

Dragon Theo Paphitis Lends Support to ‘Campaign for Clarity’

Submitted by: The UK200Group

Tuesday, 10 May 2016

Retail magnate and star of Dragons’ Den Theo Paphitis (<http://www.theopaphitis.com/>) has vocalised his support for small and medium-size enterprise (SME) owners as they make their EU Referendum decisions, and for the UK200Group’s ‘Campaign for Clarity’, which provides impartial and unbiased information to this key business group.

He said, “There’s no doubt that in the medium to long term, leaving will make no negative difference to trade. Whoever tells you otherwise is mad, because it defies every piece of logic and trade in the history of man. I can’t see Angela Merkel saying we don’t want to trade with the UK, we are going to lose £16 billion of car sales and make however many people redundant in Germany. It is rubbish.

“On the other hand, whoever tells you there will not be a short-term shock if we vote to leave is also gilding the lily. It’s worrying that people are prepared to go to these lengths to convince the British public to vote a certain way. It panics me because it means I’m being manipulated, I’m not being given the whole truth.

“I am reasonably well connected, and if I can’t make my mind up, what chance has the man or the woman on the omnibus got? There is this Project Fear about what will happen if we leave, which is absolute codswallop. Then, on the other side, the Leave campaign need to make very clear what they see will happen once we leave, if that’s what we vote to do.”

“Because of this lack of information, I think that the UK200Group’s ‘Campaign for Clarity’ is a vital project. Through its members – accountants and solicitors – the group is reaching out to the SME community and providing unbiased information so business owners can make their minds up for themselves.”

James Abbott, President of the UK200Group, said, “Theo is absolutely correct in that there is a complete lack of factual information for voters to make an informed choice. That’s why our upcoming EU debate, aimed squarely at small and medium business people, is key.

“Frankly, I feel voters will be relying upon the opinion from those characters they like the most and in short, we need a campaign based upon facts rather than fear. I have an open mind regarding which way my vote will fall, but I do know I want to be excited by what the future holds post referendum and at the moment, it all seems like we are picking through the least bad option based upon which facts we perceive to be the least unreliable. Our nation deserves more.”

The UK200Group (<http://www.uk200group.co.uk/>), the UK’s leading membership association of quality-assured independent chartered accountancy and law firms, is seeking to provide unbiased guidance to the SME community – a group whose importance to the UK economy cannot be understated.

Collectively, the UK200Group’s members support over 150,000 SMEs, many of whom are already asking their accountants and lawyers how a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ vote will affect their businesses.

The UK200Group is in a unique position to educate and inform a large number of business leaders across a wide range of industries, so has launched a campaign to clarify the views of both sides.

Central to the project will be a live-streamed debate between high-profile members of the 'In' and 'Out' campaigns at Coventry University London Campus (<http://www.coventry.ac.uk/culc/>), University House, 109-117 Middlesex St, London E1 7JF from 4.30PM to 6.30PM (debate itself from 5.00PM to 6.00PM) on 11 May.

The debate will be chaired by leading futurologist and author Dr James Bellini (<http://www.jamesbellini.com/>), and will include high-profile figures such as Yvette Cooper MP (<http://www.yvettecooper.com/>) and Lucy Thomas, Deputy Director of Britain Stronger in Europe (<http://www.strongerin.co.uk/>) making the Remain case and David Davis MP (<http://www.daviddavismp.com/>) and Douglas Carswell MP (<http://www.douglascarswell.com/>), making the case for leaving the EU.

The UK200Group, which was established in 1986, represents a group of trusted, quality-assured business advisers – accountants and lawyers – who have over 150,000 SME clients in total. As such, the UK200Group acts as the voice for 1,500 charities, over 10% of all registered academies, more than 3,700 farms, 800 healthcare businesses and over 500 property and construction professionals.

Useful links:

Theo Paphitis: <http://www.theopaphitis.com/>

The UK200Group: <http://www.uk200group.co.uk/>

Coventry University London Campus: <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/culc/>

Dr James Bellini: <http://www.jamesbellini.com/>

David Davis MP: <http://www.daviddavismp.com/>

Yvette Cooper MP: <http://www.yvettecooper.com/>

Douglas Carswell MP: <http://www.douglascarswell.com/about-douglas/>

Britain Stronger in Europe: <http://www.strongerin.co.uk/>

ENDS

The event is by invitation only. Journalists are welcome to attend the event, but must be accredited beforehand.

Media information provided by Famous Publicity. For further information, please contact George Murdoch at george@famouspublicity.com, Adam Betteridge at adam@famouspublicity.com or 03333 442 341 or Tina Fotherby on 07703 409 622 or tina@famouspublicity.com.

About the UK200Group:

The UK200Group was formed in 1986, and is the UK's leading association of independent chartered accountants and law firms, with connections around the world.

The association brings together around 150 member offices in the UK with more than 500 partners who serve roughly 150,000 business clients. Its international links in nearly 70 countries give its members access to expertise across the globe.