



The Industry and National Assembly for Wales Association



CIRCULO DE EMPRESARIOS

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Working lunches with MEPs in the European Parliament

At the beginning of each EU Presidency (every 6 months), Voka, the Industry and Parliament Scheme in Flanders (Belgium) invites Flemish MEPs to a working lunch in the European Parliament to discuss the priorities of the new presidency with company leaders. The meeting at the start of the British Presidency in October 2005 was about the Services Directive, the so-called Bolkenstein Directive. On Wednesday 26 April 2006, MEPs and business representatives met again to discuss the Voka points of view about the recent European Energy Green Paper. They also exchanged ideas about the Liaison Office the Flemish Government will set up within the EU. Voka will be taking part in this new initiative by posting to it one of its best counsellors from its Knowledge Centre. Having an antenna in the Liaison Office will give Voka the opportunity to raise issues with MEPs and company leaders at an early stage.



Judiciary Programme offered in Spain

The Magistrates, Judges and Companies Programme, promoted by Circulo de Empresarios in cooperation with the Spanish General Council of the Judicature, began its activities in 2002. In its first year the judges and magistrates participated in a Seminar in Circulos member company IBM. Since then, the Industry and Judiciary Scheme has promoted other Seminars sponsored by Telefonica and Agbar. This year six Judges and Magistrates visited the IT company INDRA. Over a period of four days the participants were introduced to the specific sector in which INDRA operates as well as visiting the Demonstration Centres they own. These Seminars combine both the theoretical and practical approaches to the subject-matters studied; and offer the judges and magistrates a clear picture of modern industry.

New scheme in Wallonia (Belgium)



Belgium is comprised of two communities, two languages and two Regional Parliaments, one in Flanders (Flemish-speaking) and one in Wallonia

(French speaking). Through contacts with the Flemish scheme of Voka, the Wallonian business organisation, the Union Wallonne des Entreprises (UWE), was inspired to initiate a Wallonian scheme in April 2005.

Guy Préaux, a well known French speaking business man, is leading the scheme as director of the scheme and has made significant progress in a short period. Of the 75 Walloon Parliamentarians 40 have accepted company attachments. The longest lasted 12 days, the shortest half a day and the average attachment was for four and a half days. Parliamentarians in Wallonia are very keen to understand the issues confronting companies. This is especially encouraging as Wallonia is changing its negative political attitude towards the local business community. Future plans include interchange between Wallonian MPs and Flemish companies and vice versa.

been on the Trust Parliamentary program won't buy you any extra favours, but such is her regard for the organization that she will know if you have been on it'. Mrs. Burjanadze explained the developments of IABP-Georgia and particularly the work undertaken on the regulation of members' interests which she is keen that IABP-Georgia carries forward. The Association arranged for her to meet with UK's Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards during her visit and as a result of the meeting the Commissioner agreed in principle to visit Georgia to share his personal expertise.



A meeting with the House of Commons Speaker the Rt. Hon Michael Martin, MP concluded with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the House of Commons Library and the Business and Economic Centre of the Georgian Parliament, implemented by IABP-Georgia. Both parties declared willingness to support close cooperation with the intention of making the BEC the most advanced parliamentary research service in the region.

Georgian Speaker meets with IABP while on official visit to London

IABP Vice President, the Rt. Hon Jonathan Hunt, Secretary General, Fredrick Hyde-Chambers, and Honorary IABP Business Advisor, Keith Young, hosted a meeting for the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Nino Burjanadze, during an official visit to London. Jonathan Hunt, who is currently New Zealand's High Commissioner to the UK, shared his experience as Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament and Chairman of the New Zealand Business and Parliament Trust with Mrs. Burjanadze. He described the approach and the remarkable penetration the Trust has within the New Zealand Parliament. This has enabled it to hold six monthly dinners with the Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Minister of Finance attending. Mr Hunt said 'if you are a businessman or woman meeting the Prime Minister having



Speakers of the Georgian Parliament and the UK House of Commons signing the Memorandum.