

Exporters fret about Brexit

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IRISH EXPORTERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF TARIFFS, BORDER CONTROLS AND IRISH ECONOMIC GROWTH IF UK VOTERS DECIDE TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN UNION IN JUNE'S REFERENDUM.

A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY BY THE IRISH EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION (IEA) FOUND THAT 90PC OF ITS MEMBERS EXPORT TO, OR DO BUSINESS WITH THE UK. UNSURPRISINGLY, MOST OF THE IEA'S MEMBERS - 95PC - WANT THE UK TO REMAIN IN THE EU.

"IF THE BRITISH ELECTORATE VOTE TO LEAVE THE EU IT WILL HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS ON BILATERAL TRADE AND ON OUR EXPORTS TO THE UK IN PARTICULAR," SAID IEA CHIEF EXECUTIVE SIMON MCKEEVER (RIGHT). "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT IS THE UNCERTAINTY THAT SURROUNDS THE OUTCOME."

HE ADDED: "THIS UNCERTAINTY HAS ALREADY WEAKENED THE POUND AGAINST THE EURO BY 10.5PC SINCE MID-NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR."

IRISH INDEPENDENT