

Some of the 27 European Chambers represented at the EBO WWN meeting at DG Enterprise & Industry, Brussels.



## EBO WORLDWIDE NETWORK MEETING

EUROCHAMTT was represented by the President, Marie Louise Norton-Murray and Director, European Affairs, Pernille Boulter at the 14th Annual European Business Organisations Worldwide Network Meeting which took place from the 23 - 25th June in Brussels. EUROCHAMTT along with the EBO in Ghana are the newest members of the now 27 wide network of European Business Organisations operating in third countries. The network comprises EBOs in 6 regions:

- East Asia: China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Hong Kong
- South Asia: India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines.
- Russia and former soviet countries: Russia, Moldova, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Armenia
- Pacific: New Zealand, Australia
- Latin America: Brazil and Chile
- Caribbean: Trinidad and Tobago
- Africa: Ghana

The cost of air travel and per diem for one EUROCHAMTT was funded by the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EASME) of the European Commission. As a member of the EBO, EUROCHAMTT is now part of a Global network based in Brussels and recognised by the European Commission, Brussels as supporting European SMEs in third countries. The EBO is building important contacts on behalf of its members. Through the network we are also receiving valuable information on services which may be assessed by our European members. Useful links follow:

- DG Enterprise & Industry: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm)
- Business Europe which is a lobbying organisation: <http://www.businesseurope.eu/Content/Default.asp?>
- Eurochambre – the network of national chambers in Europe: <http://eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?>

- European Business & Innovation Network which has over 10,000 scientists, engineers, technologists and business specialists across all sectors: <http://europeaninnovationnetwork.com/>
- IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Helpdesk - <http://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/>
- European Services Forum (ESF): <http://www.esf.be/new/> . ESF is a network of representatives from the European services sector including architects, telecommunications and financial institutions, committed to actively promoting the liberalisation of international trade in services. ESF's main field of activity are the WTO GATS negotiations and the EU's bilateral trade negotiations on services and investments.
- DG Devco: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)
- .DG Trade: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>.

*EUROCHAMTT is creating networks of people and skills  
for the increase in investment and trade between  
Europe and Trinidad and Tobago*

## SWEDISH MISSION TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



EUROCHAMTT facilitated a trade delegation from Sweden to Trinidad and Tobago in July during the Trade and Investment conference. Sweden has a relatively small population in the global context of 9.5 million inhabitants but it is well known for a number of global brands, inventions and innovations including: Celcius (after the scientist Anders Celcius), Nobel foundation (after Alfred Nobel), Volvo, Ericsson, SKF and many others. Sweden is also a leader where it comes to environmental management, green strategies and related innovations.

EUROCHAMTT's support to the delegation involved providing useful contacts in Trinidad and Tobago for each area of interest, logistics and accompaniment at some of the meetings. The head of the delegation was Mr. Bertil Karlsson, Kamrose: [bertil@kamrose.com](mailto:bertil@kamrose.com). The delegation represented companies interested in sourcing food products including chilli peppers, cocoa and virgin coconut oil as well as exotic plants and companies involved in the provision of environmental services and technologies. This area attracted particular interest given recent environmental violations and their impact on air and water quality.

For the Destination Sweden publication, visit: <http://hornonline.com/frontpage/sweden/destination-sweden> . The publication features this several companies involved in environmental technology, green products, mining and tunnelling industries.

The technology promoted is passive sampling which compared with conventional grab sampling, allows for longer periods of continuous testing of water and air due to the cost effective technology. This was promoted by Expos Meter AB. Passive sampling technology is especially useful for testing applications for PCB, Dioxins, oils, pesticides, modern water-soluble pesticides, volatile organic compounds as well as illegal drugs, medical and veterinary drugs, antibiotics and metals, mercury, arsenic and N, P, K etc.



## THE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING AGENDA

In consideration for the health of Trinidad and Tobago's residents and the general state of the environment in accordance with international standards, waste management and recycling need to assume much greater importance in Government's policy agenda. While there are some ongoing public and private initiatives, the framework for encouraging new business and investment in 'Clean Tech' needs to be strengthened.

