

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Spanish Chamber
of Commerce in
the United Kingdom
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Annual Report

2023

Spanish Chamber
of Commerce
in the United Kingdom

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Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston
CBE addressing guests at the
Spanish Chamber's 136th AGM.



Greetings from...

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE UK



**MS. MÓNICA
FERNÁNDEZ-MEJUTO
RODRÍGUEZ**

Vice-President of the Spanish
Chamber of Commerce in the UK

Dear Members and Patrons,

It is my deep pleasure to share with you that 2023 has been, once again, a hugely significant year for the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK. **A year challenged by a tough economic environment, that we faced and succeeded in thanks to a shared sense of purpose and confidence in our mission**, and to the incredible drive of the Members who constitute the Chamber, under the direction of our President.

I am writing this introductory letter on behalf of our President, Mr. Eduardo Barrachina, who currently is on medical leave. While he is recovering, he remains fully engaged to the Chamber by being, for me and for all the members of the Board, an indispensable source of advice and guidance. Dear Eduardo, get well soon: we want you here, leading us.

In 2023, we had the privilege of welcoming **Mr. José María Álvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefónica, as the Guest of Honour at our XII Annual Gala Dinner, our largest event of the year. This event brought together hundreds of guests from the British-Spanish business community in celebration of such a special occasion.** It was a truly remarkable evening, which demonstrates the Chamber's position as a key institution in British-Spanish trade relations, bringing our Members and British institutions together to help to forge business opportunities.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming many representatives of HMG to our events. We hosted a record number of our

hugely popular Meliá Business Breakfasts, which were attended by several government ministers and members of the diplomatic community. Each year, the quality of the Chamber's events and the range of guests in attendance improves as a result of the Chamber's aim, commitment and ability to expand its remit to serve our growing number of Members.

Furthermore, we held the **V Edition of the Barometer on the Climate and Outlook for Spanish Investment in the UK**, an event which thoroughly examines the health of the British-Spanish trade relations and that has become a landmark moment within this frame. This year we were pleased to welcome as guest speakers **Mr. Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister of State, Ms. Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister, and Baroness Ludford, member of the European Affairs Committee of the House of Lords.** We were also lucky to welcome senior industry experts for the dynamic panel discussions held during the event.

Before continuing, I would like to praise **the excellent relationship we have with the Spanish Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Madrid. I thank their Excellencies Ambassadors Mr. José Pascual Marco and Mr. Hugh Elliot for their dedication, commitment and help in supporting the Chamber's endeavours.** Without their collaboration and trust, most of the goals achieved this year could not have been possible.

This year, the Chamber's 137th year, we also furthered **the Spanish Chamber's EDI events series, which was launched as part of the Chamber's social strategic responsibility to be a driver for good in society.** Integral

to this was the aim of highlighting the importance of women in the world of business and beyond. This was showcased in **our first International Women's Day Networking Reception, where we welcomed Baroness D'Souza as the Guest of Honour**, and another event in our Women Who Inspire series, which focused on women in the construction sector. We were also delighted to host our **Proud of our Pride Event at the Spanish Ambassador's Residence, which was a wonderful and joyful celebration of the achievements of the LGBTQIA+ community**. I would like to especially thank **Ms. Raquel Barrera** for her indefatigable enthusiasm in leading and implementing the Chamber's EDI strategy.

I could not write this letter without expressing my profound gratitude for the support and loyalty we have received from our Patrons. **This year, we reached the amazing milestone of 50 Patron Members**. The institutional base of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK is now larger than ever, and this growth is testament to the benefits that our institution can provide our Members, and their continued trust in our ability to deliver results.

With this in mind, we were delighted to host more events exclusive to Patron Members than in previous years, and for the first time, we were **immensely proud to have invited our Patrons to two private receptions at the House of Commons, together with significant representatives of HMG**. This is, perhaps, the best example of the Chamber's consistent efforts to bridge the gap between private enterprises and public

institutions, and we were delighted to be able to furnish our Members with the opportunity to gain such close access to representatives of the British Government. **We take enormous pride and great honour in the relationship we have cultivated between the Chamber and HMG, and I am sure this will continue and fructify.**

As I reflect on the past year, and everything the Chamber has achieved, I feel an immense sense of pride, and I am confident we will go on pushing our trajectory into 2024, with our usual enthusiasm and sense of purpose and confidence in our vision.

Members, Patrons, Eduardo, thank you for your help and support during 2023 and onwards.

MS. MÓNICA FERNÁNDEZ-MEJUTO RODRÍGUEZ

Vice-President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom

SPANISH TRADE MINISTER



**MS. XIANA MARGARIDA
MÉNDEZ BÉRTOLO**

Spanish Trade Minister

Dear Members of the Chamber,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2023 Annual Report, a reflection on another successful year for the Spanish Chamber of Commerce.

This year began with a relatively uncertain outlook, with several economic and geopolitical factors contributing to a sense of global instability. However, despite this, **the commercial relationship between Spain and the UK remains strong**, and the work of institutions such as the Spanish Chamber has proven essential to the preservation of these ties.

Indeed, this turbulence has not seemed to have made an impact on Spanish investment in the UK; rather, **Spanish FDI has grown significantly in the past few years**. This was made clear at the **Spanish Chamber's V Barometer on the Climate and Outlook for Spanish Investment in the UK**, in which I was delighted to participate for my fifth consecutive year. The data presented at the event revealed the importance of Spanish investment to the UK economy: **Spanish FDI has reached a new height of 73.8 billion euros, an increase of 22% from 2020**, and has contributed to the generation of 128,000 jobs in 2021, equivalent to around 0.4% of total nationwide employment. Most notable, however, is that **the UK is now the second largest recipient of Spanish FDI globally**, second only to the US, and this gap is predicted to shrink in the coming years. This overall positive trend in Spanish-British bilateral investment in a period of such global concern is, therefore, a testament to the Chamber's ability to advance the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Spanish Chamber's **V Barometer** event, which, in my opinion, has cemented itself as a landmark moment in the bilateral

relations between Spain and the UK, and its findings are anticipated each year by companies and governments alike. The event was also an example of the **continued collaboration between the public and private sectors** that the Chamber works hard to facilitate.

Another highlight of my year with the Chamber was the **Spanish-British Business Dinner** held at the **Houses of Parliament**. Taking place in the renowned Thames Pavilion, this evening was a fantastic opportunity for Patrons of the Spanish Chamber to get together and discuss the current climate of Spanish investment in the UK in the very heart of British democracy. With the collaboration of the **APPG Spain**, the event brought together MPs, peers and large Spanish investors for the first ever event of this kind hosted by the Chamber in the Houses of Parliament, and I felt honoured to have attended such a special occasion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to **thank all the companies and institutions who make these events possible** and ensure they are of such a high standard through their support. It is an essential characteristic of the Chamber to collaborate with their Member companies and institutional and governmental partners to ensure that they can effectively and successfully work to further the relationship between Spain and the UK.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK will continue to enjoy my support in all its endeavours, and I wish the Chamber every success in the coming year, which I am sure will be as outstanding as this one has been.

MS. XIANA MARGARIDA MÉNDEZ BÉRTOLO
Spanish Trade Minister

H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE UK



H.E. JOSÉ PASCUAL MARCO

Ambassador of Spain to the United Kingdom and Honorary President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK

Since my arrival in London as Spanish Ambassador in August 2021, the extraordinary work of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom has not ceased to impress me.

During my third year as Honorary President of the Chamber, I had the privilege of hosting and attending a number of the Chamber's events. I thoroughly enjoyed the reception held for Members at the Houses of Parliament, and the dinner with large companies that followed. It is extremely important to bridge the gap between British institutions and Spanish companies, and the Chamber is doing a fantastic job at facilitating this. **I was delighted to chair the Spanish Chamber's 136th Annual General Meeting**, held at the spectacular One Great George Street, Westminster. This year, we welcomed **Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE, Minister for Investment at the Department of Business and Trade**, who gave an eloquent speech on foreign investment, particularly Spanish investment, in the UK.

It was also a great pleasure to be co-host of this year's Annual Golden Award, which recognised **RIU Hotels & Resorts'** impressive entry into the UK market with the opening of their first London hotel in the heart of Westminster. **Ms. Carmen Riu, co-CEO and owner of the RIU Hotels & Resorts chain**, received the award at a ceremony that **brought together the British-Spanish business community and institutional guests**.

The XII Annual Gala Dinner was another highlight of the Chamber's year. I had the privilege of attending, alongside the Guest of Honour, **Mr. José María Álvarez Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefónica**, who shared his unique insights into the telecommunications industry. As the largest and most prestigious event the Chamber holds, the Gala Dinner is the most significant annual event for the bilateral relations between Spain and the UK.

Another standout moment of the past year was the Proud of our Pride event, held at the Spanish Embassy in summer, which was a hugely popular evening that celebrated the achievements of the LGBTQIA+ community. The event welcomed **the Rt. Hon. Lord Browne of Madingley, former CEO of BP, and the Rt. Hon. Lord Herbert of South Downs, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on LGBT+ rights** as guest speakers, who shared poignant personal stories, demonstrating the Chamber's commitment to upholding their **EDI policies**.

I was also happy to host a new initiative launched by the Chamber this year to celebrate **International Women's Day**.

Guests gathered at the Embassy to hear from **Baroness D'Souza, CMG, PC**, the second female Lord Speaker in British history. It was also a privilege to welcome Trade Ministers **Ms. Xiana Méndez and the Rt. Hon. Kevin Hollinrake MP** to the V Edition of the Barometer on the Climate and Outlook for Spanish Investment in the UK, which has established itself as a crucial event in the bilateral commercial relationship between Spain and the UK. I also enjoyed the traditional dinner held the night before the event with the Barometer's sponsors, which was attended by a record number of companies this year. It was great to see **the Rt. Hon. Greg Hands, Minister of State for Trade Policy** and Minister for London there as well.

Though I cannot always attend, I know that the **Meliá Business Breakfasts** continue to be a great meeting point for Members and a unique opportunity to listen to Ministers. I would like to express my gratitude to the President of the Chamber, Mr. Eduardo Barrachina, for his hands-on leadership and continuous initiative, which has led to another successful year. I also want to recognise the work of the Chamber Team and the commitment of the Patrons, Benefactors and Members.

The last three years have seen significant uncertainty and upheaval. This, however, has not prevented the Chamber from continuing to expand its organisation and reaching ever greater heights. The quality and range of events the Chamber holds seem to increase each year, and the institution continues to play a vital role in trade relations between Spain and the UK. This year also marked the accomplishment of reaching 50 Patron Members, which further demonstrates the Chamber's value and importance to Spanish companies operating in the UK.

The Spanish Embassy is proud of its long-standing partnership with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce due to its unwavering commitment to furthering the opportunities of Spanish companies in the UK and bridging the gap between the Spanish companies in their network and British civil and political organisations. I look back on 2023 with pride, and I am confident that the Chamber will continue their success through 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'José Pascual Marco'.

H.E. JOSÉ PASCUAL MARCO

Ambassador of Spain to the United Kingdom and Honorary President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK

PRESIDENT OF CÁMARA DE COMERCIO DE ESPAÑA



MR. JOSÉ LUIS BONET

President of Cámara de Comercio de España

The beginning of 2023 saw a continuation of some of the turbulence of the previous year: a rise in inflation and living costs, alongside geopolitical uncertainty provoked by several international conflicts. As a result, the role of organisations like Chambers of Commerce in **promoting international economic and commercial relations** holds even greater significance, as their work is vital to maintain a sense of commercial stability by connecting businesses around the globe.

There is perhaps no better example of this than the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, whose **efforts to further the interests of Spanish companies in the United Kingdom** have been instrumental to facilitating trade between the two nations despite these global difficulties.

Throughout the year, the Chamber has consistently worked to **support its network**, whether that is through the events they hold, their communication channels, or the work of the Foreign Trade department. The Chamber keeps their Members updated with the latest information regarding the British and Spanish markets in the form of regular communication bulletins and publications. At their events, which are always a success, a variety of **expert speakers are invited to share their perspectives and unique industry insights**. As a result, the organisation successfully ensures that its network is frequently updated on contemporary global and domestic issues and how they impact the British-Spanish business world. I would like to congratulate the team at the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, and of course their President, Mr. Eduardo Barrachina, on their unwavering commitment to strengthening the ties between Britain and Spain.

The Chamber has enjoyed many achievements throughout 2023, notable among them the significant milestone of reaching **50 Patron Members**, as well as the organisation of many large corporate events, such as the 12th edition of their Annual Gala Dinner, the 136th Annual General Meeting, and the V Barometer Event, to name just a few. These events **bring together many prominent businessmen and women and institutional guests from Spain and the UK**, and provide the perfect occasion for the forging of new relationships and the strengthening of existing ties between them.

The scope of the institution's progress and ability to promote the economic and commercial relationship between our two nations, in spite of such challenging conditions, should be commended. At Cámara de España, we work closely with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, and have had the privilege of providing them with institutional support and collaborating with them on events. I would like to take this opportunity to **reiterate our commitment to the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, and the ties between our two institutions**. We look forward to continuing our collaboration in order to expand the bilateral commercial relations between Spain and the United Kingdom.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'José Luis Bonet', with a horizontal line underneath.

MR. JOSÉ LUIS BONET

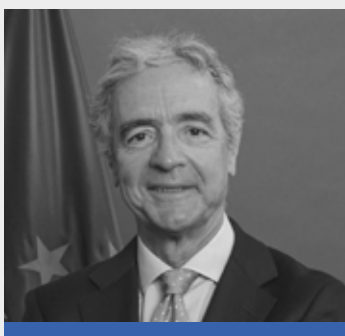
President of Cámara de Comercio de España

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HONORARY ROLES

HONORARY PRESIDENT

H. E. José Pascual Marco
Ambassador of Spain
to the United Kingdom



HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT

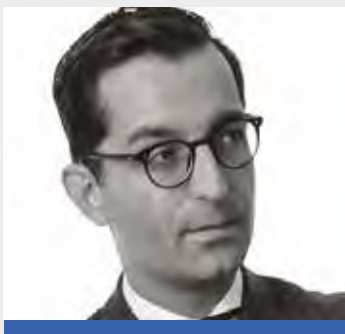
Mr. Álvaro Nadal
Head of Economic and Commercial
Office, Spanish Embassy



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Mr. Eduardo Barrachina
Managing Associate
Linklaters LLP



VICE-PRESIDENT

Ms. Mónica Fernández-Mejuto Rodríguez
UK Country Manager
Sabadell UK



TREASURER

Mr. Nacho Morais
Director
Frank Consulting



SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. Igor Urra
Spanish Chamber of Commerce
in the United Kingdom



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Anselmo Andrade
UK Country Manager
BBVA



Ms. Cristina Ginés
Director Europe
SENER



Mr. Gianluca Landolina
Managing Director
CELLNEX UK



Mr. Ignacio Morillas-Paredes
Partner
GUNNERCOOKE



Ms. Raquel Barrera
Founder
DIVERSITAS INSTITUTE



Mr. Javier Teulón Ramírez
Managing Director, UK & Ireland
DRAGADOS



Mr. Juan Pablo Pérez Royo
Airports & Civils Director UK & Ireland
FERROVIAL CONSTRUCTION



Mr. Javier Fernández Hidalgo
General Manager
HISPANIA



Mr. Moisés Cedeño
Business Development Manager
UK & IE
IBERIA



COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CONT.)

