be learned from these for other areas? Would a 'Made in GB' stamp be good for the industry - e.g. would it be seen internationally as a sign of quality? Is there a danger it will highlight products as of 'foreign' origin? How successful have John Lewis and Top Shop's UK-manufactured lines been? How is the importance of provenance of fashion to UK consumers changing? With 60% of the manufacturing workforce over 40, how can younger people be encouraged to consider a career in the industry so as to maintain skills for the future?
Dilys Williams, Director, Centre for Sustainable Fashion
Victoria Stapleton, Founder and Creative Director, Brora
James Shaw, Co-Founder, Albam Clothing
Questions and comments from the floor with **John Miln**, Chief Executive, UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT)
- 12.00 - 12.10 **Careers behind the catwalk**
Where are the skill gaps in the UK fashion industry? How are the skill gaps impacting on the UK's international competitiveness?
Annie Warburton, Head of Partnerships, Creative Skillset
- 12.10 - 12.55 **The talent & skills for growth in UK fashion**
How far do current apprenticeship and qualification frameworks deliver the necessary skills for the fashion industry? What changes to qualifications would 'professionalise' careers in fashion and how far would this help retain and maintain skills? With international governments and cities investing so as to replicate the UK's success in creative talent, what should the UK do to remain competitive? With a limited number of courses, specialist colleges and tuition fees rise limiting access to careers, what steps are needed to ensure the next generation of talent are able to enter the industry? Are paths clearly signposted and understood?
Karen Dennison, Principal, Fashion Retail Academy
Simon Colbeck, Head of Innovation and Quality, Marks and Spencer
Richard Kottler, Chief Executive, British Footwear Association
Questions and comments from the floor with **Annie Warburton**, Head of Partnerships, Creative Skillset
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Young of Hornsey, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethics and Sustainability in Fashion
Thomas Raynsford, Senior Producer, Westminster Media Forum