

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS - UK SECTION

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Most of the focus at our lunchtime meetings has, inevitably, been on Brexit. But, other issues discussed over the past year have been American politics, post Donald Trump's election as US president, the French presidential elections, the impact of last year's attempted coup in Turkey and cyber security attacks.

Our lunchtime guest speakers since the last report were:

Lord Andrew Adonis, Chairman of UK National Infrastructure Commission

Lord Paddy Ashdown, former leader of the Liberal Democrats

Lord John Kerr of Kinlochard, former head of the Foreign Office and author of Article 50, the EU exit clause

Thomas Rid, Professor in Security Studies at King's College, London

Jan Halper-Hayes, former UK Chairman of Republicans Overseas

Dominique Moisi, senior French political analyst and columnist

Lord Jim O'Neill of Gatley, former chief economist at Goldman Sachs

Vernon Bogdanor, Research Professor at the Institute for Contemporary British History at King's College, London

Sir Richard Barrons, former head of UK Joint Forces Command

And our next booked guest speaker this year is

Sir Keir Starmer: Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union on April 19

Speakers for February 20 and March 23 have yet to be confirmed.

The UK section is pleased to have a membership level of 42 members in 2017. But we suffered a very sad loss this year when Roger Broad, a founder member of the AEJ in 1968, died on August 17 from complications following heart surgery.

In 2017 we continued our successful student support arrangement with City University's journalism department under which several of their post-graduate students have attended each of our lunchtime meetings free of charge as a practical part of their International Journalism MA course.

The office-holders of the AEJ UK Section's Committee are (elected):

Chairman : **William Horsley**

Secretary: **Margaret Hughes**

Treasurer: **Mike Springate**

(Other responsibilities):

Events Director: **David Lennon**

Website Manager: **David Barker**

More details of AEJ UK Events, Meetings, News and Blogs & Briefings are published on the UK Section website: www.aej-uk.org as well as useful links to items of special interest on the international AEJ website www.aej.org .

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