There exists an Environmental Management Act of 2000 which allows among other provisions, for the enhancement of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework for environmental management and for the Environmental Management Authority to develop and implement laws, policies and other programmes for conservation, sound environmental practices and

to meet international obligations.

There also exists the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) which falls under the Ministry of Local Government. **It manages waste collection, landfills, treatment, disposal, resource recovery, public complaints educational services.** It is also allowed to enter into contracts and collect fees for safe disposal of waste.

To date however there is limited subsidiary legislation to govern disposal of many types of waste which should be managed according to international standards. While there is no legal barrier to entry for a private sector company wishing to invest in this industry, the lack of legislation means that most waste which could be recycled, such as used tyres, plastic, glass and paper goes to the landfills and **separation and recovery efforts are costly** for SWMCOL or any private operators who may wish to consider recycling businesses.

There is also a lack of public statistics on the availability of feedstock in Trinidad and Tobago. For example, the more progressive countries with green strategies are in a position to provide details on the recycled materials collected **per capita:**

- Glass bottles                    x kg
- Board packaging                x kg.

- Metal packaging x kg
- Plastic packaging x kg
- Newspaper packaging x kg.

## GREEN FUND



There is a Green Fund (National Environmental Fund) which had a balance of approx. TT\$3.3 billion as at September 30, 2013 (Source; Auditor General's Annual Report for Financial Year ending September 30, 2013). To date, approximately TT\$228 million has been committed to 18 Certified Activities. The Green Fund Levy (GFL) is paid by any company or partnership carrying on business in Trinidad and Tobago, "whether or not such business is exempt from the payment of Business Levy". The Green Fund Levy which was introduced in 2001 under the Miscellaneous Taxes Act Chapter 77:01 Section 6(1), is due and payable to the Board of Inland Revenue at the rate of 0.1% on the gross sales or receipts of a company for each quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) in each year of income. The purposes of the Fund is to enable grants to be made to community groups and organizations engaged in activities related to the remediation, reforestation, environmental education and public awareness of environmental issues and conservation of the environment.

Applications to the Fund are managed through The Green Fund Executing Unit, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, which serves as the administrative and operational division of the Green Fund. For more information, contact: Mr. Richard Laydoo, Programme Coordinator, Green Fund Executing Unit, Ground Floor, Level 7 Tower C, International Waterfront Centre, 1 Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, Tel: 868 225 3324, Email: [richard.laydoo@mewr.gov.tt](mailto:richard.laydoo@mewr.gov.tt); [richard.laydoo@gov.tt](mailto:richard.laydoo@gov.tt).

## TYRE RECYCLING

There is currently no legislation in Trinidad and Tobago to support the effective disposal and /or the recycling of tyres. Over a million tyres are imported annually into the country and used tyres are currently collected and taken to the Beetham landfill which has no facilities for shredding, disposing or recycling of the tyres. Seven years ago, in February 2007 this issue was raised and discussed extensively in Parliament along with a number of suggestions for the use of tyres including: the production of rubberized asphalt concrete, moulded rubber products such as barriers, industrial flooring, shoes soles, carpet etc.; land filling engineering, retaining wall fills, roadway base fills and bridges. See the Hansard Report here: <http://www.ttparliament.org/hansards/hs20070227.pdf> (from page 189 onwards).



In a recent conversation with SWMCOL, EUROCHAMTT was informed that SWMCOL was expected to make an investment in tyre shredding facilities. This will open up business opportunities for buyers of shredded tyres.

## PLASTIC

In the 1990s, a report was prepared by the late economist, Dennis Pantin entitled *“Report on the feasibility of introducing a deposit refund scheme for beverage containers in Trinidad and Tobago”* which concluded that measures should be taken to expand collection of beverage containers other than glass and in particular, that a deposit-refund system should be introduced for plastic containers. Further, the report advocated the imposition of an environmental levy on beverage containers imported into Trinidad and Tobago.

