



BRITISH CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN BELGIUM

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25 May 2016

17.00-19.30

Venue: British Chamber Offices, 11 Bd. Bischoffsheim - 1000 Bruxelles

Attendees:

Hideaki	Asada	Japan Machinery Center
Charline	Bloch	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Inge	Boets	Porter Novelli
Richard	Carty	Netshield Enterprise Services Limited
Filip	Corveleyn	FCO Law Firm
Mark	Cunningham	Cunningham Executive Search
Marc	Decorte	Belgian Shell
Robbert	Dekker	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Dave	Deruytter	ING Belgium
Joost	De Visser	REL Sales Consulting
Louise	Harvey	FTI Consulting
Dersim	Karadag	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Konstantina	Karadimitropoulou	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Tom	Laureys	BDO Services
Joseph	Lemaire	Hill & Knowlton Strategies
Uzma	Lodhi	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Francesca	Loparco	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Cyrille	Mai Thanh	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Steven	Maisel	Fitch Bennett Partners Executive Search
Conor	Mescall	FoodDrink Europe
Trang	Nguyen	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Salvatore	Orlando	BNP Paribas Fortis
Daniel	Owen	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Gianluca	Panti	D Y Patil International School
James	Pearson	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Tom	Pickup	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium

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Ed	Read Cutting	The Fry Group
Beverley	Robinson	RobinsonHenry
Thomas	Spiller	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
Clément	Staner	British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium
James	Stevens	Fleishman Hillard
Catherine	Stewart	Interel European Affairs
John	Stuyck	Ackroyd Publications
Graeme	Taylor	ECPA-European Crop Protection Association
Marc	Vandendijk	Vandendijk & Partners
Kristof	van Kerkhoven	KBC
Martin	van Wunnik	ARSIMA Projects
Glynis	Whiting	Starfish MRM

Apologies:

Pascal	Allouard	Pascal Allouard Consulting
Anna	Bakola	JTI
Craig	Burchell	Xerox
Esther	Busscher	Edelman
Richard	Corliss	Shire
Jill	Craig	Hume Brophy
Amelie	Coulet	APCO Consulting
Elaine	Cruikshanks	Acumen Public Affairs
Hanneke	De Visser	REL Sales Consulting
Louise	Hilditch	Local Knowledge
Philippe	Jadoul	Vialegis
Mickäel	Laurans	The Law Society
Agathe	Legris	KREAB
Ayling	Lusi	UPS
Nicholas	Lyddon	Bogaerts Education
Annette	Meijer	DHL Piper
Sean	Murray	EUK Consulting
Thomas	Parker	Camber Associates
Penny	Sadler	Korn Ferry
Hugues	Thibaut	Group S
Marc	Verbeek	BDO Services

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Max	von Olenhusen	Novartis
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1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed. Proposed: John Stuyck, Seconded: Catherine Stewart

2. Financials – Martin van Wunnik

Martin van Wunnik, Honorary Treasurer, presented the full financial results for 2015 as prepared by BDO and provided a comment on the financials from 2014.

Current financial results state that the chamber made a small surplus of €9.8k on 2015's operations. According to those results the main significant loss came from the Ambassadors Gala, which accounted for -€27k.

Martin highlighted a mistake in the 2014 financials. The previously reported financial results for 2014 stated that the chamber had a deficit of €8.6k in 2014. However BDO have recently which meant that the 2014 results were overstated by just over €60k. As such the financials in 2014 should have recorded a €68K deficit. BDO state that there was a miscommunication as some membership fees were double counted. €60k was booked as receivable in 2014 and 2015 however this should have only been booked in 2015. This mistake will have to be corrected in 2016. As such, the Chamber planned to take this loss in the 2016 financials by deducing €5k per month (€60k overall).

Steven Maisel highlighted that this is the second consecutive year that BDO have made a mistake. He questioned if BDO should continue their financial role with the chamber. Steven also stated that we should not be asked to vote on accounts that are not correct. Mark Cunningham agreed and further states that the staff bonuses would be penalized unfairly.

Instead, it was suggested that we can go back to BDO and make the correction which will then be recirculated to the members. Mark Cunningham proposed and Steven Maisel seconded. The proposal was approved.

Mark proposed that the meeting vote on the revised 2015 financials.