Mr. Keegan Pierce
Director of International Relations
LALIGA



Mr. Miguel Janín
Director
LONDON PROPERTY PARTNERS



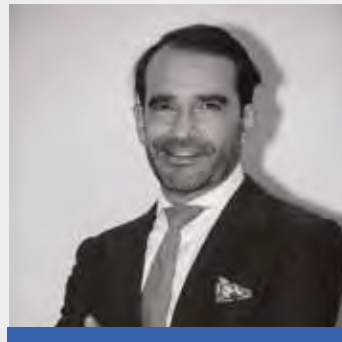
Mr. Greg Harris
General Manager UK
MAPFRE RE



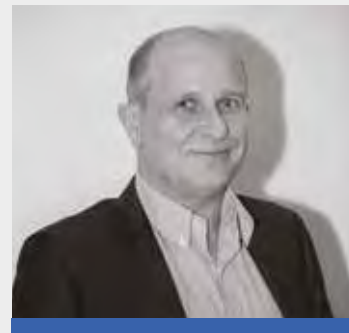
Ms. Carla Vargas
Director
ROMAN RM



Mr. Juan Carlos Machuca
Head of the London Office
URÍA MENÉNDEZ



Mr. Gonzaga Kutz
Manager
UNICAJA



Mr. Daniel Feliu
Retail and Business Banking COO
and Customer Innovation
SANTANDER UK



Ms. Irene Gómez
Executive Assistant Manager
MELIÁ WHITE HOUSE



Mr. Sergi Periago
Head of Client Coverage
CAIXABANK



A white right-angled triangle graphic is positioned to the left of the main heading. The heading itself is in a large, white, sans-serif font.

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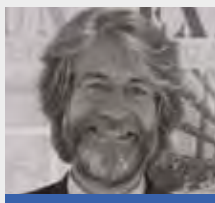
Get in touch with us to find out how we can help.

Natalie Moore
Director of Business Solutions

☎ +44 (0)20 7516 2339

✉ nmoore@pkf-l.com

MEET THE TEAM



IGOR URRA | SECRETARY GENERAL

igor.urra@spanishchamber.co.uk

Igor has been the Secretary General of the Chamber since 2012, and is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operations at the Chamber. Over the years he has provided stability to the Chamber throughout many difficult situations. He is very passionate about the great work that Spanish businesses are doing in the UK in many different sectors. Igor is always up for meeting existing and potential Members, listening to their concerns and devising new ways to help them. He gives a lot of thought to any new proposal for improving the Chamber as is very keen on finding new routes for innovation.

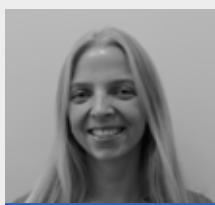
Curious fact: After more than 20 years living in the UK he's now officially Scottish.



THOMAS NEWMAN | HEAD OF ACCOUNTS & MEMBER RELATIONS

t.newman@spanishchamber.co.uk

Tom has a number of years of experience here at the Chamber. He is the familiar face of accounts and makes sure the admin wheel of the Chamber keeps turning. He holds a key role, being the longest serving member of staff at the Chamber, and combines this with a passion and enthusiasm for all things Spanish - especially the food!



REBECCA WALL | HEAD OF CORPORATE RELATIONS & EVENTS

rebecca.wall@spanishchamber.co.uk

Rebecca is the main point of contact at the Chamber for relevant institutions and government departments, and is responsible for making sure that a calendar brimming with exciting and varied Chamber events is always maintained, be that online or offline, in Spain or across the UK, a sector specific forum meeting, an exclusive dinner or a reception for hundreds of guests in a beautiful London venue.

As a British-Brazilian dual national, Rebecca loves all things Latin American. Her favourite thing to do on a weekend is search for the best Hispanic restaurants in London!



MIGUEL FLAVIÁN | HEAD OF FOREIGN TRADE

miguel.flavian@spanishchamber.co.uk

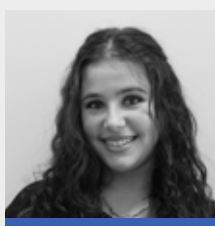
Miguel has lived in London for almost 15 years, and has a large experience working for private companies, public bodies and associations. His professional interest surrounds the food industry and helping small companies to prosper, making him a great fit for the role of Head of Foreign Trade at the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom. His hobbies are reading and enjoying the outdoors with family, especially strolling around his favourite area of Barcelona, Poble Nou, the place where he lived for 10 years and where he returns to whenever he can.



KATHRYN WALTON | FOREIGN TRADE MANAGER

kathryn.walton@spanishchamber.co.uk

Having lived and studied in Madrid for a number of years, Kate has settled into her role as Foreign Trade Manager quickly and comfortably. She manages the internationalisation services within the Chamber's Trade Department, organising various Trade Missions and Agendas with Spanish companies looking to expand or establish their presence in the United Kingdom. She is always looking for new ways to promote trade relations between the two countries.



LAUREN MCAULEY | EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

lauren.mcauley@spanishchamber.co.uk

Lauren joined the Chamber's Communications Department this year after graduating from Durham University, where she studied Spanish and spent a year living in Seville. She coordinates and executes the Chamber's social media strategy, helps with the promotion of events, and is responsible for putting together the Annual Report. Lauren loves Spain and Spanish culture, especially the weather!



(From left) The Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, attending the V Barometer Dinner.



Services of the Chamber

WHAT IS THE SPANISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom was founded in 1886 by a group of enterprising merchants and traders with one objective in mind: to promote the economic and commercial relationships between Spain and the United Kingdom.



Today, we strive to further this goal, and have expanded our aims to:

PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Further trade and investment between Spain and the United Kingdom by **advancing the commercial and economic relations** between the two countries.

FACILITATE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Provide opportunities for Members to **forge commercial connections** within the Chamber's British-Spanish business network.

PROVIDE SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Offer support and advice to our Members, offering **tailor-made solutions** for the particular requirements of each company that we work with.

ADVOCACY

Facilitate the **close liaison between our Members and British institutions**, particularly following the introduction of new UK-EU trade legislation.

SUPPORT SMES

Connect SMEs with potential clients and collaborators, **offering visibility and ensuring their smooth entry** into the British market.

DELIVER BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

The Chamber offers Members **a variety of business services and facilities** to help support their network and expand their operations in the UK.

WHAT CAN THE CHAMBER DO FOR YOU?

Being a Member of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce will enable you to:

EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

Members have the opportunity to **meet new clients and business partners** through our frequent and varied networking events. We can also organise meetings and provide contact lists of potential clients and partners.



INCREASE YOUR BRAND VISIBILITY

Your company's information will be featured in the Members' Directory on our website and in the Annual Report. Members are **offered the opportunity to gain exposure** via publications on our social media channels, fortnightly newsletter, and website's blog, and can **promote their business with dedicated banners** displayed on our online channels.



GAIN FURTHER BRAND EXPOSURE

Sponsoring one of our events is a proven way to **increase your reach** across the Chamber's network.

DEVELOP NEW INSTITUTIONAL CONNECTIONS

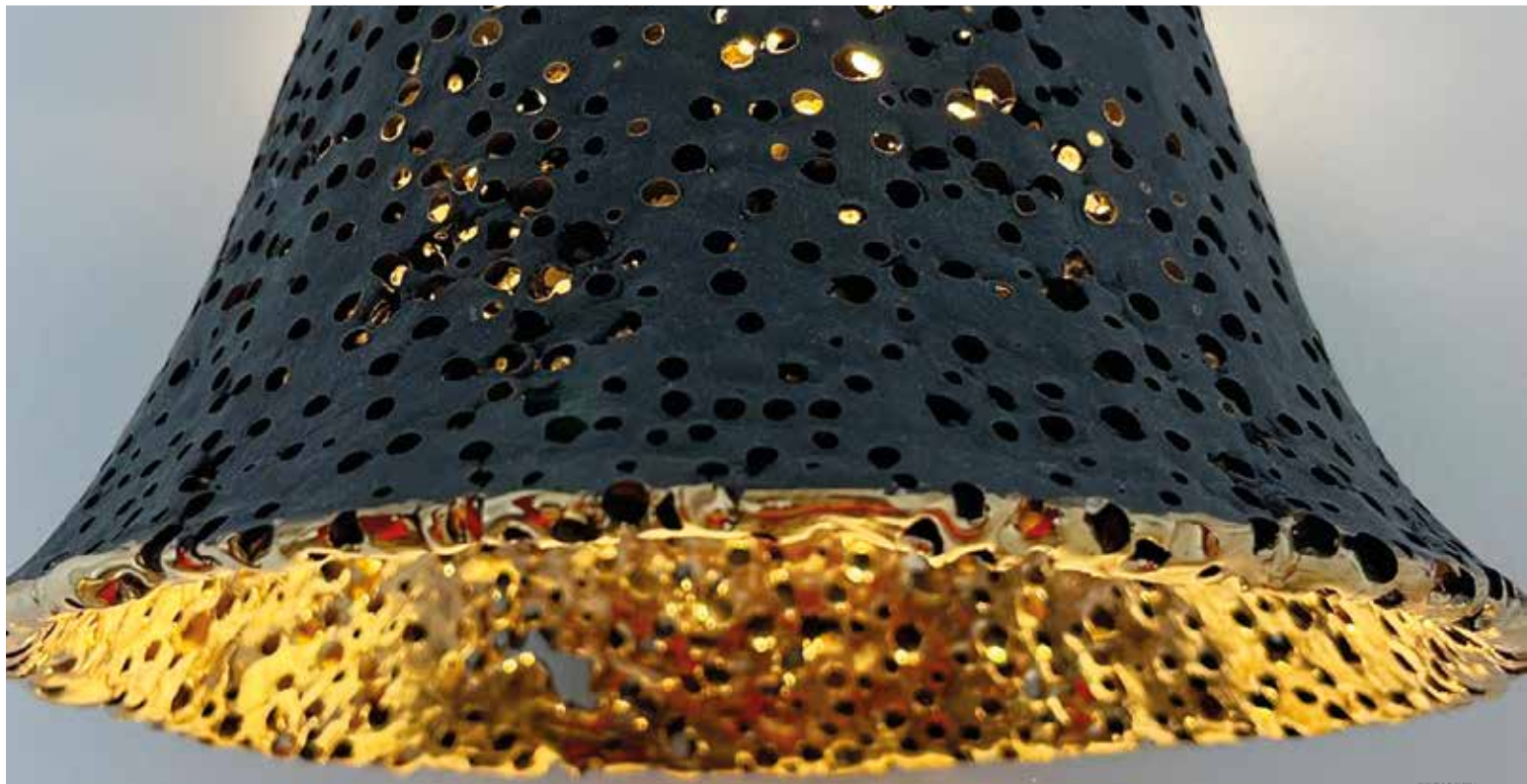
The Spanish Chamber of Commerce has been **promoting bilateral commercial relations between the two countries for more than 135 years**. As a Member, you can benefit from our wider institutional network of affiliate organisations and government departments.



GROW YOUR BUSINESS

We encourage Members to organise a seminar, webinar or workshop in collaboration with the Chamber. This will enable you to **showcase your company's expertise, promote your services and generate new business connections**.





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LONDON
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360° Communication Agency



- Branding |
- Graphic Design |
- Web Design |
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- Communication |
- Audivisual |
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THE CHAMBER'S INSTITUTIONAL NETWORK

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce has been promoting bilateral commercial relationships between the two countries for over 135 years. As a Member, you can benefit from our wider institutional network or affiliate organisations and government departments.

UK



SPAIN



INTERNATIONAL



CULTURAL



EVENTS OF THE CHAMBER

In 2023, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK held **47** events, both in-person and online, to which we welcomed a total of over **2,900** guests from **700** companies. Each event creates a **valuable networking opportunity** for representatives from companies of all industries and sizes, and the Chamber prides itself on being able to provide these possibilities to our Members.

CORPORATE EVENTS

These events bring together between **250–350 senior representatives** from an expansive variety of Spanish, British and other international companies, as well as government representatives and other influential figures from both countries.

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

In this monthly event series a **notable guest speaker from the business or political sphere** gives a briefing on a relevant topic which is followed by an open discussion with participants.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

Our Patron Member companies benefit from exclusive events such as an **annual dinner held at the Spanish Embassy, and private receptions** with prominent institutional figures, including those from both the Spanish and British governments.

SEMINARS, WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

These popular events cover a variety of topics and provide our Member companies with a platform to **engage in a dialogue and share insights** into their sectors, while also providing valuable networking opportunities. The Chamber also hosts a series of workshops for new and prospective Members, which introduces them to the Chamber's team and outlines the benefits of joining its network.

NETWORKING EVENTS AND THE NEW MEMBERS' DRINKS RECEPTION

These more relaxed events allow for networking in a less formal setting than the Chamber's other networking events, while still **facilitating introductions to the Chamber's team and wider membership network**. The Chamber also hosts several Elevator Pitch speed networking events throughout the year, which provide a valuable opportunity for companies to promote their services and connect with other businesses.

LALIGA WATCH PARTIES

This year the Spanish Chamber introduced a new events series held in collaboration with **Chamber Patron LaLiga**. These football watch parties are a great way for our Members to connect in a less formal networking setting while supporting Spanish football.

EDI EVENTS

This is the second of the new events series launched by the Chamber this year, which celebrates the importance of **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** in the workplace. Throughout 2023 the Chamber has been proud to collaborate with a wide range of companies from different sectors and cultural backgrounds, to spotlight the diversity that makes our extensive business network.

FOREIGN TRADE EVENTS

These events **promote the bilateral commercial interests between Spain and the UK** and help facilitate the needs of Spanish companies operating in the British market.

EVENTS WITH OTHER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Each year we offer our Members the opportunity to **meet with members from other International Chambers of Commerce based in the UK** and with regional British Chambers of Commerce.



BILATERAL TRADE

Promoting bilateral trade between Spain and the UK remains at the heart of everything the Spanish Chamber does, and **companies continue to rely on the institution for its essential role** in facilitating this. Both Member and non-Member companies can benefit from the variety of services which are provided with the aim of advancing the trade relations between the two countries.

FIND COMMERCIAL CONTACTS

The Foreign Trade Department at the Chamber can compile lists of company contacts by filtering information according to the desired business sector, enabling companies to discover potential new clients. **They can then arrange face-to-face or virtual meetings with prospective clients** for those companies willing to increase their export numbers in any of the markets covered.

ACCESS TO NEW MARKETS

Commercial presentations aim to provide a market overview by **presenting the products of the contracting business to potential new customers** or partners, facilitating the establishment and integration of the company into the target market.

DEFINE YOUR MARKET

Our team can offer **comprehensive market reports** which provide a detailed explanation and analysis of the British market.

MARKET UPDATES

This year, the Foreign Trade Department of the Chamber **launched a weekly Market Updates newsletter**, which contains the latest news across a variety of industries and sectors. The information is selected by the Foreign Trade Department on the basis of its importance to the Spanish and British markets and shared to the Chamber's network. At the end of the year, the newsletter had over 2,400 subscribers.

TRADE MISSIONS AND EVENTS

The Foreign Trade Department organises trade missions and networking events with the objective of increasing the exports of local products. These aim to **promote commercial relations for companies** by presenting their products and looking for distributors, and ultimately **further the existing possibilities for both Spanish and British companies in both markets.**



COMMUNICATION TOOLS

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK offers a **variety of communication tools and services** to help you increase your brand visibility. We can provide the perfect advertising package for your products and services. See more about the communications tools we offer below:

WEBSITE AND BLOG

In 2023, our website received over **85,000 page views**. A significant proportion of these go to our blog, which is an important source of information about our recent developments, past and upcoming events, and news from our Members. Our Patrons and Benefactor Members can publish up to two entries per year on our blog free of charge.

NEWSLETTER

Our newsletter is a fortnightly electronic bulletin providing key information about the Chamber's news and upcoming events, new Members' announcements, notices about our Members' events, and Member to Member offers. It **reaches over 3,000 contacts** from a wide range of business sectors both in the UK and Spain. Our Patrons and Benefactor Members can publish an advert each year in our newsletter free of charge.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Chamber actively runs X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn accounts with more than **10,000 total followers** across both channels. We publish relevant news as well as promotions and events from our Members.

