

# THE CHAMBER

## Activities and services

The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain (CCFGB) provides a platform for exchange and networking at the service of Franco-British firms in the UK and for the development of Franco-British relations. It draws its support from a large French presence in the UK and a large British presence in France, as well as solid trade relations between the 2 nations.

The Chamber - third French Chamber to be set up abroad in December 1883<sup>1</sup> - celebrated its 125th anniversary this year.

It is today one of the 5 biggest French Chambers worldwide and the largest Foreign Chamber in the UK (in terms of turnover and range of services offered).

It is a member of the FCCIA (French Chambers of Commerce and Industry abroad), which brings together 114 Chambers overseas in 78 countries, the largest private French network in the world, with a combined membership base of more than 23,000 companies, of which 50% are non French.

Its policy is guided by a Board of 12 Directors (please see p.6) responsible for all major decisions concerning the Chamber's strategy. The Board is assisted by an Advisory Council (please see p.12) of 60 councilors, helping to increase the visibility and the efficiency of the Chamber.

Managing Director: Florence Gomez, (020) 7092 6603 or on [fgomez@ccfgb.co.uk](mailto:fgomez@ccfgb.co.uk)

### Key figures

- 125 years of experience
- 600 member companies
- 70 Patron members
- 50 events per year
- 400 French and British SMEs assisted
- A Board of 12 Directors
- An Advisory Council of 60 members
- A multicultural team of 30

1 - The first one was established in Montevideo (Uruguay) in 1882, the second one in Barcelona in 1883.

### CCFGB MEETING ROOMS IN CENTRAL LONDON

The Chamber is now offering meeting rooms for hire at its offices in central London, only two stops away from St Pancras International.

Our meeting rooms benefit from natural light, plenty of space and are equipped with the latest audiovisual equipment. We are here to respond to your specific requirements and are able to assist you organise a variety of meetings from conferences to interviews.

We can also provide bespoke catering service.

Contact: Carla Coutinho, (020) 7092 6603 or on [ccoutinho@ccfgb.co.uk](mailto:ccoutinho@ccfgb.co.uk)

### NETWORK WITH FRANCO-BRITISH DECISION MAKERS

The events organised by the FCCGB offer privileged contact and networking opportunities with personalities from the British and French political and business worlds, within the scope of prestigious events such as the Annual Gala Dinner, the "Dîner de la rentrée", the Franco-British Business Awards, the Annual Financial Lunch and the Ambassador's briefs.

Many other events enable our members to develop their visibility and their business relations: Business Club cocktails, industry focused events, regional events, conferences, wine tasting, sporting events, without forgetting the very successful Member to Member cocktail that attracts more than 300 participants every year.

In addition the Chamber offers you the possibility to promote your company through sponsorship opportunities and entertain your clients through corporate hospitality at its various events.

Contact: Julia Pintore, (020) 7092 6643 or on [jpintore@ccfgb.co.uk](mailto:jpintore@ccfgb.co.uk)

or Marie-Anne Taillon, (020) 7092 6642 or on [mtaillon@ccfgb.co.uk](mailto:mtaillon@ccfgb.co.uk)



## PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY AND GATHER INFORMATION ON GREAT BRITAIN

Our publications reflect and promote the interests of the Franco-British business community and allow member companies to increase their visibility through articles and advertising.

Our publications are:

- INFO magazine (bi-monthly)
- Franco British Trade Directory
- M2M benefits book
- Grande-Bretagne: L'indispensable
- e-newsletter (monthly)
- List of French Implantations in the UK
- France-UK Express



Contact: Delphine Dewulf, (020) 7092 6647 or on [ddewulf@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:ddewulf@ccfgeb.co.uk);

Nick Kochan, (020) 8348 3738 or on [nkochan@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:nkochan@ccfgeb.co.uk);

Capucine Oddo, (020) 7092 6651 or on [coddo@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:coddo@ccfgeb.co.uk).

## CREATIVE SERVICES

FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN GREAT BRITAIN

The CCFGB is now offering a full range of graphic design services. You may need to revive your existing logo or create an eNewsletter; our services range from designing logos, brochures and catalogues, to ads or annual reports. We can also assist you in setting up a new range of communication tools suitable for your business.