Martin set out the changes to the 2015 financial statements:

For profit and loss:

- Under Current Assets for 2015 the 'Other Amounts receivable' will be reduced from '60,609' to '0'
- Under Total Assets for 2015 the 'Surplus/Deficit for the year' will be reduced from '9,830' to '-50,779'
- The Total Funds for 2015 will be reduced from '125,685' to '65,076'

For the Statement of Income and Expenditure

- A line will be added for 'Extraordinary charges: -60,609'

Louise Harvey suggested that this concern needs to be handled appropriately with consideration of BDO's membership. Glenn replied that this is a separate issue but it is already under discussion.

Mark proposed that we confirm the revised 2015 accounts. Steven seconded. The proposal was approved.

3. President's Address – Thomas Spiller

Thomas, now half way through his mandate, reminded the meeting of his aims for his presidency:

1. To develop a new business strategy and ensure the longevity of the chamber
 2. To build the brand and increase the visibility of the chamber
 3. Enhance the British Chamber offering
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1. The council is currently undertaking a review of governance and will develop proposals for revised articles of association. The new structure of governance will:
 - Reflect the complexity of the organisation
 - Allocate the responsibility to the right people
 - Improve efficiency
 - Improve legal responsibility and liability
 - Change the way EXCO members are appointed and removed

By December 2016 there will be a full proposal to Council and by spring 2017 the structure will be implemented.

In addition to this the Chamber will be reviewing its strategy in light of the upcoming UK Referendum.

2. The chamber had responded to the challenge of the UK Referendum in a proactive way, to ensure the voice of members was heard. With our Business Attitudes to the EU Survey as a basis, we successfully developed and communicated our core messages; that UK membership is vital both for the UK and for the EU; the UK referendum is an opportunity to provide momentum to a process of EU renewal and that the BCCB members want the UK to remain in the EU. These messages have been communicated at the time of the February summit with media appearances from Glenn and Tom Parker and followed up with further media relations work up to the present. Thomas congratulated the Council and the chamber staff for their efforts.
3. Our business space is now available for businesses to use. You are welcome to use the chamber premises for your own events or training. We have also launched our Diversity Dialogues programme which addresses diversity in the workplace.

4. Chief Executive's Report – Glenn Vaughan

Glenn said that over the last 12 months the chamber had arranged over 160 events through which we have developed new content and have provided new opportunities for members to develop their network.

UK referendum debate was one additional driver of the event programme. For instance, we organised a lunch with Herman van Rompuy in September, partnered with Interel in an event in London with Chuka Umunna MP and Jacob Rees Mogg MP and arranged an event with young professionals on the impact of the referendum on the young.

Business Development Group

Glenn thanked Olivier Van Horenbeeck for his work as chair in continuing the development of the BDG. This has seen the growth of the Ambassador Hosts series, with support from Ambassador Rose, where we have welcomed two Deputy Prime Ministers and other Belgian Ministers. Our Strategic Business Series organized



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its first visit to London with knowledge partners FleishmanHillard in November which included contributions from Lord Mandelson and Kenneth Clarke and he was happy to report that this year's visit is being organised with Interel. The creation of our Business Training programme had provided an opportunity for our members both use our platform to provide a service, and for other members to receive training suited to their needs. These monthly half day training sessions have ranged from courses on effective business writing in English to negotiation skills, emotional intelligence and public speaking.

This year will also be the fourth year that we are running the Golden Bridge Awards with BLCC. The awards are set to celebrate and profile successful exporters and inspire local businesses to make the jump into new markets.

EU Committee

The EU Committee continues its strong programme for members. The EU Committee organised just over 100 events per year, this year has already included five Director-General, three Members of Cabinet, eight MEPs, Ambassadors and Commissioner Oettinger. Highlights from the EU Committee in 2015 include the Annual Visit to Strasbourg and our first Internal Market Summit. During the visit to Strasbourg, members met with over 40 MEPs and the one day summit looked at how far we have come to integrating a fully functioning Single Market.

Brussels New Generation

During Amelie Coulet's term as chair the BNG has grown. The professional development programme has provided young professionals with the opportunity to attend free trainings on how to manage their career and develop skills and they have been able to meet with senior business leaders who share their experiences. The BNG visit to Strasbourg is now in its 5th year and continues to provide young professionals with an understanding of how the systems works.

We are delighted to have raised €2500 for the Community Help Service from the Great Brussels Charity Bake Off organised by the BNG.

Glenn emphasised our events programme is not created by us, but relies on members and we are open to their suggestions. It is the members that drive the Chamber and we are set up to deliver.

In concluding this section, Thomas thanked the chamber staff for their work. He said that the chamber continues to provide a vibrant atmosphere with great people. We must not get complacent and we must continue to adapt.

5. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

The meeting was closed.