The Pantin Report was the basis for the draft Beverage Containers Bill which was commissioned by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA). The Bill sought to have the EMA administer the deposit-refund system and implement the mechanism for collection of empty beverage containers. The private, manufacturing sector was of the view that this should be entirely controlled by the private sector. The Bill was revised in 2004 and 2008 with no consensus. It was revised again in 2011, however the Bill has since lapsed. See more detail on the Pantin Report and the discussion surrounding the Beverage Containers Bill here: <http://www.ttparliament.org/hansards/hs20121127.pdf>.

## GLASS

Glass recycling has been practiced since 1948 by one company in Trinidad and Tobago which also assumes the responsibility for collection of the glass bottles and jars. CGL obtains its cullet (the raw material term for used glass) from landfills and dumps, bars, hotels, schools, community groups and residential associations, private and public companies and individuals. It also imports from regional and extra regional sources to make up the feedstock.

## PAPER

There are overseas markets for high quality Old Corrugated Containers (OCC) or cardboard usually used in packaging, newspapers as well as computer paper and SWMCOL as well as private companies in Trinidad and Tobago are involved in the collection, the sorting into various grades, compacting into bales and shipping abroad for feedstock at paper mills producing recycled paper. There is however no published statistics on the availability and cost of collection and separation of paper to support the feasibility of additional paper recycling in Trinidad and Tobago.

## MEDICAL WASTE

Currently, medical waste is burned in incinerators located and controlled by hospitals and clinics throughout Trinidad and Tobago. These incinerators are in various states of disrepair which has resulted in some medical waste being improperly disposed. This disposal of medical waste is not overseen by SWMCOL however, SWMCOL is aware that a better managed system needs to be developed especially as the number of clinics and hospitals increase in Trinidad and Tobago. See the Ninth Report for further detail: [Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Ministries, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises \(Group 2\) on the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited \(SWMCOL\) \(“the Ninth Report”\)](#).

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES - SUGAR HERITAGE

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Lesley-Ann Jurawan, represented EUROCHAMTT at the Public Consultation for the **Sugar Heritage Village and Museum Project** in Brechin Castle, Couva. The project is aimed at creating a tourist attraction based on the history of the sugar industry workers in Trinidad and Tobago. Apart from this historical and educational aspect, sporting, recreational, and commercial facilities are also being considered. **These present potential opportunities for investment.**

The consultation panel comprised Steering Committee Chairman, Professor Brinsley Samaroo, Caroni 1975 Ltd. CEO, Kevin Singh, Caroni 1975 Ltd. Director of the Board, Sharon Mohammed, and PricewaterhouseCoopers



Representative, Brian Hackett.

The Steering Committee Chairman recapped milestones already achieved. Activities to date included the Brechin Castle factory demolition, construction of the Archive & Document Centre in Sevilla, Couva, completion of video and audio interviews with those who used to work within the sugar industry and renovations of the Sevilla Club. Further to these, the development of a Master Plan to prepare the investment projects was outsourced to PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory services and the purpose of the consultation was to hear the public's ideas and feedback of the proposed elements (see attached flyer):

- Heritage Village
- Archive, Research and Document Centre
- Sugar Museum
- Cultural Centre
- Visitor Information Centre
- Sports Club and Recreational Activities
- Hotel
- Restaurant and Shops
- Botanical Gardens

Contact Persons for more information:

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## TOBAGO GOOD FOODS PROJECT UPDATE

Phase 1 of the project was completed in July including 4 workshops benefitting over 80 participants, the selection of 12 producers for direct and individual technical assistance and project reporting. Phase 2 which focuses on implementation of improvements is now ready to start. The sectors selected are as follows:

- 3 dairy goat farming and processing operations
- Beekeeping- 5 beekeepers operating as 1 group
- 1 fruit orchard, processing and sales operations
- 1 eco agro, nature reserve which will process organic fruit based products from the farm
- 1 herbs and spices which are compliant with organic methods
- 1 garden shop which will supply herbs and do propagation of fruit trees
- 2 former coconut estates
- 2 cocoa projects with intercropping.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