Contact: Raffi Ekmekjian, (020) 7092 6649 or on [rekmekjian@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:rekmekjian@ccfgeb.co.uk)

## GET BUSINESS ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO SET UP IN THE UK

The Chamber assists French SMEs in exporting and setting up subsidiaries in the UK, providing services including:

- Business partner search
- Shared commercials
- Contact address & phone line for non resident companies
- Hosting and coaching of VIE
- Payroll services
- VAT management services
- Full accounting support
- Practical advice to set up a subsidiary in the UK

Contacts Naser Nashaat, (020) 7092 6605 or on [nnashaat@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:nnashaat@ccfgeb.co.uk); Catherine Dujardin, (020) 7092 6626 or on [cdujardin@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:cdujardin@ccfgeb.co.uk); Marion Duplain, (020) 7092 6606 or on [mduplain@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:mduplain@ccfgeb.co.uk);

## FORUMS AT THE CHAMBER

The Chamber has launched several Forums focused on transversal issues, aiming to offer members a free platform to exchange experiences at the highest level of management and to share best practices.

Headed by a Chairman, Forums meet regularly, inviting guest speakers, covering specific themes and communicating on their conclusions.

### HR Forum, chaired by Nicolas Moreau, Group CEO of AXA UK



This Forum is directed at HR Managers, Directors and Advisors, as well as Managing Directors and other professionals specialised in employment law. Its objectives are to share experience and best practices in relation to specific HR themes, review the impact of employer legislation and ultimately lobby and influence future decisions.

Topics covered in 2009: Flexible Workforce; HR Forum in a Crisis Context; Flexible Benefits

### Cross Cultural Relations Forum, chaired by Peter Alfandary, Deputy President of the Chamber, Partner & Head of French Team at Reed Smith



This Forum is directed primarily at leaders from the Franco-British business community with first-hand experience in cross cultural management issues. Its objectives are to become a "think tank" of best practice so as to facilitate a better understanding of business culture in France and the UK and to disseminate cross cultural know-how to the wider Chamber membership.

Topics covered in 2009: Business Development in the UK; Tips and Success Stories; What is your Business Plan?; Let's Ignite the Future: How can Innovation drive your Business?; Marketing & Communications: Investing in tools to develop your activity

### CSR Forum, chaired by Christophe Gasc, Managing Director of ILOG, an IBM company Deputy Chair: David Glass, Partner at Pritchard Englefield



This Forum dedicated to Corporate Social Responsibility ("CSR") is directed at Heads of CSR of large member companies of the Chamber. Its objectives are to promote awareness, share best practices and to provide a better understanding of the French and British approaches to CSR.

Contact: Laurence Azzéna-Gougeon, (020) 7092 6635 or on [lazzenagougeon@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:lazzenagougeon@ccfgeb.co.uk) Christelle Kinkead, (020) 7092 6638 or on [ckinkead@ccfgeb.co.uk](mailto:ckinkead@ccfgeb.co.uk)

## Tackling the Crisis Roundtable Sessions, chaired by Arnaud Vaissié, President of the Chamber & CEO of International SOS.



This Roundtable gathers business leaders from all sectors, from start-ups to large groups and provides them with an opportunity to not only share their experience of managing the crisis, but also to discuss issues affecting all businesses (level of the pound, difficulty in securing funding, longer decision-making processes etc.) and to learn of the diverse strategies adopted in this downturn.

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## CLUBS AT THE CHAMBER

In response to the requests of our members, the Chamber has launched in May this year an SMEs & Entrepreneurs Club that has been very active and successful.

A new Luxury Club will shortly be launched.

### **SME & Entrepreneurs Club, co-chaired by Cédric Filet, CEO & Founder of Aldelia Ltd and Nathalie Zimmermann-Nénon, Director & Founder of NZ Consulting**



The SMEs and Entrepreneurs Club is designed to provide valuable input to start-ups or small businesses and is strictly tailored for members who have started their own company or are currently heading an SME in the UK. It provides a platform to exchange best practices and share practical information on



challenges small businesses are currently facing. Key speakers from various professional backgrounds are regularly invited to give advice and present case studies.

*Topics covered in 2009: Business Development in the UK: Tips and Success Stories; What is your Business Plan?; Let's Ignite the Future: How can Innovation drive your Business?; Marketing & Communications : Investing in tools to develop your activity*

### **And soon... a Luxury Club at the Chamber!**

The Luxury Club has been designed to bring together the CEOs and Directors of our current member companies operating within luxury markets (from fashion labels to gastronomic restaurants, 5\* hotels, art galleries and auction houses).



It is intended to offer a targeted networking platform and allowing for the exchange of information around topics relevant to these members. Our speakers will be experts in their field and discussions will concern issues affecting the luxury industry, such as marketing and new media, the state of the market, the press, luxury retailing, etc. To be held bi-monthly, these meetings will be then followed by an exclusive and informal event at our members' own establishment.