This year, we also **launched an Instagram account**, where we publish news, promote events, and provide a closer look into life at the Chamber.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

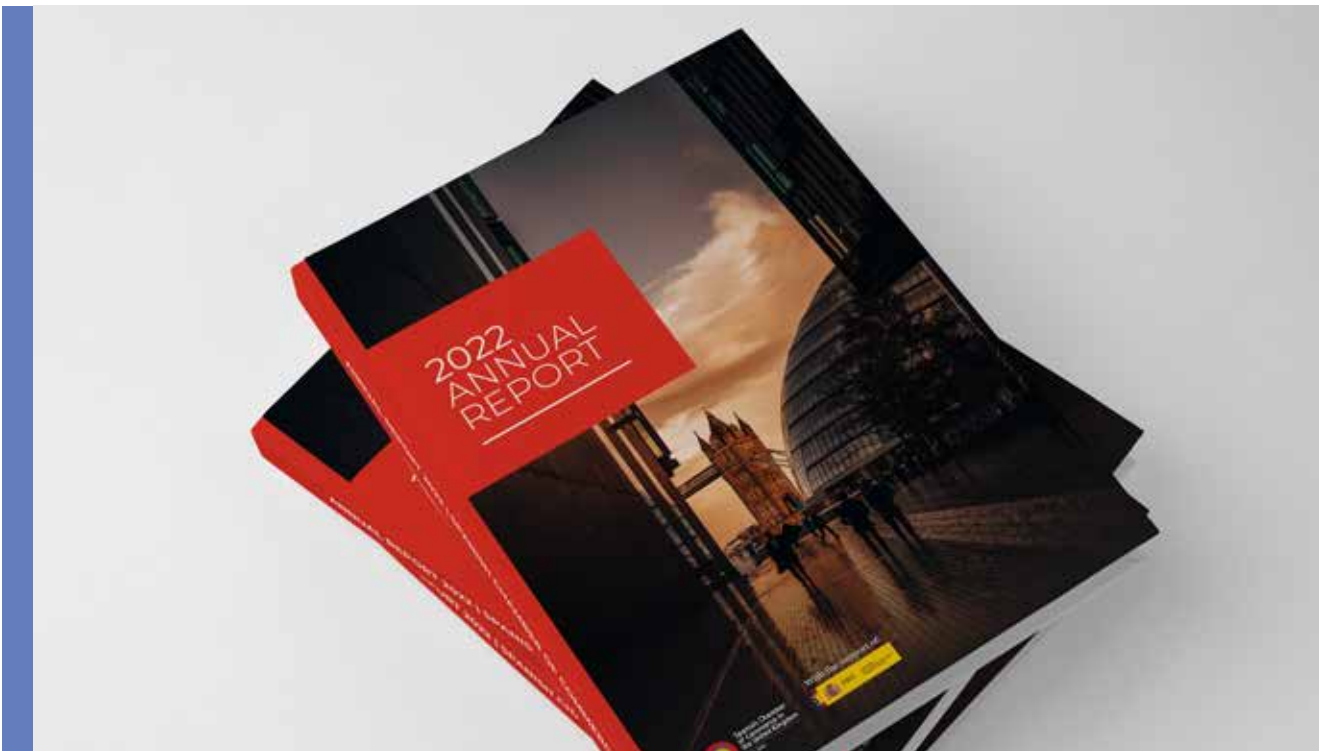
The Chamber maintains an active and updated YouTube channel, where all the **recordings of our webinars and videos of our events** can be found. Last year, our videos received more than 3,000 views.

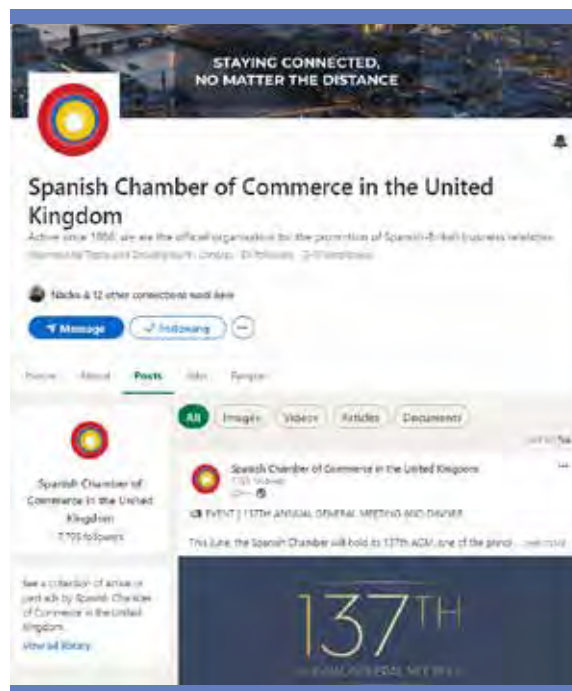
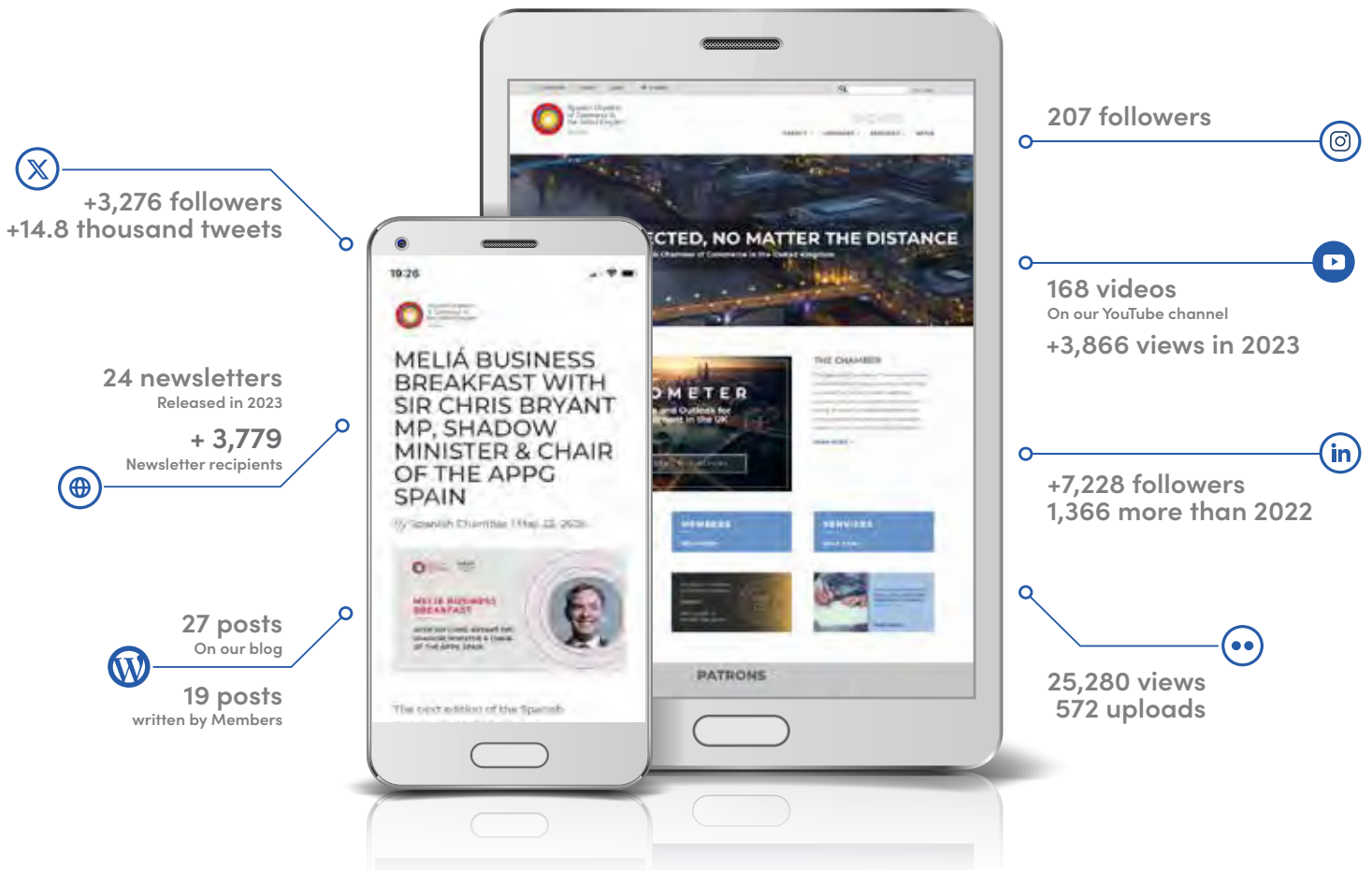
ANNUAL REPORT

Our Annual Report contains **detailed information about our achievements and activities** of the past year, future projects, interviews with Members and a full Member Directory. It is published electronically and in print, with copies sent to British and Spanish institutions as well as distributed at our events, meetings and at our central London office.

CUSTOMISED EVENTS

Many of the events we organise every year are held in collaboration with Member companies who take the opportunity to spotlight their expertise, venues, services and products.





MEMBERS' BLOG POSTS

We offer our Members the opportunity to feature in the Chamber's blog so that they can gain as much visibility as possible among the Chamber's network and beyond.



A GUIDE TO FAIR OR UNFAIR DISMISSAL BY **GIAMBRONE & PARTNERS LLP**



BOVÉ MONTERO CELEBRA SU 45 ANIVERSARIO Y ABRE UNA SEGUNDA OFICINA EN MADRID BY **BOVE MONTERO Y ASOCIADOS**



WHAT MAKES A DISRUPTIVE LAWYER? BY **ONTIER**



BARRAFINA INVITA 2: BORJA MARRERO BY **BARRAFINA**



NEW LEGAL HUB IN LONDON BY **SCORNIK GERSTEIN LLP**



INDRA ENTERS INTO A BINDING AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE PARK AIR, A SPECIALIST IN AEROSPACE & DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS BY **INDRA**



BARRAFINA INVITA: A NEW INTERNATIONAL SPANISH GUEST CHEF SERIES FROM BARRAFINA AND RESY BY **BARRAFINA**



KONECTA AND COMDATA UNITED UNDER KONECTAS BRAND BY **KONECTA**



HOW BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY ADDRESSES CHALLENGES IN THE PENSIONS INDUSTRY BY **FACEPHI BEYOND BIOMETRICS LIMITED**



EBA RULING ON DIGITAL WALLETS BY **FACEPHI BEYOND BIOMETRICS LIMITED**



ATSISTEMAS EVOLVES TO KNOWMAD MOOD BY **KNOWMAD MOOD**



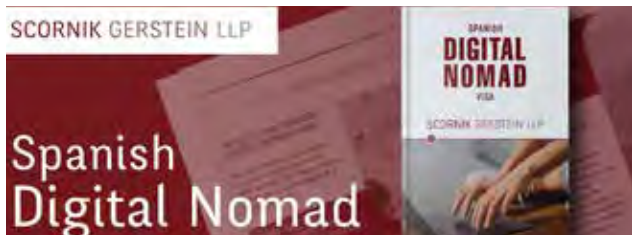
ENTERPRISE SERIES: EFFECTIVELY NAVIGATE THE SALARY REVIEW PROCESS BY **MOORE KINGSTON SMITH**



KNOWMAD MOOD, GROWTH PROJECTION BY **KNOWMAD MOOD**



BECOSAN CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF THE UK'S LARGEST WAREHOUSE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT BY **BECOSAN**



SPANISH DIGITAL NOMAD VISA BY **SCORNIK GERSTEIN LLP**



WHAT IMPACT CAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HAVE ON LEADERSHIP? BY **FASTTRACKTOFOCUS COACHING**



DIVORCE - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW BY **GIAMBRONE & PARTNERS LLP**



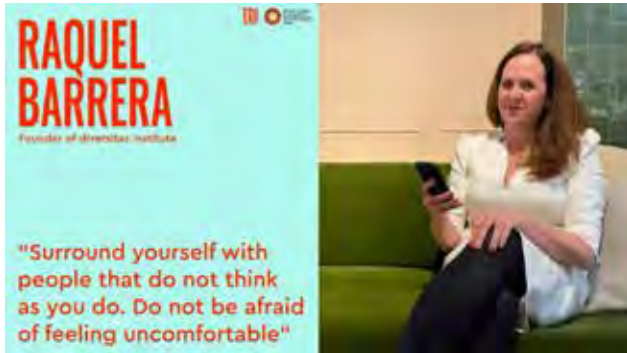
COUNTDOWN: APPLY FOR SPANISH CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE GRANDCHILDREN LAW BY **SCORNIK GERSTEIN LLP**



THE EMERGENT ROLE OF THE INTEROPERABLE DIGITAL IDENTITIES BY **FACEPHI BEYOND BIOMETRICS LIMITED**

EDI BLOG POSTS

As part of our continued commitment to upholding the values of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), the Chamber launched a blog series during which the women of the Chamber were interviewed.



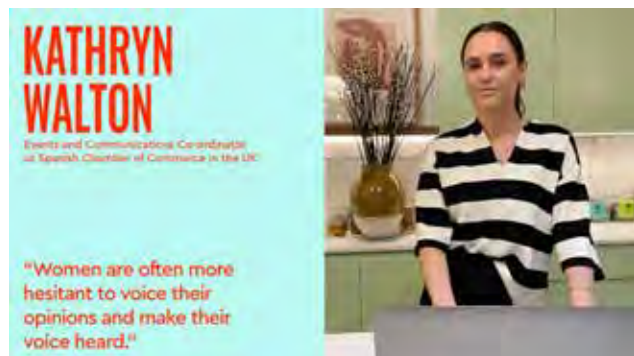
WOMEN OF THE CHAMBER: RAQUEL BARRERA



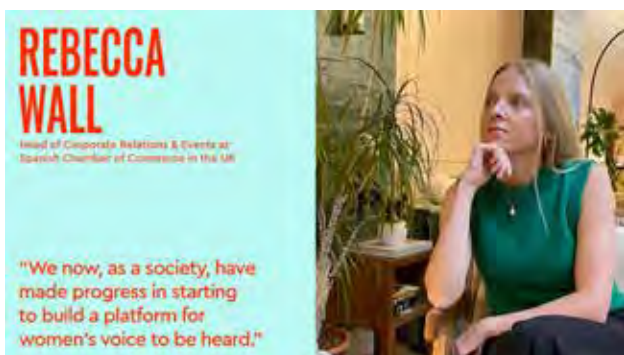
WOMEN OF THE CHAMBER: CRISTINA GINÉS



WOMEN OF THE CHAMBER: MÓNICA FERNÁNDEZ-MEJUTO



WOMEN OF THE CHAMBER: KATHRYN WALTON



WOMEN OF THE CHAMBER: REBECCA WALL

Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, delivering a speech at the Annual Golden Award 2023.



Spanish Chamber
of Commerce in
the United Kingdom

EST. 1886

BECOME A MEMBER

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom strives to strengthen the commercial relations between Spain and the UK by creating a strong network of British and Spanish companies.

As a Member of the Chamber, you can access a wide variety of services, including the Chamber's **vast network of contacts** and **information regarding business opportunities in the UK and Spain**.

We offer **three categories of membership** which are suited to different companies' requirements. Association with the Chamber provides a series of general benefits for all Members, while there are **exclusive advantages** for each of the superior membership categories.

The categories of membership with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK are as follows:

CORPORATE

This category is ideal for companies that:

- Are interested in expanding their network of contacts.
- Wish to **enhance their visibility** in the British-Spanish business community in the UK.