### Special thanks to the following persons for contributions for this issue:

- Aisha de Four, Attorney-at-Law, Gittens, Smart & Co.: [info@eurochamtt.org](mailto:info@eurochamtt.org)
- Lesley-Ann Jurawan, Delft Cocoa Plantations Ltd, [lesley@delftcocoaplantations.com](mailto:lesley@delftcocoaplantations.com)
- Marie Louise Norton-Murray : [marielouise.norton-murray@eurochamtt.org](mailto:marielouise.norton-murray@eurochamtt.org)

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue in November, please contact any of the above persons.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014

## MAY 2014

- 8 May– Heritage Tour of National Trust buildings in downtown Port of Spain
- 9 May – EUROPE DAY
- 31 May– Design Workshop at NALIS

## JUNE 2014

- 5 June - EUROCHAMTT ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING
- 23 – 25 June - The European Business Organization (EBO) Worldwide Network asbl Annual Meeting, Brussels, Belgium.

## JULY 2014

- 2-5 July – Trade and Investment Conference at Centre of Excellence, Macoya, Trinidad
- Weeks 2 July and 7<sup>th</sup> July - Visit by Delegation from Sweden: Exotic plants, Environmental monitoring, Foods
- 4<sup>th</sup> July – Reception at the German Ambassador's residence to bid farewell to Ullrich Kinne, Deputy head of Mission and EUROCHAMTT supporter and to meet the new Commercial Attaché
- 14<sup>th</sup> July – 2014 Bastille Day (France's National Day) Reception hosted by the French Ambassador at the French residence.

## AUGUST 2014

- 12<sup>th</sup> August – SLOW FOODS CONVIVIUM, Trinidad and Tobago, Get together at La Tartaruga, Buccoo, Tobago

## SEPTEMBER 2014

- 4<sup>th</sup> September– EUROCHAMTT QUARTERLY MEMBERS' MEETING at Alliance Française from 5.00 - 7.00 and first meeting of the Wine Cluster, 4.00 – 5.00 p.m.
- 25<sup>th</sup> September –Presentation by Dr Johann Geiser, PhD International Relations and M.A. Law on "CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE AGENDA".from 5.30 – 7.00 p.m.

The focus will be on the "UN Global Compact" as the premium example of the emerging concept and practice of corporate responsibility, with examples from the Caribbean and from Switzerland.

Dr. Geiser's most recent experience includes the position of Foreign Policy Consultant, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad & Tobago (2011 – 2013); Head of the Sub-Regional Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), with responsibility for the CARICOM Region (2004 – 2006); Lecturer, Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies, Seminar on "Sustainable Development and Human Rights through the United Nations"(2002 – 2013).

Please contact the EUROCHAMTT Secretariat at [info@eurochamtt.org](mailto:info@eurochamtt.org) for registration information.



## OCTOBER 2014

- 6-8 October - The 2014 Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF)  
<http://www.caribbeanenergyforum.com/home>)
- 19 – 23 October – SIAL Paris, Paris - Nord Villepinte, France. Among the largest global food marketplaces.

## NOVEMBER 2014

- 4<sup>th</sup> November - WORKSHOP ON THE REVITALISATION OF THE CITY OF PORT OF SPAIN - *Restoration and Utilization of Public Spaces for Cultural, Intellectual and High Quality Urban Living Activity*; NALIS; 9.30 – 5.00 p.m.

The idea of the workshop is to have a forum for exchanging visions (there are various), ideas, experiences, technical and planning approaches and tools for urban revitalisation with emphasis on Port of Spain. At the end of the workshop, participants will contribute to high level themes and proposals for policy support and action towards:

- A POS identity within the wider, integrated Caribbean
- Restoration of built heritage
- The need for revitalisation, including adaptive use of built heritage for cultural, intellectual and other activities so that the population can relate more to this history
- Improved infrastructure, security, lighting, basic facilities, accessibility and in general city management consistent with the theme of human right cities
- A major Caribbean attraction/ destination
- Upgraded urban living

Please contact the EUROCHAMTT Secretariat at [info@eurochamtt.org](mailto:info@eurochamtt.org) for registration information.

## DECEMBER 2014

- 5<sup>th</sup> December– EUROCHAMTT CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE