



## **BBCC takes part in the COBCOE Annual Conference in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

The BBCC is a Member, along with 40 other Chambers, of COBCOE (Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe) which provides us with a wide contact base in, and privileged insights to, bilateral Chambers of Commerce in almost every other country in Europe. The Chairman of COBCOE Howard Rosen and his Executive Director Anne-Marie Martin have been very helpful to the BBCC leading up to and following the re-launch in 2011. Our Chairman Bill Drysdale attended the **COBCOE Annual Conference, Dinner and Chamber of the Year Awards Ceremony in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April.**

Initiatives of special assistance to the BBCC have included a **Code of Practice issued by COBCOE** for the operations, integrity and regulatory compliance of its Member Chambers; a **Model Memorandum of Understanding to govern relationships between the British Chamber and Embassy** in each country:

see <http://www.cobcoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/modellocalchamber.pdf> (already the good working relationship established in Sofia goes beyond the minimum criteria envisaged); and a new Europe-wide **Memorandum of Understanding between COBCOE and UKTI** (UK Trade & Investment) which seeks increasingly pro-active two-way co-operation and contact sharing between the in-country Chamber and the UKTI team at the Embassy; for the first time it is envisaged that UKTI may sub-contract some projects involving foreign direct investment, rather than exports (promotion of which is UKTI's core goal) to the Chambers on a fee-earning basis.

In addition to these more formal and structural documents, COBCOE offers a range of **Membership Benefits:**

see <http://www.britcham.be/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fzuwog8nQ7w%3D&tabid=37>. The latest edition of COBCOE's **quarterly magazine *Links*** is available in PDF format at <http://www.cobcoe.eu/files/cobcoe-links-magazine-spring-2012-eDtM3s.pdf> and contains an article on page 31 about the re-launch of the BBCC with a nice picture of the Scottish piper at our Burns Night Dinner on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

The final pages of the Links Magazine contain **contact information for all Chambers that are Members of COBCOE**. By visiting a selection of the websites listed, a good picture can be obtained of the range of different styles and structures adopted by our contemporaries around Europe, and the Board hopes to choose from amongst the best of these in recommending forward policies for the BBCC as we move in Autumn 2012 into our second year of operation under our new banner.

**Pictures from the COBCOE Annual Conference in London on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