BENEFACTOR

This category is ideal for companies that:

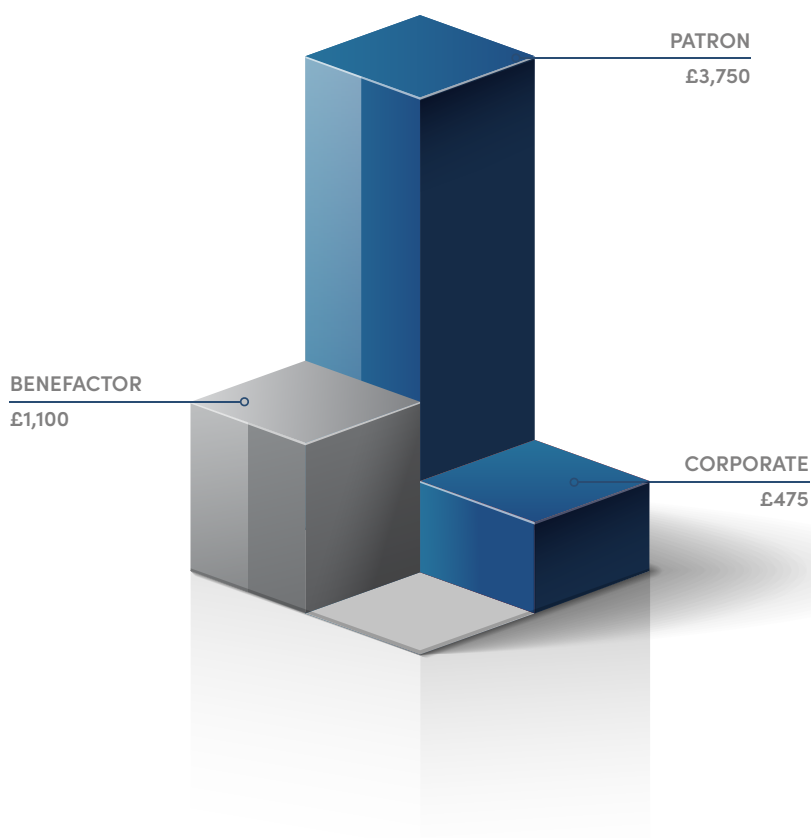
- Are larger companies.
- Wish to **upgrade their membership** and sample some of the benefits of a Patron membership.

PATRON

This type of membership is best suited to companies that:

- Are large or multinational companies.
- Wish to use their membership to benefit from **greater institutional visibility**.

2024 MEMBERSHIP FEES



FIND THE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY WHICH BEST SUITS YOUR COMPANY:

| | CORPORATE | BENEFACTOR | PATRON |
|--|-----------|------------|--------|
| Member profile and logo displayed on our website | ● | ● | ● |
| Invitation to company events associated with the Chamber | ● | ● | ● |
| Access to exclusive offers via the private Members' area of our website | ● | ● | ● |
| The opportunity to publicise promotions, events or job vacancies via our various communication channels | ● | ● | ● |
| Invitation to the Chamber's networking events (the majority are free of charge for Members) | ● | ● | ● |
| Discounts for all of the Chamber's services and advertising packages | ● | ● | ● |
| Special announcement in the Chamber's newsletter, blog and social media channels to inform our contact network of new Members | ● | ● | ● |
| Complimentary use of our meeting room (5 hours annually for Benefactors, 10 for Patrons) | ● | ● | ● |
| Priority for organising events in collaboration with the Chamber | ● | ● | ● |
| 1 x Complimentary advert in our fortnightly newsletter | ● | ● | ● |
| 2 x Complimentary blog articles published about your company upon becoming a Member of the Chamber | ● | ● | ● |
| Logo publicised in our newsletter and website, hyperlinked to the company's own website | ● | ● | ● |
| Company name included in all of our marketing materials (email signatures, corporate documents, photocalls and on menus and screens displayed at corporate events) | ● | ● | ● |
| Invitation to the Annual Patrons' Dinner held at the Spanish Embassy | ● | ● | ● |
| Priority when receiving invitations for events organised in collaboration with other institutions and Chambers of Commerce | ● | ● | ● |
| Priority invitation to sectorial forum events (subject to availability) | ● | ● | ● |
| Priority for sponsorship of Chamber events | ● | ● | ● |
| Access to Patrons' Club events | ● | ● | ● |

If you can read this, it is because **branding** is powerful.
Unleash the power of your brand with our brand consultancies to achieve business growth in the UK.



brandlond[®]
Because your brand matters

BUSINESS CENTRE

The Chamber offers Members a variety of business services and facilities to help support their network and expand their operations in the UK.

See the business services we provide our network below:

BUSINESS CENTRE

SIMPLE AND INTELLIGENT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Services we offer:



DAILY
DESK HIRE



POSTAL
ADDRESS



MEETING
ROOM HIRE



ADVERTISING
OPPORTUNITIES



OFFICE
SPACES

 126 Wigmore Street. London W1U 3RZ
 +44 (0)20 7009 9070
 +44 (0)20 7009 9088
 info@spanishchamber.co.uk



www.spanishchamber.co.uk



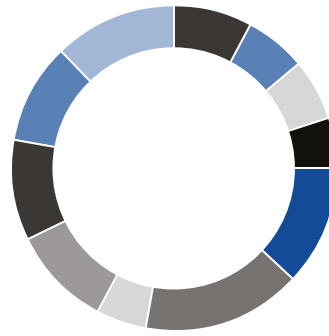
Guests attending the XII Annual Gala Dinner at the Waldorf Hilton Hotel.



Annual Report 2023

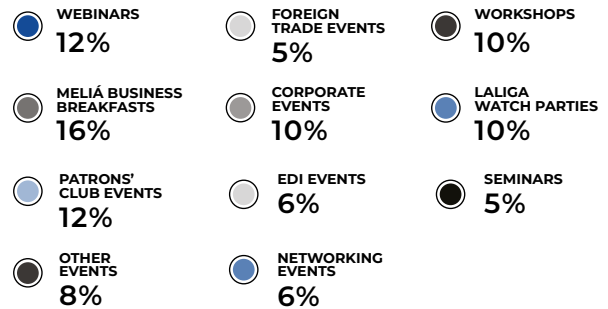
EVENTS HELD IN 2023

Each year the Spanish Chamber of Commerce organises a wide range of events that support the expansion of its network of both Member and Non-Member companies in the UK and in Spain. Our events are crucial to our principal goal of promoting commercial partnerships between the two countries.



47

EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2023



+2,959

GUESTS WELCOMED

+700

COMPANIES TOOK PART IN OUR EVENTS

+2

NEW SERIES OF EVENTS LAUNCHED IN 2023

SPONSOR COMPANIES OF 2023 CORPORATE EVENTS



Sir Chris Bryant MP during his speech to guests at the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



2023 EVENTS

JAN

17

- ◆ **WEBINAR**
Your pension, your options with **St. James's Place Wealth Management**

20

- OTHER
London Retail Tour with **brandlond**

27

- ◆ **WORKSHOP**
Making the most of your Spanish Chamber Membership

31

- **CORPORATE EVENT**
New Year's Drinks Reception

FEB

2

- **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
Real Madrid vs Valencia CF

20

- ★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
British-Spanish Business cocktail

MAR

8

- **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
Lord Johnson of Lainston CBE, Minister of State for Investment

2

- **FOREIGN TRADE**
Castilla-La Mancha wine tasting

7

- ◆ **NETWORKING EVENT**
International Wine, Spirits, and Beer tasting 2023

20

- ◆ **WEBINAR**
2023 UK budget with **Blick Rothenberg, Ebl Miller Rosenfalck, and Crestview Strategy**

29

- EDI EVENT
I International Women's Day Networking Reception

31

- ◆ **WORKSHOP**
Making the most of your Spanish Chamber Membership

APR

4

- ◆ **NETWORKING EVENT**
ELEVATOR PITCH!

13

- ◆ **WEBINAR**
How Artificial Intelligence is changing the business landscape with **Plain Concepts**

18

- ★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
Spain is Business

19

- **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
Paul Scully MP, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy and Minister for London

26

- **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
Atlético Madrid vs RCD Mallorca

MAY

3

- **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
Leo Docherty MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Europe

16

- EDI EVENT
Women Who Inspire: Construction

18

- ★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
Annual Patrons' Dinner

22

- OTHER
New Members' Drinks Reception

24

- SEMINAR
Common Legal and Tax Issues between UK and Spain with **Buckles Solicitors** and **ZADAL**

25

- **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
CA Osasuna vs Athletic Club

26

- ◆ **WORKSHOP**
Making the most of your Spanish Chamber Membership

31

- OTHER
II Annual Business Cocktail in Madrid



JUN

6
★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
Bar Rioja launch party

7
● **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
Ignacio Cartagena, Consul General in Edinburgh

21
FOREIGN TRADE
Ibérica Expo London

JUL

5
● **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business

EDI EVENT
Proud of our Pride

6
★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
Cervantes Theatre opening night : Puerto Alegría by Maui

10
■ **CORPORATE EVENT**
136th Annual General Meeting

26
● **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
¡VAMOS ESPAÑA!
Spain vs Zambia VIP Networking Breakfast

SEP

8
◆ **WORKSHOP**
Making the most of your Spanish Chamber Membership

12
● **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
The Rt Hon. Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero.

15
OTHER
II London Retail Tour with **brandlond**

19
◆ **WEBINAR** Opening a company in the UK for Spanish citizens with **Flying Formations**

21
◆ **WEBINAR**
Creating experiences that wow: How digital experience platforms are transforming the way your clients approach your business with **knowmad mood**

NOV

8
SEMINAR
Tax risks of employees working on a cross border basis with **Blick Rothenberg**

23
★ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
The Autumn Statement: Was it a reset for the Government? with **Signum Global Advisors**

24
WORKSHOP
Making the most of your Spanish Chamber Membership

28
● **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST**
H.E. The Ambassador of the EU Delegation to the UK, Mr. Pedro Serrano

DEC

5
NETWORKING EVENT
ELEVATOR PITCH!

13
■ **CORPORATE EVENT**
V Barometer on the Climate and Outlook for Spanish Investment in the UK

AUGUST

15
● **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
¡VAMOS ESPAÑA!
Spain vs Sweden VIP Networking Breakfast

OCTOBER

4
■ **CORPORATE EVENT**
XII Annual Gala Dinner

17
■ **CORPORATE EVENT**
Annual Golden Award 2023

● **WEBINARS**
12%

○ **FOREIGN TRADE EVENTS**
5%

● **WORKSHOPS**
10%

○ **PATRONS' CLUB EVENT**
12%

● **NETWORKING EVENT**
6%

● **MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS**
16%

● **CORPORATE EVENTS**
10%

● **LALIGA WATCH PARTY**
10%

● **OTHER EVENTS**
8%

○ **EDI EVENTS**
6%

● **SEMINARS**
5%

+47
EVENTS

STATISTICS

CORPORATE EVENTS

XII ANNUAL GALA DINNER

This year, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK commemorated its **XII ANNUAL GALA DINNER** with a celebratory dinner held at the renowned **Waldorf Hilton Hotel, London**.

José María Álvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefónica, was in attendance as the Guest of Honour, alongside members of His Majesty's Government and institutional representatives from British and Spanish companies and civil society. **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, was also in attendance, representing the Spanish Embassy in the UK.

A staggering **350 guests** attended the event. The Spanish business community was well represented by several significant companies operating in the UK. The representatives from His Majesty's Government

included **Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE, Minister for Investment in the Department for Business and Trade, Jonathan Berry, The Viscount Camrose, Minister for AI and Intellectual Property, and Peter Wilson CMG, Director General for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.**

Lord James Bridges of Headley and Lord James Bethell were also in attendance, representing the House of Lords. Institutional representatives from Spanish business and civil sectors also attended: **Ralph Smith MBE, President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain; Lutz Schüler, CEO at Virgin Media O2; Inmaculada Riera, Director General of the Cámara de España, and Mark Mutra, Chairman of Indra's board of directors and strategy committee.**



José María Álvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefónica during his speech at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.

We were also joined by several diplomatic figures: **their Excellencies EU Ambassador to the UK, Mr. Pedro Serrano** and the **Ambassador of Poland to the UK, Mr. Piotr Wilczek**, **Rosario Bernal García**, Consul General at the Spanish Consulate in London, **Álvaro Nadal**, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK, and **Jordi Laguarda**, Director General of International Trade and Investment for Spain at the British Embassy in Madrid.

The Chamber's President, Eduardo Barrachina, highlighted the relationship between Spain and the UK in his speech, stating that "Spanish companies are an inescapable reality in the UK", and consequently, the "relationship between our countries rests not only on economic ties but also on people".

The Viscount Camrose reaffirmed the need for international cooperation in the telecommunications industry, maintaining that "technological advancement would not be possible without a truly global approach".



José María Álvarez-Pallete (second from right) and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Chamber (centre), with guests at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.

José María Álvarez-Pallete echoed this sentiment, noting that "the ties between both countries have grown exponentially" since he first came to the UK, when "only a small number of Spanish companies" were operating there, compared with today where "the UK is one of Telefónica's core markets". The Spanish Chamber would like to thank all who attended for their continued support as we celebrated our XII Annual Gala Dinner, and once again thank Mr. Álvarez-Pallete for attending this event as the Guest of Honour.

This event was kindly sponsored by Chamber Patron **Marqués de Cáceres**, Chamber Benefactors **Bodegare**, **Mahou San Miguel** and **Vichy Catalán**, and Chamber Members **Covap**, **The Spanish Ham Master** and **Brindisa**.



Sr. D. Eduardo Barrachina
Presidente de la Cámara de Comercio
de España en Reino Unido
126 Wigmore Street
London W1U3RZ

Madrid, 10 de octubre 2023

Querido Eduardo,

En primer lugar, gracias por tu cariñoso mensaje.

Para mí fue un auténtico orgullo poder representar a Telefónica, en los albores de su primer centenario, en un lugar tan emblemático como la Cámara de Comercio de España que presides en Londres. Gracias, nuevamente, por tu generosa invitación a vuestra Cena de Gala. Disfruté mucho de la velada.

Somos unos afortunados, Eduardo. Nuestra herencia cultural es un tesoro prestado sobre el que tenemos un deber de protección. Tenemos la inmensa fortuna de leer en nuestra lengua materna a referentes universales, como Ortega, que dedicaban parte de su pensamiento a combatir los males de la época, a contribuir a un país con mejores opciones de futuro. Ejemplos influyentes, personales e históricos, son una fuente de inspiración para seguir trabajando por España y para que la defendamos como mejor nos enseñaron nuestros predecesores: con talento y perseverancia.

Gracias por la labor que desempeñas en la Cámara.

Estaré encantado de volver a coincidir contigo en Londres si mis compromisos me lo permiten.

Un fuerte abrazo, De nuevo muchas gracias por la invitación.
Fue un verdadero honor.
Un fuerte abrazo,



Sr. D. Eduardo Barrachina
Presidente
Spanish Chamber of Commerce in The United Kingdom

Madrid, a 10 de octubre de 2023

Querido Eduardo,

Aún no había tenido tiempo de felicitarte formalmente por la maravillosa Cena de Gala que organizaste el pasado 4 de octubre. Nuestro Presidente quedó encantado y todos nosotros disfrutamos muchísimo de este evento tan especial.

Coincido contigo en que fue todo un éxito, pero ello se debió gracias a tu empuje, dedicación y entusiasmo. Has conseguido que la Cámara sea todo un referente para las empresas con presencia en el Reino Unido, así como un espacio imprescindible para fomentar la relación bilateral entre Reino Unido y España.

Muchas gracias por tu generosidad, querido Eduardo. Seguiremos en contacto y trabajando juntos por los objetivos que nos animan.

Recibe un fuerte abrazo y todo mi cariño,

Cuidate mucho!



Trinidad Jiménez García-Herrera
TELEFÓNICA, S.A.
Directora de Estrategia Global de Asuntos Públicos
Ronda de la Comunicación, s/n – Edificio central –Planta 3
28050 Madrid (España)

Guests at the Top Table
at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.



