



The Industry and National Assembly for Wales Association



CIRCULO DE EMPRESARIOS



## IABP-Georgia welcomes guests from Brussels, London and New Delhi

IABP-Georgia hosted three guests this week in Tbilisi. The first was the press officer of the directorate for the Media from the European Parliament, Richard Freedman, who arrived in Georgia for a one week fellowship programme. The objective of the programme was to obtain objective information about the current situation in Georgia. Among other issues, media freedom, energy needs, European integration, and violation of Human Rights were the topics of special interest to Mr. Freedman. For this reason IABP-Georgia arranged a balanced programme with the participation of key figures in Georgia. These included parliamentarians from the ruling party and opposition, the ministers for Energy and European Integration and local journalists. Mr. Freedman also attended fellowships at two English language newspapers in Tbilisi. At the end of the visit Mr. Freedman was very positive about future Euro-Georgian relations, especially the implementation of a European Business and Parliament Scheme as a mechanism to improve ties and facilitate integration.

Mr. Bob Antell, CEO of CMS Webview, visited Tbilisi to look at the possibility of establishing a commodity exchange in Georgia. Mr. Antell met the State Minister on Reforms, the Minister of Energy, the Chairman of the Georgian Stock Exchange, the Deputy Chairman of the Parliament, the Chairman of the Economic Committee as well as business representatives. The results of these meetings were positive and Mr. Antell himself said that further analysis was now necessary.

The third guest was Col. SS Singh, Managing Director of an Indian tourist company, who on his second visit to Georgia met relevant officials and businessmen in order to develop the industry in Georgia and strengthen its ties with his own country. As a result of his activities Georgia is exploring the possibility of opening a direct flight from Tbilisi to New Delhi. Col. Singh encouraged closer cooperation between tour-operators, and the development of closer inter-parliamentary cooperation between Georgia and India.

## IABP-Moldova host review of pharmaceutical legislation

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March IABP-Moldova held a round table to acquaint Moldovan MPs with the pharmaceutical legal framework, through transparent dialogue and the involvement of various stakeholders. The findings generated at the round table will allow parliamentarians to improve the current pharmaceutical legal framework so that discrepancies are eliminated.

The event was hosted by IABP-Moldova and its supporting partners, BizPro Moldova and the International Republican Institute. The chair of the Social Protection, Health, and Family Committee – Mrs. Valentina Buliga - chaired the event. The committee consists of parliamentarians, government officials, pharmacists and business people representing the sector.



Romeo Turcan, the IABP-Moldova Country Director, welcomed the participants to the event, and introduced IABP, its principles, aims and objectives. Michael Getto, IRI CEO, emphasised the importance of such events from which all involved benefit from frank and transparent dialogue. Mrs Valentina Buliga introduced the major issues facing the pharmaceutical industry. After introductory comments participants from the business sector presented in detail the current problems the industry is facing.

It was agreed that in the following week the committee, based on the suggestions raised at the round table, would draft a law review initiative and put forward to the parliament for consideration a series of amendments to the existing legal framework. After review in parliament, the improved draft legislation would be discussed again with relevant parties from the industry. All participants signed the IABP Code of Principles, to which all the

activities of the scheme adhere and which guarantees the integrity of the transparent and non-corrupt relationship between business and Parliament.

## New Zealand Post's Business Seminar for MPs



MPs being shown the Electronic Mail Sorting equipment at the Te Puni Mail Centre

The New Zealand Post organised a most successful business seminar for MPs on 9 March as part of the Trust's Business Study Programme. These one-day on-site seminars enable members of parliament to spend time visiting one of the Trust's corporate organisations in order to gain some insights into the challenges and issues which they face, and are an important part of the dual role of the Trust to facilitate better understanding between the business sector and parliamentarians.

The Chairman of the New Zealand Post Board, Rt. Hon Jim Bolger (NZ Prime Minister 1990-7) welcomed MPs at the start of the day, and this was followed by high-quality presentations from NZ Post Group's senior management team who covered customer solutions, governance and risk management, human resources and NZ Post's Kiwibank. The afternoon's programme saw MPs visiting the Te Puni Mail Centre, where they were able to view the newly installed computerised electronic mail equipment. Presentations were given on the Datamail Group and on Express Couriers, with the chief executive of the NZ Post providing the final summation.

The members of parliament who attended were impressed by the full and stimulating programme and considered the seminar most worthwhile. A further one-day Business Seminar for MPs is being organised by Talley's Fisheries to take place later in the year.