

Links



The magazine of COBCOE – Representing British business in Europe

SPRING 2013



Banking Futures

**Finnish Central Bank
Governor Erkki Liikanen
looks at the Future of
Banking in Europe**

**British Business Minister
Vince Cable on the UK's
Balance of Competences
Review of the EU**

**EU Commissioner
Antonio Tajani on
entrepreneurs**

**Lithuanian Prime
Minister Algirdas
Butkevičius looks
forward to the EU
Presidency**

Inside this issue

The Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe (COBCOE) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation representing British bilateral chambers of commerce throughout Europe.

Acting as an umbrella organisation, we work with our member chambers to advance international trade and business with the United Kingdom. We represent 40 British chambers of commerce in 38 countries across Europe and give a voice to over 10,000 businesses from all sectors of trade and industry involved in business with the UK. Our aim is to protect and promote the interests of our constituent chambers, and their business members, through representation, cooperation and trade stimulation. To do this, we liaise closely with governments and other like-minded organisations to ensure that our members' needs and concerns are addressed.

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The Review of the Balance of Competences

The Review of the Balance of Competences is an audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK



Five ways to promote EU bank stability

The Liikanen Report or 'Report of the European Commission's High-level Expert Group on reforming the structure of the EU banking sector' was published in October 2012

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UK investments: exceeding expectations

Lithuania is projecting a solid rate of growth of 3% for 2013, which places it among the three fastest growing economies in the EU



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COBCOE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

COBCOE and its partners offer member chambers and their members a range of business services

COBCOE In-house business solutions

Event Management

One of our greatest strengths is the ability to help you plan and implement well organised, relevant, intelligent and efficiently managed business events. Our comprehensive service will help you to identify the message(s) and concepts you want to communicate and help you to implement your events programme in the UK.

Human Resources

Consultancy and management for the recruitment of key chamber staff. With our wealth of experience in managing British bilateral chambers of commerce, COBCOE is able to assist you to recruit your key chamber senior management and staff wteam members.



Cvent Online Event Support

Cvent offers comprehensive online process support such as registrations for events, marketing options and other relevant solutions for event managers.



Health & Safety

In association with the Essex Chambers of Commerce, COBCOE are delighted to provide a broad range of easily accessible online health and safety training courses, for the benefit of employees or the management team. This simple yet effective learning system also allows employers to track training progress, and retain certificates of completion should they be required.



Eukleia Training

Eukleia Training is proud to be a new COBCOE partner and will be working with COBCOE to deliver and develop training offerings for COBCOE chambers and their members.



Connections @ Trafalgar Square Business Club and meeting space

Members stay at preferential room rates at Club Quarters, Trafalgar Square the charming boutique hotel located on site and are able to book stunning event facilities in the heart of London at preferential rates.

For more details or to see how we can help you, please visit us at www.cobcoe.eu or contact anne-marie.martin@cobcoe.eu

New UK-Sicily business links

The British Chamber of Commerce for Italy (BCCI) has forged new links between Sicily and the UK with a successful two-day meeting in Palermo.

Organised by BCCI Honorary Regional Secretary for Sicily, Alessandro Dagnino, the meeting looked at ways of promoting business relationships between Sicilian and British companies and how to launch those initiatives. Ideas included a memorandum of understanding between the Palermo Chamber of Commerce and the BCCI.

Vic Annells, HM Consul-General for Milan and UKTI Director-General for Italy, together with representatives of the BCCI including the President, John J Law, were welcomed by Roberto Helg, President of the Palermo Chamber of Commerce. They also met Sicilian entrepreneurs interested in the UK market, to understand their needs regarding commercial, legal and tax issues.

Equally positive was the outcome of a conference entitled 'The promotion of trade between Sicily and the UK – company networks: legal, financial and tax profiles.'

More than 200 participants attended the conference, most of whom were entrepreneurs and professionals such as tax accountants, lawyers or notaries.

Speakers included university lecturers and representatives from the banking world and other professions. They discussed the issue of company networks as a tool for stimulating trade between Sicilian companies wishing share new international projects.

Summing up the event, Alessandro Dagnino said: "These two days in Palermo are but the first step in a fruitful cooperative relationship between the British Chamber and the Palermo Chamber of Commerce, in which we hope representatives of Sicilian commerce and the professions are able to take part."

Vincenzo Genco, Secretary General of the Palermo Chamber of Commerce, commented, "A process of reorganisation to enable companies to compete internationally is underway involving the chambers of commerce, the ICE (Italian Institute of Foreign Trade) and foreign embassies, with the aim of achieving greater coordination."

EU anti-terrorism regulation on cross-border trade and trade within the borders of one jurisdiction was also discussed.

The event concluded that good compliance needs to be considered comprehensively and implemented in a structurally consistent manner in order to ensure that it runs

alongside day-to-day business operations without requiring a disproportionate amount of extra resources.



Above: Conference on trade between Sicily and the UK



Above: Vic Annells, John J Law, Alessandro Dagnino, Vittorio Corradino, Councillor for the Palermo Association of Journalists and Vincenzo Genco

Fresh momentum in Hungary

The British Chamber of Commerce in Hungary (BCCH) has increased efforts to improve its services in response to recent business developments.

Shared service centres (SSCs) have become one of Hungary's leading employer, as international companies look to save on back-office costs, such as HR and procurement, by centralising these functions and taking advantage of the country's young, university educated workforce.

The second SSC Symposium, held by the BCCH jointly with Deloitte and the British Embassy Budapest, looked at key issues with the CEOs of two highly successful SSCs, British Telecom and BP.

Giving members the opportunity to hear from political and business leaders at another event, the BCCH VIP Club hosted a discussion with Dr Tamás Szűcs, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Hungary.

An important development in promoting members' businesses is the BCCH Yearbook,

now in its third edition. The latest Yearbook was dedicated to the Queen to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee.

A special offer on the BCCH Business Certificates has also given new momentum to the chamber's services. This portfolio of online courses was introduced to meet the need for cost-effective learning and development.

Available in Hungarian, the certificate provides essential knowledge in time management, stress management, change management and other business subjects, and aims to increase members' competitive advantage. It was developed in association with the Innotica Group, a BCCH member, with input from staff at Budapest Corvinus University.

This year the BCCH has a new website designed by member Netis Zrt. The restructured site is easier to navigate.



Above: The third BCCH Yearbook is launched in Budapest

Below: The Chain Bridge in Budapest and Tower Bridge in London on the new BCCH website header