Official picture of the Executive Board of Directors of the
Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK with institutional
guests at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.



José María Álvarez-Pallete, Chairman and CEO of Telefónica, greeting guests at the XII Annual Gala Dinner, in the Presence of Ángel Vildá, COO of Telefónica.



Banco Sabadell, Patrons of the Chamber, Corporate Table.

Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE addressing guests at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.



Institutional guests with Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, at the XII Annual Gala Dinner. (From left) Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, José María Álvarez-Pallete, Eduardo Barrachina, The Viscount Camrose and Peter Wilson.

BBVA, Patrons of the Chamber, Corporate Table.



H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, during his speech at the XII Annual Gala Dinner.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Annual General Meeting** is one of the most important events of the Chamber's calendar, which provides our Members with the valuable opportunity to review and evaluate the performance of the organisation.

This year's AGM was held at **One Great George Street, Westminster**, and was chaired by **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. José Pascual Marco**. The panel of speakers was formed by **Eduardo Barrachina, President, Gabriela Martínez de Aragón, Treasurer, Igor Urrea, Secretary General**, and **Committee Members Raquel Barrera and Juan Carlos Machuca**. They were joined by Members, Patrons and Benefactors of the Chamber, and executives from the Spanish business community in the UK.

The meeting was followed by a formal drinks reception and dinner, and this year the Chamber was delighted to welcome **Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE** as our Guest of Honour.



Guests attending the 136th Annual General Meeting.

The Chamber's commitment to collaboration between governments and institutions, and to strengthening commercial relations between Spain and the UK, was emphasised by its President, Eduardo Barrachina, who stated that **"tonight is a demonstration of the many things that bind our two countries"**, adding, "there could be few better places to do so than this splendid building which is only a 10 minute walk from the British parliament and the British Government. We take pride in the excellent relationship we have with both institutions".

This sentiment was echoed by H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. José Pascual Marco, who declared that **"the Chamber's activity has grown accordingly, and I think that it is one of the most powerful and efficient Spanish Chambers of Commerce in the world"**, and that the institution is "a great example of private and public cooperation".

Lord Johnson reiterated the Ambassador's words, stressing that "we have to...work together to create a stronger, more powerful financial Europe to give us greater wealth and greater security for the future."

This year's Annual General Meeting was a fantastic opportunity for Members of the Chamber, institutional representatives and governmental delegates to come together and **work towards shared commercial interests**.

The Chamber extends special thanks to the companies that provided their support for this event with Corporate Tables, all of which are Patrons of the Chamber: **BBVA, BeBeMe, Blackstone, Cellnex UK, Del Canto Chambers, Dragados, Ferrovial, Indra, MAPFRE and Sabadell UK**.

This event was kindly sponsored by Chamber Patron **Ibérica**, and Chamber Benefactors **Vichy Catalán, Mahou San Miguel, and Raventós Codorníu**.

CORPORATE TABLES

SPONSOR COMPANIES

Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE (centre), with H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (left), and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (right), at the 136th Annual General Meeting.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (left), with institutional guests, Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE (centre), and H.E. Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (right) at the 136th Annual General Meeting.



Esteban García de Motiloa (Gestamp), and Cristina Ginés (Sener), attending the Spanish Chamber's 136th Annual General Meeting.



Julio Bruno (BeBeMe), signing in to the Annual General Meeting, in the presence of Philip Perez (Indra), Gonzaga Kutz (Unicaja), and Xavier Nova (Del Canto Chambers).

Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston
CBE during his speech at the
136th Annual General Meeting.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, during his speech at the 136th Annual General Meeting.



Spanish Chamber
of Commerce in
the United Kingdom

EST. 1886

V BAROMETER ON THE CLIMATE AND OUTLOOK FOR SPANISH INVESTMENT IN THE UK

This year, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce presented the fifth edition of the **Barometer on the Climate and Outlook for Spanish Investment in the UK** at an event held at the Spanish Ambassador's Residence in London. The bilateral event was attended by over **128 guests**, including representatives from the Spanish Government, and the Spanish Chamber's long-standing collaborator, **the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)**.

The Barometer report, published in collaboration with **Analistas Financieros Internacionales (Afi)**, analyses the investment sentiment of Spanish companies in the UK and broader trends of Spanish FDI in the British market throughout 2022-2023. Representatives from a wide range of commercial sectors and government departments were invited to share their insights into the role of Spanish investment across various sectors of the British economy.

The event began with introductory speeches given by **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, and the **President of the Spanish Chamber, Eduardo Barrachina**. In his opening statements, Mr. Barrachina indicated the positive data of the Barometer compared with previous years; "Spain's investment appetite for the UK market waned in 2018 and 2019, when Brexit-related uncertainty was at its height. Thankfully, that investment has recovered".

Following this introduction, **Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business**, stated that, "despite the far-reaching economic and political turmoil, Spanish and British relations remain strong." He then emphasised that "**it is unequivocal that the UK and Spain have a strong trade relationship**", and that "the ground has been laid for this to continue."



Kevin Hollinrake MP during his speech at the V Barometer event.

These sentiments were reiterated by **Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister**, who highlighted that **“the annual release of the Barometer has become a landmark moment in the bilateral relations between Spain and the UK.”** She also stated that **“Spain has always considered internationalisation to be essential”,** and that overall, **“bilateral investment has followed a positive trend.”**

The speeches were followed by three expert round tables that discussed the last three years of Spanish investment in the UK, the perspective of new investors in the UK, and the public policy view. The first two panels were chaired by **Peter Foster, public policy editor at the Financial Times**, and the third was presided over by **Fmr. Amb. Lewis Lukens, Senior Partner and UK/Europe CEO at Signum Global Advisors.** We would like to thank both gentlemen for their superb moderation of each round table discussion.

Our first panel discussed Spanish investment in the UK during the last three years, and the shape this might take in the future. This expert discussion was held between **Selena Strudwick, UK Legal Director at Ferrovial Construction**, **Daniel Feliu, Retail & Business Banking COO and Customer Innovation at Santander UK** and **Juan Carlos Machuca, Partner and Head of the London Office at Uría Menéndez.**

The second round table focused on the experience and views of Spanish investors that were new to the UK. The panel consisted of experts representing Patron Members: **Joan Sintes Segarra, EMEA Sales and Marketing VP at Plain Concepts**, **Juan de la Cueva, CEO of Navantia UK** and **Victor Martínez García, Director, Air Traffic Management Division at Indra**, who all shared their insights into this subject.



The second round table of the V Barometer event, made up of Victor Martínez García (Indra), Juan de la Cueva (Navantia UK), and Joan Sintes Segarra (Plain Concepts). Moderated by Peter Foster (Financial Times, far left).

We are also grateful to **Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office at the Spanish Embassy**, and **David Buck, Deputy Director for Investment Strategy at Department for Business and Trade**, for discussing Spanish investment in the UK from a public policy perspective in the third round table, and providing a governmental perspective to accompany the previous commercial focus.

The morning concluded with remarks from **The Baroness Ludford, Member of the European Affairs Committee**, after which guests discussed the morning's findings further over breakfast provided by Chamber Patron **Ibérica Restaurants**.



We would like to thank all the companies that attended this event and made it such a success.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the companies and organisations that generously sponsored our V Barometer. Our warmest thanks go to **ABANCA, Andalucía TRADE, Banco Sabadell, BBVA, Cellnex UK, Exolum, Ferrovial, Iberdrola, Indra, Junta de Andalucía, López Landa Interiors, Navantia UK, Plain Concepts, Santander, Signum Global Advisors, Uría Menéndez and White & Case LLP** for kindly supporting this event through their sponsorship.

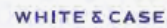
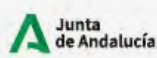
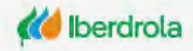
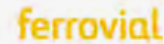
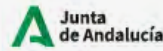
We would also like to thank **Afi, the Financial Times and Roman**, for being our Media Partners on this occasion, as well as **Cámara de Comercio de España, the Department for Business and Trade and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise**, for their institutional collaboration.

BAROMETER DINNER

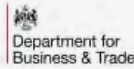
As is traditional, the night before the presentation of the Barometer, institutional guests and sponsor companies met for a formal, bilateral dinner held at a private London venue, attended by representatives of both British and Spanish Governments.

H.E. the Spanish Ambassador to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, were also in attendance, and both gave introductory speeches before the dinner began.

The evening then concluded with speeches made by government representatives; **Xiana Mendéz, Minister for Trade at the Spanish Government and the Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP, UK Minister of State for Trade Policy in the Department for Business and Trade**.



IN COLLABORATION WITH



MEDIA PARTNERS



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, with institutional guests, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business, Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister, and H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco.

Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister, addressing guests at the V Barometer event.



Guests attending the V Barometer event.

H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, addressing the Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP, in the presence of Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister (left), and Juan Manuel de Remedios (White & Case, right) at the Barometer Dinner.



Guests attending the Barometer Dinner.

Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister addressing institutional representatives at the Barometer Dinner.



Ignacio Casajus (Exolum, left), and Daniel Feliu (Santander) at the Barometer Dinner.





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ANNUAL GOLDEN AWARD 2023

Chamber Patron **RIU Hotels & Resorts** were the recipients of the Spanish Chamber's **Annual Golden Award 2023**, in recognition of their exceptional performance in the British market.

Ms. Carmen Riu, co-owner and co-CEO of the hotel chain, received the award at a formal reception held at the Spanish Ambassador's Residence in London, a wonderful evening that brought together representatives from British and Spanish businesses and civil society, and various governmental departments.

In her speech, Carmen Riu emphasised the importance of the tourism industry, stressing that **"tourism is one of the most important sectors of advanced economies"**, and stated that Britain is the second most important source market for the hotel chain, constituting "16% of RIU's business, both in terms of guests and sales volume".



Carmen Riu (centre), accepting the Spanish Chamber's Golden Award from H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (left) and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (right).

Entering the British market, therefore, was of principal importance to RIU Hotels & Resorts, and the opening of the new Hotel RIU Plaza London Victoria earlier this year firmly established RIU Hotels & Resorts within the UK. The stylish city hotel is located in the heart of the capital, within walking distance of some of London's most popular attractions, and has been immensely popular since it opened.

Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, emphasised RIU's position as a leader in its sector, noting that **"as Spanish tourism grows and becomes more sophisticated, sustainable and mature, so do the leading Spanish hotel chains like RIU Hotels"**.

This sentiment was echoed by **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, who declared that "RIU is one of the leading touristic companies in Spain, where tourism represents more than 12% of our GDP", and that the event was a way to **"celebrate tourism and travel"**.

This event was held in collaboration with **Turespaña**, and kindly sponsored by Chamber Benefactors **Raventós Codorníu, Mahou San Miguel**, and Member **The Ojos Foods**.

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Institutional guests (from left), Inmaculada Riera, Director General, Cámara de España, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, and Manuel Butler Halter, (TourSpain), with Carmen Riu (RIU Hotels, centre).



Guests celebrating the winner of Annual Golden Award 2023.



Carmen Riu during her speech at the Annual Golden Award 2023.



Miguel Fernandez-Caso (Deutsche Bank, left) and George Holding (Blackstone) attending the Annual Golden Award 2023.

INTERVIEW WITH THE ANNUAL GOLDEN AWARD 2023 WINNER, RIU HOTELS & RESORTS

We interviewed **Ms. Carmen Riu**, co-owner and co-CEO of the **RIU Hotels & Resorts** chain. We asked her about her company's operations in the UK, and how it has benefited from receiving the Spanish Chamber's Annual Golden Award 2023.

Q: Could you briefly describe RIU and your presence in the UK?

A: RIU Hotels & Resorts is a family-run company that started with a modest hotel on Playa de Palma in 1953, the RIU San Francisco. Since then, we have continued to grow to be present in **21 countries** with **97 hotels**. Due to our historic alliance with our partner TUI and the fact that our first hotels were located mainly on the Playa de Palma, an area where the German tourist predominates, we have always been perceived as a German company. This is not entirely true, as we could not continue to prosper as a hotel chain without the great reception that the British market represents for us. Without going any further, this year has accounted for 16% both in turnover and stays, being the second market in importance only behind the American. In 2022, **700,000 British customers put their trust in us**, which means a lot to our company. Traditionally, RIU has been characterised as a chain specialising in holiday tourism, but since 2010 we have been bringing our seal of quality to the most important cities in the world, such as Berlin, Dublin or New York. This year, we are delighted to be able to say that we have finally reached the epicentre of the UK: London.



Carmen Riu (centre) photographed with H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (left) and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (right).

Q: What are the visions and values that define RIU as a company?

A: In 1981, my father wrote the foundational principles that have not changed since, to which both my brother Luis and I have tried to be faithful. The company philosophy that our parents and grandparents instilled with their example is simple; that it is only possible to succeed with great effort and dedication. They devoted themselves body and soul to the family business, being directly involved in the operation, attending in various areas of the hotel such as the reception, the restaurant or the cleaning, while organising and making day-to-day decisions of the hotel itself.

Since the beginning of the company, at RIU we pride ourselves on always putting the customer at the centre of all decisions and by always showing a strict commitment to quality, offering our guests well-kept facilities in the best beach and city destinations. The staff is the main asset of RIU and the company's greatest pride, always striving to offer excellent customer service. In addition, we work together with the communities in which we operate, so we try to advance together in all those destinations in which we enter, committing ourselves to the community, to the environment and to sustainability in a responsible manner.

Those values have endured in us, and will continue to be present in future generations, as one of the advantages of being a family business is that it allows us to make decisions with a long-term vision.

Q: What differentiates RIU from its competitors?

A: One thing that we do differently at RIU is that we have a patrimonial business model, meaning that we acquire most of the buildings where our hotels are located in property. This allows us to control even the smallest detail, giving us freedom and agility in making decisions, thus being able to offer the best possible customer experience. In addition, we invest in more than one hotel per destination, being able to create synergies both logistically and commercially, acquiring long-term commitments with the countries where we operate. Therefore, ownership and direct control of projects are the main differentiators of RIU compared to other hotel chains.

Q: RIU was presented with the 2023 Golden Award by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK. How has your business benefited from this recognition?

A: In March of this year the Leading Brands of Spain Forum named me Spain Brand Honorary Ambassador in the category of Tourism and Gastronomy. This, together with the award received by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, is an immense recognition for our hotel chain. In addition, it is a great responsibility for what this award represents, recognising our path in the British market.

Q: In your opinion, what are the most significant factors that have contributed to the success of Riu Plaza London Victoria?

A: Our urban establishments of the Riu Plaza line must have several characteristics, among which the location stands out. The Riu Plaza London Victoria is just metres away from iconic and historic buildings such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament, making it an ideal starting point for visitors who want to get to know the city in depth. Moreover, being located right in front of Victoria train station, guests have a direct rail service from the airport on their doorstep, meaning that the connectivity in such a large metropolis is excellent. Since the opening of the new hotel at the end of July of this year the occupations have remained at 80%, with forecasts that they will continue in these ratios until the end of 2023.

Q: What would you recommend to other companies that want to enter the British market?

A: When a company decides to internationalise, entering a new country is not entirely easy. Each country has its own codes and idiosyncrasies, so it is appreciated that there are organisations that help in this transition in a difficult environment and contribute to the soft-landing of business operations. I would therefore like to thank the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom for its great contribution to the establishment of Spanish companies in Great Britain. Their work is commendable in facilitating relations between Spanish companies and the British administration. I am not one to make recommendations, but I would simply add that the British customer is very grateful, with repeat rates of the company's highest, becoming a loyal customer if they are happy with the services provided.



(From left) Julio Bruno (BeBeMe) with Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, and Carmen Riu at the Annual Golden Award 2023.

NEW YEAR'S DRINKS RECEPTION

The 2023 **New Year's Drinks Reception** was the Chamber's first in-person New Year's reception since 2020. This important occasion was held at the spectacular **Royal Academy of Arts**, which, at the time, was displaying the exhibition *Spain and the Hispanic World, Treasures from the Hispanic Society Museum & Library*. Guests enjoyed private access to the exhibit, as well as the opportunity to network over refreshments and celebrate the New Year.



Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK, with Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, at the New Year's Drinks Reception.

The evening began with speeches from the **President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, Eduardo Barrachina**, and **H.E. the Spanish Ambassador to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, who both spoke about the exciting year ahead for the Chamber. They highlighted several new initiatives and projects, such as the inaugural **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Award**, and a new **EDI events series**. We were honoured to also receive an address from the **Secretary and CEO of the Royal Academy of Arts, Axel Rüger**, whose presence showcased the importance and prevalence of British-Spanish cultural ties.

We were delighted to hold this event in collaboration with Patron Members **Ontier** and **Iberia**, and would also like to thank Benefactor **Victoria Málaga**, as well as **Segura Viudas Cava**, **Orube Rioja**, **LAN Rioja** and **Ferrer Miranda**, for sponsoring this event.

VICTORIA
MÁLAGA



ORUBE
RIOJA



FERRER
MIRANDA



Latin American Ambassadors attending the New Year's Drinks Reception with H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (centre left), Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (one from right), and Almudena Rodríguez (Ontier, far right).



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber addressing guests at the New Year's Drinks Reception.



(From left) Pedro Rodero (Ontier), H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Carmen Giraud (Iberia), and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, at the New Year's Drinks Reception.



(From left) Rebecca Wall, (Spanish Chamber), Raquel Barrera, (Diversitas Institute), and Kathryn Walton, (Spanish Chamber), attending the New Year's Drinks Reception.



(From left) Miguel Fernández-Caso (Deutsche Bank) and guest, Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, and Miguel Bovill (White & Case), attending the New Year's Drinks Reception.



Harry Parker (Ontier, right) and guest attending the New Year's Drinks Reception.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

18TH MAY

ANNUAL PATRONS' DINNER

As is customary, for this year's Annual Patrons' Dinner, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure of inviting Patron Members to the Spanish Ambassador's Residence in London. The Chamber was delighted to welcome the **Presidents of Cámara de España, José Luis Bonet**, and the **Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE), Antonio Garamendi**, as the Guests of Honour for this event.

Guests were welcomed to the event by **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, who introduced the evening with a speech. **The President of the Chamber, Eduardo Barrachina**, warmly thanked the Patron Members in attendance for their continued support, emphasising their importance within the Spanish Chamber's network. This year, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce reached the hugely important milestone of **50 Patron Members**, and we believe it is necessary to acknowledge their enormous contribution to our institution through hosting exclusive events such as this.

H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, addressing guests at the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



We would like to thank Chamber Benefactor **Estrella Galicia** for kindly sponsoring this event.





Guests attending the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, delivering a speech to guests at the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, José Luis Bonet, President of Cámara de Comercio de España, Antonio Garamendi, President of the CEOE, and H.E. Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco.



José Luis Bonet, President of the Cámara de Comercio de España, during his speech at the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



Official photo of representatives from Patron Members of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK.



Juan Botín (Santander, left) and Antonio Garamendi (CEOE) attending the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



(From left) Cristina Ruenes Mariñas (Embassy of Spain in London), Géraldine Dufort (European Commission), and Ana María Rodríguez Pérez (Embassy of Spain in London), attending the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



Antonio Garamendi (CEOE) during his speech at the Annual Patrons' Dinner.



Javier Teulón (Dragados, left) and Alberto Martín (Aena) attending the Annual Patrons' Dinner.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

20TH FEBRUARY

BRITISH-SPANISH BUSINESS COCKTAIL

For the first Patrons' Club event of the year, the Chamber was delighted to invite Patron Members to this bilateral drinks reception. We proudly invited **Isabel Díaz Ayuso, President of the Community of Madrid**, as the Guest of Honour at this exclusive event. **Ángel Asensio, President of Cámara de Comercio de Madrid and Vice-President of Cámara de España**, was also in attendance. The event was held in collaboration with the **British Chamber of Commerce in Spain**, and brought together Members of both Chambers of Commerce, presenting a unique opportunity for our Members to network among the wider British-Spanish business community, and representatives from other regional Chambers of Commerce across Spain.



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, President of the Community of Madrid, and Aida García, President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain at the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.

This evening was generously sponsored by Patron Member **Santander**, Member **Brindisa**, as well as **Mar de Frades** and **Ramón Bilbao**.



Ángel Asensio Laguna, President of Cámara de Comercio de Madrid, delivering a speech to guests at the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, and Isabel Díaz Ayuso, President of the Community of Madrid at the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



Javier Teulón (Dragados, left) and Anselmo Andrade (BBVA), at the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



Jaime Uscola, Head of International Business at Santander España, during his speech at the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



Guests enjoying a selection of spanish cheeses provided by Chamber Member Brindisa, who sponsored the event.



(From left) Rafael Serrano (Prime Investors Capital), Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, and Raúl Serrano (Prime Investors Capital), attending the British-Spanish Business Cocktail.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

18TH APRIL

SPAIN IS BUSINESS EVENT

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was delighted to have had the honour of collaborating with the **All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Spain** for this event, a British-Spanish bilateral cocktail reception hosted in the **House of Commons**, the first event of its kind held by the Chamber in Parliament.

The exclusive evening brought together Patrons of the Spanish Chamber and British MPs and Lords. The reception was organised in coordination with the **Spanish Embassy** and the **APPG Spain** and aimed to foster the relationships between representatives of Spanish companies, MPs, and Lords looking to strengthen the ties between the British-Spanish business community.

Sir Chris Bryant MP, President of the APPG Spain, gave an introductory speech highlighting the importance of bilateral relations between Spain and the UK, emphasising that, despite the exit of the UK from the European Union, Spain remains an important ally and business partner. **He commended the efforts of the attending Spanish companies to nurture and solidify trade relations between the two nations and the beneficial repercussions these have on both economies.**

The Chamber's President, Eduardo Barrachina, briefly explained the strategy, aims and objectives of the Chamber for the upcoming years, and made it clear that the strengthening of the commercial relations between Spain and the UK would underline all aspects of the Chamber's work. **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, was also present, and stressed the importance for Spain of strong economic and political relations with the UK Government in his address to attendees.

At the Chamber, we consistently endeavour to maintain strong ties with UK government institutions and were delighted to welcome such an important contingent of MPs, Lords, and policymakers who share our commitment to bilateral relations.



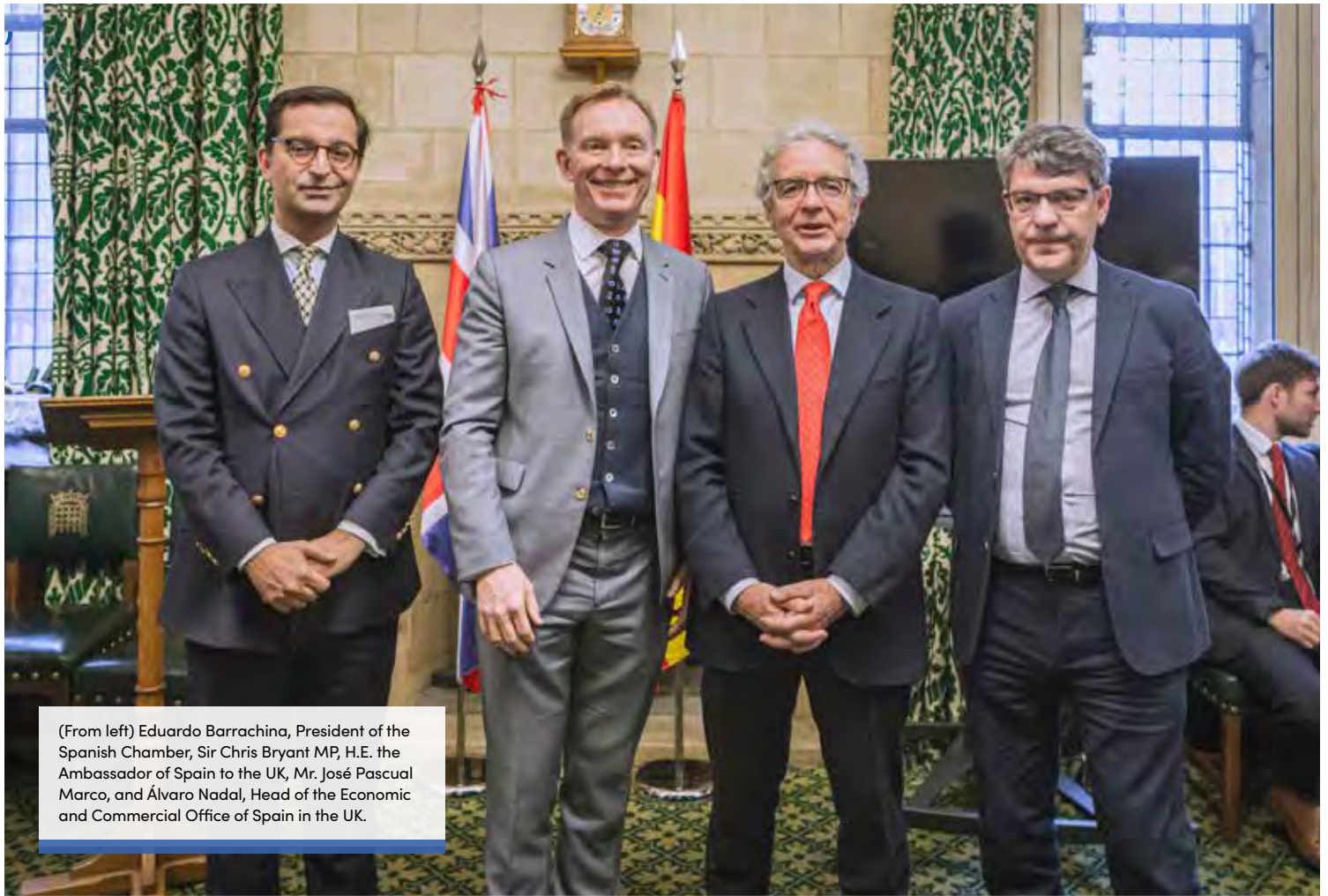
Sir Chris Bryant MP (left) addressing guests at the Spain is Business Event, in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco.

We would like to thank Chamber Benefactor **Mahou San Miguel** for generously sponsoring this event.



(From left) Javier Teulón (Dragados), Gabriela Martínez de Aragón (CaixaBank), and guest attending the Spain is Business event.





(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Sir Chris Bryant MP, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, and Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK.



José María Alapont (Hinduja, right), greeting Nusrat Ghani MP (Minister for Europe, FCDO), at the Spain is Business event, in the presence of Mónica Fernández-Mejuto, Vice-President of the Spanish Chamber (centre).



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, with representatives from the House of Lords (centre), and Cristina Ruenes (Embassy of Spain, right), attending the Spain is Business event.



(From left) Mónica Fernández-Mejuto, Vice-President of the Spanish Chamber, Bernardo Gutiérrez (Ontier), H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Nusrat Ghani MP (Minister for Europe, FCDO), Juan Botín (Santander) and José María Alapont (Hinduja).

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

5TH JUNE

I SPANISH-BRITISH BUSINESS DINNER IN THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

For this event, we were delighted to partner once again with the **APPG Spain** to host a seated dinner at the **Thames Pavilion in the House of Commons** for our Patron Members.

The event was organised and led by the **Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK** and brought together MPs, peers and large Spanish investors. The Chamber represents around EUR, 70 billion of Spanish investment in the UK and we are always working to ensure the British Government is made aware of the ways in which Spanish companies contribute to the British economy.

This event was attended by representatives from both governments. **Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business** was in attendance on behalf of the British Government, and **Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister**, represented the Spanish Government.

Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Sir Chris Bryant MP, Chairman of APPG Spain, and H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, were also in attendance and briefly addressed the companies.

The dinner proved a remarkable success, with our Patron Members enjoying the opportunity to discuss current affairs, the general climate of the British economy, and possibilities for Spanish investment with representatives from the British Government. This event was another occasion in which the Chamber collaborated with the **APPG Spain**, and we are delighted to work with them to organise events that bridge the gap between private and public administrations.



Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister, addressing guests at the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



Institutional guests Kevin Hollinrake MP (left), and Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK, attending the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



(From left) Nacho Casajús (Exolum), Sir Greg Knight (APPG SPAIN) and Mr. Alain Estévez (CAF) attending the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



House of Lords representative and Philip Pérez (Indra, right), attending the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



Sir Chris Bryant MP during his speech to guests at the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, with Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister, at the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.



H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, delivering a speech to guests at the I Spanish-British Business Dinner in the Houses of Parliament.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

6TH JULY

CERVANTES THEATRE OPENING NIGHT: PUERTO ALEGRÍA

For this event, the Chamber had the honour of inviting Patrons to attend the exclusive opening night performance of **Puerto Alegría by Maui**, at the spectacular **Cervantes Theatre**.

Following the show, guests enjoyed a drinks and canapés reception to celebrate the debut of this fantastic production.

The Chamber wishes to thank the Cervantes Theatre for making this event possible. As **London's premier venue dedicated to showcasing Spanish and Latin American plays**, performed both in Spanish and English, it has been a pillar of Hispanic culture in the UK since it opened in 2016. **The theatre is the proud creation of the Spanish Theatre Company (STC)**, an organisation which aims to bring the best of Spanish and Latin American culture to London and to British audiences, and the Chamber encourages its associates to support this wonderful institution.

(From left) Hannah Sanders (London & Partners), María Domínguez (Meliá Hotels), and Coro González-Aller Berenguer (Meliá Hotels), attending the Cervantes Theatre opening night event.





Guests attending the Cervantes Theatre opening night event.



(From left) Jorge de Juan, Founder of the Spanish Theatre Company, with Philip Pérez (Indra), Magdalena Filipek (Arup) and Alcibiades López Cerón (FCC Construction) attending the Cervantes Theatre opening night event.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

6TH JUNE

BAR RIOJA LAUNCH PARTY

As part of the Patrons' Club event series, Patron Members of the Chamber were invited to attend the exclusive launch party of **Bar Rioja** by **Chamber Member Camino**.

Launched by award-winning restaurateur and hispanophile **Richard Bigg**, Bar Rioja is **the UK's only bar that exclusively serves wines from the renowned wine region of Rioja**. Guests were provided with a quality selection of cava, red, and white wines that showcased the tradition and culture of the Rioja region.

This event was a wonderful occasion for guests to taste some fantastic wine and food, while celebrating the new home of Rioja in the UK.



Guests attending the Bar Rioja launch party.

PATRONS' CLUB EVENTS

23RD NOVEMBER

THE AUTUMN STATEMENT: WAS IT A RESET FOR THE GOVERNMENT?

In November of 2023, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer the Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt delivered the Autumn Financial Statement. In light of this announcement, the **Spanish Chamber of Commerce teamed up with Chamber Patron Signum Global Advisors to host an exclusive webinar** which explored the key insights that could be gained from the Autumn Statement and the impact it was set to have on the UK.

Patron and Benefactor Members of the Spanish Chamber were invited to attend this session, delivered by **Nicholas FitzRoy, Senior UK/Europe Analyst and Partner at Signum Global Advisors**, which covered key takeaways on what was in the Autumn Statement, and its wider implications for the UK economy.



SIGNUM
GLOBAL ADVISORS

PATRONS' CLUB EVENT

The Autumn Statement: Was it a reset for the Government?

THURSDAY 23RD NOVEMBER
10:30AM – 11:30AM GMT / 11:30AM – 12:30PM CET
PLATFORM: ZOOM



50 Club
OF YEARS

SPANISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

EVENTS SERIES

LA LIGA WATCH PARTIES

For the first of the two new **Events Series** launched by the Spanish Chamber in 2023, **we teamed up with Patron Member LaLiga to host a series of exclusive football watch parties**. During these events, guests had the opportunity to network with other Members, and connect with the Chamber's wider network in a different setting. This Events Series was kindly sponsored by Chamber Benefactor **Mahou San Miguel**, and guests attending the evening events enjoyed complimentary bottles of beer as they watched the match.



2ND FEBRUARY

LALIGA X SCCUK NETWORKING EVENT | REAL MADRID VS VALENCIA CF

The first watch party of this year's series kicked off with the highly anticipated **Real Madrid vs Valencia CF match**. All who attended enjoyed an evening of networking with fellow Chamber Members and other attendees in a relaxed setting, while also showing support for their favourite team.



Guests attending the Real Madrid vs Valencia CF watch party.

26TH APRIL

LALIGA X SCCUK NETWORKING EVENT | ATLÉTICO MADRID VS RCD MALLORCA

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was delighted to collaborate again with our **Patron Member LaLiga** to host another edition of our exclusive football watch parties. This time, guests gathered to watch the **Atlético Madrid vs RCD Mallorca match**.

Guests of the event spent the evening networking with fellow Chamber Members and other contacts in a less formal setting, all while supporting their favourite Spanish team.

25TH MAY

LALIGA X SCCUK NETWORKING EVENT | CA OSASUNA VS ATHLETIC BILBAO

As the football season came to a close, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK teamed up once more with **Patron LaLiga** to host another exclusive official LaLiga watch party, to watch the match between **CA Osasuna and Athletic Club**.

Attendees spent an enjoyable evening with fellow Chamber Members, and had the opportunity to network in a different environment.



Guests attending the CA Osasuna vs Athletic Bilbao watch party.



Guests attending the CA Osasuna vs Athletic Bilbao watch party.

26TH JULY

¡VAMOS ESPAÑA! SPAIN VS ZAMBIA VIP NETWORKING BREAKFAST

In this edition of our highly popular watch parties in collaboration with **Chamber Patron LaLiga**, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK invited guests to support the **Spanish Women's National Team** as they faced off against Zambia in the World Cup group stages.

Attendees enjoyed a morning of relaxed networking with fellow Chamber Members and other guests, while also being able to show support for their national team and enjoy a delicious breakfast.

The Chamber advocates for **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion** in everything we do, and we were proud to host this event as part of our ongoing efforts to promote these principles.



Ben Middleton (Irwin Mitchell), attending the Spain vs Zambia VIP networking breakfast.

15TH AUGUST

¡VAMOS ESPAÑA! SPAIN VS SWEDEN VIP NETWORKING BREAKFAST

In the final instalment of this event series of 2023, the Spanish Chamber, in collaboration with **Patron LaLiga**, hosted a networking breakfast to support the **Spanish Women's National football team** as they faced Sweden in the semi-finals of the World Cup.

Members and non-Members were in attendance, and guests were able to enjoy a relaxed morning of networking over a complimentary breakfast, all while supporting the Spanish Women's team, who went on to win the whole tournament!



Guests attending the Spain vs Sweden VIP networking breakfast.



Guests attending the Spain vs Sweden VIP networking breakfast.

EVENTS SERIES

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

Our hugely popular Business Breakfast series, held in collaboration with **Chamber Patron Meliá Hotels International**, returned this year for another successful run. We were proud to host **eight editions** of the event this year, which were attended by high-profile guest speakers. Attendees were provided with useful **insights directly from policymakers and diplomatic representatives**, and each talk was followed by the opportunity for guests to ask questions and network over a traditional Spanish breakfast.

23RD FEBRUARY

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH THE RT HON. GREG HANDS MP, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

The first Meliá Business Breakfast of the year proudly welcomed **the Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP, Minister without Portfolio and Chairman of the Conservative Party**, as the Guest of Honour.

Hosted in the stunning **Meliá White House** Hotel, the Minister updated attendees on future trade agreements, including FTA implementation, British-Spanish relations, and the Northern Ireland situation, and addressed topics including market access strategy for 2023–2024 and potential solutions to mobility issues.

The talk was then followed by a Q&A session, after which guests had the opportunity to network over a traditional Spanish breakfast.



(From left) Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK, the Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP, Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, and Jorge Cabrera, Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy in the UK.

2ND MARCH

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH LORD JOHNSON OF LAINSTON CBE, MINISTER OF STATE FOR INVESTMENT

For this Meliá Business Breakfast, the Chamber was delighted to welcome **Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE, Minister of State for Investment**, as the special guest.

Lord Johnson gave attendees an overview and updates on the work of the Office for Investment, and identified key growth sectors across the UK that would provide Spanish companies with the best investment opportunities.

The presentation was followed by questions, and the morning concluded with attendees being able to network over a delicious Spanish breakfast.



Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston CBE delivering a speech to guests at the Meliá Business Breakfast.

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

19TH APRIL

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH PAUL SCULLY MP, MINISTER FOR LONDON AND PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MINISTER FOR TECH AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY)

This month's Meliá Business Breakfast invited **Mr. Paul Scully MP, Minister for London and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy)** at the **Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)**, as the Guest of Honour.

The Minister spoke to attendees about the UK's new Science and Technology Framework, International Tech Strategy, and discussed the work of the recently established Department for Science Innovation and Technology.

There was particular focus on the Science & Technology framework, published earlier this year, which outlines the UK's vision for science and technology until 2030, and includes the International Tech Strategy, an important vehicle to deliver this goal internationally.



Paul Scully MP delivering the keynote speech at the Meliá Business Breakfast.

3RD MAY

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH LEO DOCHERTY MP, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPE

For May's Meliá Business Breakfast, the Chamber was pleased to welcome **Leo Docherty MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Europe**, as the special guest.

The Minister detailed the work of the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** towards deepening the bilateral relationship between Spain and the UK, overcoming global challenges to trade, and supporting the UK's new relationship with the European Union while also working to expand the opportunities this can provide.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK is proud to continue to facilitate this open dialogue and exchange between Spanish companies and the UK Government. With this in mind, our Members were able to participate in a Q&A session with the Minister following his presentation, and then to network with other guests over a delicious breakfast.



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Leo Docherty MP and H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, attending the Meliá Business Breakfast.

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

7TH JUNE

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH IGNACIO CARTAGENA NÚÑEZ, CONSUL GENERAL OF SPAIN IN EDINBURGH

For the fifth Meliá Business Breakfast of the year, the Chamber was glad to invite **Ignacio Cartagena Núñez, Consul General of Spain in Edinburgh**, as the Guest of Honour.

This Business Breakfast spotlighted the hugely important trade relationship between Scotland and Spain, and the cultural and commercial ties between the two nations.

The Consul General discussed topics including the bilateral relations between Scotland and Spain within the framework of consular actions, such as those pertaining to regional governments, companies and universities. He also gave an updated overview of the Scottish economy, detailing sectors of interest, and concluded with a future projection of the position of Scotland within the broader sphere of Spanish and British commercial interests.

Guests could then ask questions, and were given the chance to network with other attendees over a Spanish breakfast.



5TH JULY

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP, MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, MARKETS AND SMALL BUSINESS

This month's Meliá Business Breakfast proudly welcomed **Kevin Hollinrake MP, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business**, as the special guest.

This presentation was directed towards SMEs that were both looking to enter the British market, and those already established there, providing them with information directly from the British Government about access to finance, scale up strategy, and labour market and employment rights.

The Minister discussed topics including growth and scale strategies for small businesses and enterprises, options for securing funding, and policies regarding consumers and competition.



Kevin Hollinrake MP (centre) with Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber (left), and Mónica Fernández-Mejuto, Vice-President of the Spanish Chamber, attending the Meliá Business Breakfast.

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

12TH SEPTEMBER

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH THE RT HON. GRAHAM STUART MP, MINISTER FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

For the first Meliá Business Breakfast of the latter half of the year, the Chamber was delighted to welcome **the Rt Hon. Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero**, as the special guest.

The discussion centred on the work of the new **Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)**, established in February 2023, specifically on its efforts to deliver a secure energy supply, ensure energy markets are fully functioning, and seize the opportunities provided by the Net Zero policy to spearhead new green industries.

The talk was followed by a discussion with guests, where they could ask the Minister questions, after which they had the opportunity to network over a traditional Spanish breakfast.

The Rt Hon. Graham Stuart MP during his speech at the Meliá Business Breakfast.



28TH NOVEMBER

MELIÁ BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE EU DELEGATION TO THE UK, MR. PEDRO SERRANO

For the final Meliá Business Breakfast of 2023, the Spanish Chamber proudly welcomed **H.E. the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to the UK, Mr. Pedro Serrano**, as the guest speaker.

The **Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom** is one of 143 EU diplomatic missions around the world, established after the UK's withdrawal from the EU to represent the EU and engage with the UK Government, political actors, media, academia, business, and the British public.

The Ambassador spoke about EU-UK relations and the EU's current global position, and detailed the ways the delegation is working to build and strengthen the new EU-UK relationship post-Brexit.



H.E. the Ambassador of the EU Delegation to the UK, Mr. Pedro Serrano (right), greeting Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, at the final Meliá Business Breakfast of the year.

EDI EVENTS

PROUD OF OUR PRIDE

Here at the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, we are committed to the promotion of **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** in everything we do.

In the interest of promoting these values, we were delighted to collaborate with the **Spanish Embassy in the UK** and **Chamber Patron Deutsche Bank** to host our Proud of our Pride event at the Spanish Ambassador's Residence in London.

This event celebrated Spain's pioneering role in affirming LGBTQIA+ rights, which has made Spanish society one of the most inclusive in the world. The United Kingdom shares this commitment to leading international efforts to ensure that LGBTQIA+ rights are respected across the world, and the Chamber was honoured to host an event that represented this shared ambition.

The event included a photo exhibition by **Agencia EFE** of some of the most iconic images of the past 50 years of Gay Pride in Spain.

The Chamber was also delighted to welcome **Lord Browne of Madingley, former CEO of British Petroleum**, and the **Rt. Hon. Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE, Prime Minister's Special Envoy on LGBTQIA+ Rights**, as the key speakers, who kindly shared some inspiring anecdotes about their experience as members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and **Fabrizio Campelli, Head of Corporate Bank and Investment Bank at Deutsche Bank**, who spoke on behalf of the bank about their EDI strategies and the ways they work to support the LGBTQIA+ community.

A panel discussion also took place during the event, between entrepreneur **Julio Bruno, CEO and Founder of Chamber Patron BeBeMe**, and **Prasad Hattikudur, Director at Deutsche Bank**, who were welcomed to the stage by **Adam Fleming, Chief Political Correspondent at the BBC**. Their conversation explored the importance of protecting LGBTQIA+ rights, and the value of having diversity in the workplace, and was expertly moderated by **Elaine McLaughlin, Senior Managing Director at Deutsche Bank and Deutsche Bank Pride Ally**.

The evening closed with music from a DJ set supplied by **Lio Pacha**, and guests enjoyed an evening of networking with fellow Chamber Members and other guests.

Lord Browne of Madingley delivering a speech at the Proud of our Pride Event.





(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Lord Browne of Madingley, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE, and Fabrizio Campelli, Head of Corporate Bank and Investment Bank at Deutsche Bank, attending the Proud of our Pride event.



Fabrizio Campelli, Head of Corporate Bank and Investment Bank at Deutsche Bank, delivering a speech to guests at the Proud of our Pride event.

Guest speakers, (from left) Elaine McLaughlin (Deutsche Bank), Julio Bruno (BeBeMe) and Prasad Hattikudur (Deutsche Bank), participating in a panel discussion at the Proud of our Pride event.



Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE making a speech to guests at the Proud of our Pride event.





Official photo of guest speakers with the President of the Spanish Chamber. (From left) Julio Bruno (BeBeMe), Adam Fleming (BBC), Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Fabrizio Campelli (Deutsche Bank), H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Lord Herbert of South Downs, Elaine McLaughlin (Deutsche Bank), and Prasad Hattikudur (Deutsche Bank).



(From left) Raquel Barrera (Diversitas Institute), Paul Barwick (NICE) and Alfonso Álvarez (Cellnex) attending the Proud of our Pride event.

EDI EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY NETWORKING RECEPTION

As part of our **EDI Events Series**, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain, had the pleasure of inviting Chamber Members and friends to its very first **International Women's Day networking reception** at the Spanish Embassy.

The Chamber was delighted to welcome **the Rt Hon. Baroness D'Souza CMG**, former speaker and current member of the House of Lords, as our special guest speaker on this occasion.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK has a strong commitment to the promotion of **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** in all that we do.

This commitment has taken the form of a **series of initiatives**, including this International Women's Day networking reception, which aim to **provide a platform for the female talent** of the companies which make up the Chamber, **raise awareness** of the challenges and opportunities women face in a business environment, and **promote the social and corporate debate surrounding the benefits of gender equity**.



Guests with Baroness D'Souza (centre right) at the International Women's Day networking reception.



(From left) H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Baroness D'Souza, Raquel Barrera (Diversitas Institute), and Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, attending the International Women's Day networking reception.



Baroness D'Souza greeting guests at the International Women's Day networking reception.



Nyasha Gardner (Stevens and Bolton) with other guests at the International Women's Day networking reception.



Baroness D'Souza greeting the President of the Spanish Chamber, Eduardo Barrachina.

EDI EVENTS

WOMEN WHO INSPIRE: CONSTRUCTION

The second instalment of our **Women Who Inspire Event Series** spotlighted the construction sector and featured a panel discussion from prominent female industry executives.

These included **Emma Head, Technical Services Delivery Director at HS2 Ltd, Nuria Vázquez, Operations Director of Mace, Maria Fisentzou, Managing Director at FTI Consulting, and Nuria Puig-Mas, Bid Director at Ferrovial Construction.**

Their conversations were expertly moderated by **Carla Vargas Puccio, International Communications Director at Roman Reputation Matters.**

Their discussion **focused on the female experience of navigating the corporate world** and the challenges, as well as opportunities, this presents. The guests also shared inspiring personal anecdotes and experiences.

Following this, attendees had the opportunity to network over drinks and canapés with other Members of the Chamber and experts within the construction industry.



Official photo of guest speakers. (From left), Carla Vargas Puccio (Roman), Raquel Barrera (Diversitas Institute), Cristina Ginés (Sener), Emma Head (HS2), Maria Fisentzou (FTI Consulting), Nuria Vázquez (Mace), and Nuria Puig-Mas (Ferrovial).



Speakers taking part in a panel discussion at the Women Who Inspire: Construction event, moderated by Carla Vargas Puccio (Roman, far left).



Guests attending the Women Who Inspire: Construction event.



Cristina Ginés (Sener), delivering the welcome remarks at the Women Who Inspire: Construction event.



Guest speakers at the Women Who Inspire: Construction event with H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (centre) and Cristina Ginés (Sener, centre left). (From left), Nuria Puig-Mas (Ferroviál), Nuria Vázquez (Mace), Maria Fisenzou (FTI Consulting), and Emma Head (HS2).

OUR MEMBERS' SOCIAL COMMITMENTS: EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

The Spanish Chamber's new **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** commitment was introduced at the 2022 AGM and outlined our strategy to promote these values across all aspects of the Chamber's work.

This year, the Chamber has continued to uphold its dedication to these principles and has made great efforts to emphasise them within our events.

Throughout the 2023 events calendar, the Chamber has been proud to collaborate with a wide range of companies from different sectors and cultural backgrounds, to **spotlight the diversity that makes our extensive business network across Spain and the UK so strong.**

Our **Women Who Inspire event series** provided an opportunity to spotlight women in corporate roles in typically male-dominated sectors. Guest speakers shared personal anecdotes of how their gender has shaped their career experience and recognised that we must continue making progress as we strive towards greater equality. In keeping with our goal to lead and further the debate surrounding equality in the corporate world, and the benefits of promoting the values of EDI, we have **interviewed some of our Members to find out what EDI means to them, why they have adopted EDI policies, what form these have taken, and the changes they have encountered as a result.**



Guests attending the Proud of our Pride event at the Spanish Ambassador's Residence.

Q: Could you briefly describe BeBeMe and its presence in the UK?

A: BeBeMe is a **unique wine merchant and retailer**. Our mission is to offer the best curated selection of wines by directly sourcing our products from all over the world at affordable prices. **Our core values are rooted in sustainability and a genuine concern for our planet, all while maintaining an unwavering commitment to quality.** As a result, we exclusively partner with wineries that prioritise eco-friendly practices. We currently own and operate **three bars in London and two wine shops and distribute our wines to over fifty restaurants and bars in the city.**

Q: What does Equity, Diversity and Inclusion mean for your company?

A: At BeBeMe, the values of **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** are foundational to our identity. We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all team members, ensuring diverse perspectives in both our workforce and the wines we curate. Our focus on inclusion fosters an environment where every individual feels valued and contributes to the vibrant culture of BeBeMe, driving innovation and success. By embracing and celebrating differences, we believe we can create a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable future for BeBeMe and the communities we serve.

Q: Could you describe the steps you have taken to implement and develop any Equity, Diversity and Inclusion related policies or initiatives in your company?

A: Our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is an ongoing journey, and we continuously assess and refine our policies to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of our diverse team and the communities we serve. Some of the steps we have taken include:

Diversity in Sourcing: Our commitment to diversity starts at the roots of our business. We actively seek out and partner exclusively with family-owned wineries from various regions worldwide. This approach not only promotes cultural diversity but also supports smaller, often overlooked producers, bringing a unique array of wines to the UK market.

Inclusive Hiring Practices: BeBeMe is dedicated to building a team that represents diverse perspectives and backgrounds. We actively seek out individuals from various demographics to ensure a well-rounded and inclusive workforce.

Training and Awareness Programs: To create a more inclusive workplace, we have implemented regular training sessions and awareness programs for our employees. These sessions cover topics such as unconscious bias, cultural sensitivity, and creating an inclusive workplace culture. By fostering awareness, we aim to build an environment where every team member feels valued and respected.

Q: Can you talk about a successful EDI related policy that you have introduced in your company?

A: When we use recruiters to find candidates, we insist on blind CVs, where the name, gender or other identifiable information is removed, allowing for an **unbiased and fair evaluation of candidates** based solely on their qualifications, skills, and experiences. This practice aligns with our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion at BeBeMe.

Q: Looking ahead, what steps are you going to take in the future to further your existing EDI policies?

A: BeBeMe is dedicated to advancing its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policies through a comprehensive approach. We plan to implement **targeted diversity recruitment initiatives** to further diversify our workforce. Regular and inclusive diversity and inclusion training will be a cornerstone of our ongoing efforts, fostering awareness and understanding among all employees. As we grow and we have a significant workforce, to strengthen our commitment to inclusivity, we aim to **establish employee resource groups that provide platforms for open dialogue**, idea sharing, and collaboration. These groups will play a pivotal role in shaping our policies and initiatives, ensuring that the diverse voices within our organisation are heard and valued.

In addition, BeBeMe will conduct a **transparent pay equity assessment** to identify and address any potential disparities, fostering a fair and equitable compensation structure. We recognise the importance of continuous improvement and staying abreast of evolving best practices, so we plan to regularly review and update our EDI policies accordingly.

In time, collaboration with external diversity organisations will be another key step, providing valuable insights and enabling partnerships that align with our commitment to creating an inclusive workplace. Through these initiatives, **BeBeMe aims to not only meet but exceed industry standards for EDI**, fostering a workplace culture that celebrates diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.



DELCANTO
CHAMBERS

Q: Could you briefly describe Del Canto Chambers and its presence in the UK?

A: Del Canto Chambers is a **firm of lawyers and barristers specialising in International Law and specifically in Anglo-Spanish tax law matters.**

It is the only firm of lawyers and barristers regulated in accordance with the rules of the Spanish Bar and the Bar Council of England and Wales and has offices in Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona, Madrid, A Coruña and London. Del Canto Chambers has represented clients in over 500 cases worldwide since 1981.

Q: What does Equity, Diversity and Inclusion mean for your company?

A: Since our establishment in the UK, we have been **committed to building a team of multicultural, multilingual professionals.** This enables us to offer more comprehensive client care by harnessing a diverse range of expertise in different systems and jurisdictions. Our aim has always been to provide our clients with a nuanced and informed perspective, navigating various complexities with a deep understanding of diverse cultural and linguistic contexts.

We have **professionals from Spain, Ecuador, Colombia, Morocco, Qatar and the UK.** In Del Canto Chambers, we understand that diversity brings forth a mosaic of perspectives, experiences and talents. We also create spaces where our team members from different nationalities and races feel a sense of belonging, **motivating our team members to share their cultural backgrounds and traditions with all colleagues.** We believe that this commitment not only enhances the professional growth and well-being of our team members but also contributes to a broader positive impact on the services we provide to our clients. Our dedication to EDI reflects our belief that embracing cultural diversity is a key driver of success and a testament to our shared humanity.

Q: Could you describe the steps you have taken to implement and develop any Equity, Diversity and Inclusion related policies or initiatives in your company?

A: At Del Canto Chambers, we prioritise gender equality as a fundamental principle of our philosophy. This commitment extends beyond the acknowledgment of our diverse workforce; it guides our actions.

DCC actively participates in the **Escuela de Pensamiento Feminista Clara Campoamor** in Spain, sending members of our administrative and legal teams to stay informed and updated on relevant issues.

Our initial approach to include Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in our Chambers with a gender perspective starts with our selection process. We **actively incorporate affirmative actions to adopt a proactive approach against discrimination**, with a specific focus on opening more opportunities to women and groups who are traditionally discriminated against. We are also committed to narrowing the remuneration gap within our Chambers. Our objective is to **offer our employees salaries above industry averages**, affording them the opportunity to lead comfortable lives. This, in turn, positively influences the enhancement of their living conditions and the well-being of their families. Furthermore, we aspire to assess the distribution of positions within our management and decision-making committees for a more equitable representation. Finally, **we are proud to offer leave for the care of dependents to all staff, irrespective of gender.** Our focus is not only on providing this benefit but also on ensuring that such leave does not hinder career progression.

Q: Can you talk about a successful EDI related policy that you have introduced in your company?

A: Currently, **70% of our workforce are women**, and we are dedicated to further increasing this percentage. We strongly believe in proactively fostering the advancement of women into leadership positions and are wholeheartedly committed to attracting a diverse range of talent.

In the last year, our training budget increased and we were able to **overcome barriers of time and distance to deliver learning to all our employees.** This includes a variety of personal development skills and training in new technologies and processes that could improve productivity, allowing our team members more time for personal development and projects.

We are also proud to have **played a pivotal role in facilitating the successful Bar application of the first Moroccan woman in the UK.** This achievement is particularly significant in light of the concerns expressed by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the low participation of women in the Moroccan workforce.

LEÓN FERNANDO DEL CANTO

Head of Chambers at Del Canto Chambers
Barrister in the UK and Wales and Spanish Abogado

Q: Implementing EDI strategies creates opportunities for greater equality in the workplace, but this can also present challenges. Could you please describe the main opportunities and challenges that you have encountered?

A: Implementing EDI strategies has provided significant opportunities for identifying highly committed and competent professionals who may have otherwise been overlooked due to their particular circumstances. Creating a supportive environment from top to bottom has been a crucial aspect of this experience.

Within our Chambers, a core challenge has been cultivating a workplace culture that instils confidence among our team in their own capabilities. This involves not only recognising and valuing their skills but also actively fostering an environment where each individual feels empowered to contribute their unique talents to the team. **Dismantling internalised perceptions of inequality has been an intricate aspect of this process**, as we work to create a space where everyone sees their worth and potential without the constraints of pre-existing biases.

Moreover, as we strive for inclusivity, **we have encountered complexities when engaging with certain traditional governmental institutions**. Addressing discriminatory practices within these entities has proven to be a significant obstacle. This challenge requires a nuanced approach, navigating bureaucratic structures and advocating for systemic changes that promote fairness and equal opportunities. It underscores our ongoing commitment to not only shape our internal culture but also actively participate in broader societal conversations and actions aimed at dismantling discriminatory practices. As we overcome these obstacles, we reinforce our dedication to creating a workplace that not only reflects our values but also contributes to positive transformations in the broader professional landscape.

Q: Looking ahead, what steps are you going to take in the future to further your existing EDI policies?

A: In the future, Del Canto Chambers is committed to **advancing our existing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policies with a specific focus on gender equality and multiculturalism**.

To achieve this, we aim to further strengthen initiatives that address any existing gender disparities within the Chambers. This includes **ensuring equal opportunities for career advancement, equitable compensation, and fostering an inclusive work environment** where all individuals, regardless of gender, feel valued and empowered.

“

OUR DEDICATION
TO EDI REFLECTS
OUR BELIEF THAT
EMBRACING
CULTURAL DIVERSITY
IS A KEY DRIVER OF
SUCCESS AND A
TESTAMENT TO OUR
SHARED HUMANITY.

We will **enhance our staff training programs** to raise awareness about diverse cultures and promote cultural competence within the workplace. This training will enable our team to better understand and appreciate the unique perspectives that individuals from various backgrounds bring to the legal profession.

We will **refine our recruitment strategies** to attract a more diverse talent pool, emphasising gender equality and multiculturalism. This includes actively seeking candidates from underrepresented groups and creating an inclusive hiring process that values diverse experiences and perspectives.

We also plan to **conduct regular diversity audits to assess the effectiveness of our EDI policies**. These audits will help us identify areas for improvement, measure progress, and ensure that our commitment to gender equality and multiculturalism remains a dynamic and evolving aspect of our organisational culture.

Q: Could you briefly describe Iberia and its presence in the UK?

A: Iberia is **Spain's flagship airline**, and has had a presence in the UK since May 1946. Iberia currently flies direct from London and Manchester.

Q: What does Equity, Diversity and Inclusion mean for your company?

A: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policies have become the **key to "leaving no one behind"** and are central to the sustainability of any business. At Iberia, we are well aware of this, so we have redesigned our Diversity Plan, which continues our commitment to EDI initiatives and promotes the development of a more diverse and inclusive culture in our organisation. **The more diversity there is in a work team, the fewer the biases and the more varied the points of view**, which will allow us to be more disruptive and creative! As an airline, it is also key to understand the diversity of our customers and be aware of their expectations and needs based on their age, nationality or type of disability... to give just a few examples.

Our aspiration is to eliminate stereotypes and break down barriers. This is precisely one of the six values that identify us as Iberia employees: "We are one and diverse".

Q: Could you describe the steps you have taken to implement and develop any Equity, Diversity and Inclusion related policies or initiatives in your company?

A: One of our major milestones this year in order to extend our commitment to EDI initiatives has been the **redesign and relaunch of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Plan** under a new strategic focus whose scope goes beyond gender and incorporates other groups such as generational, cultural (nationalities), LGBTQI+, and functional diversity.

This plan is based on three pillars: **internal awareness and training, company processes that guarantee its effectiveness, and external communication and reputational impact.**

Among the main actions undertaken during 2023 we can highlight:

- We have a new governance model with a support network of more than **200 diversity ambassadors.**
- We continue with the inspirational talks "People Who Inspire", which includes leading personalities representing the five major groups of the plan, and with **Pau Gasol** leading the cultural change of the company.
- We are working on a new intranet site called "We are one and diverse" that will gather all the information related to our EDI Plan, training program, new events, library...
- We have relaunched the III Edition of our **"Take the lead" development program for women**, which focuses on promoting the careers of women with high development potential.
- We have increased Iberia's visibility in forums, events, and diversity roundtables (Ellas Vuelan Alto, Santander Woman Summit, 50&50 GL...).
- We have celebrated the II Edition of the "Quiero ser" program in which **more than 35 girls between 14 to 18 years old were invited to our facilities with the aim of attracting and promoting talent toward technical careers in the aeronautical sector**, where women are still minorities in roles such as pilots or engineers.

Q: Looking ahead, what steps are you going to take in the future to further your existing EDI policies?

A: Our next steps are to continue consolidating this plan that we relaunched last year under this new strategy. Lots of work ahead!

“ **OUR ASPIRATION IS TO ELIMINATE STEREOTYPES AND BREAK DOWN BARRIERS.** ”

Q: Could you briefly describe Natura Bissé and its presence in the UK?

A: It all started in Barcelona in 1979 when Ricardo Fisas and Gloria Vergés founded Natura Bissé with a clear purpose: to take care of people's skin and their sense of well-being at every stage of life. We entered the world of beauty and wellness via the professional spa sector. Today we perform **over 7.5 million treatments every year**. In the United Kingdom, we work with some of the best hotels such as Ashford Castle, Grantley Hall or Four Seasons Hampshire and in the most exclusive department stores such as Harrods and Space NK.

Q: What does Equity, Diversity and Inclusion mean for your company?

A: The values of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, alongside respect and commitment, are fundamental pillars for us. Our founder, Ricardo Fisas, always believed that the success of a company is rooted in its people, and always conveyed the importance of having employees from whom one can glean both personal and professional insights. Another very important legacy he left us was the creation of the **Ricardo Fisas Natura Bissé Foundation**, established in 2008. Through its main social initiatives, the Oncology Skin Care Program and Project Different, **we contribute to improving the quality of life of people living with a diagnosis of cancer and promote the social integration of children with learning differences such as ADHD or dyslexia**, taking our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion beyond our organisation.

Q: Could you describe the steps you have taken to implement and develop any Equity, Diversity and Inclusion related policies or initiatives in your company?

A: We've proudly evolved into an organisation with a strong female presence. **80% of our total workforce consists of women, with 90% of the scientists in our laboratory and 70% of our executives being remarkable women**. Together, they form a collaborative team in a sector driven by female entrepreneurs. Furthermore, in Natura Bissé we actively encourage the internal mobility of our employees across international markets, fostering an environment where everyone can fully unleash their talents and skills. Regarding embracing diversity, we welcome employees from various nationalities. In the UK, renowned for its openness and cosmopolitan atmosphere, we are thrilled to embrace our staff within a diverse community, where **47% hail from Europe and 26% come from non-EU countries such as Brazil, China, and South Africa**.

Q: Can you talk about a successful EDI related policy that you have introduced in your company?

A: We are committed to our employees, ensuring favourable working conditions for them. To achieve this, we have our constantly evolving **Ethical Code and Equality Plan**. We take all steps necessary to ensure they do not just remain on paper, we have a number of specific projects designed to bring them to our day-to-day activities. These projects range from **monitoring the inclusive use of language in all communications, equal pay and access to training and promotions**, to employer branding efforts to attract an even more diverse talent.

But it doesn't end there. Natura Bissé believes in investing in our people's growth, which is why we've rolled out the **Corporate Languages Training Program** accessible to every single employee, no matter their role in the company or where they are based in the world. This program confers the possibility of unlimited training activities and online live training sessions in 12 languages, including English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Arabic. Interestingly, the adoption rate from our operational employees is surprisingly high and, in our view, this also bridges the IT literacy gap between people.

Q: Implementing EDI strategies creates opportunities for greater equality in the workplace, but this can also present challenges. Could you please describe the main opportunities and challenges that you have encountered?

A: Natura Bissé is more than just a business. It's a company of people to people, a community of individuals dedicated to each other. We often spend more time at work than at home, so we prioritise creating a comfortable and joyful workplace for all our employees. This is a great challenge, considering the diversity of roles within the company, but we firmly believe that by **nurturing a positive environment and addressing the needs of every team member**, we can achieve the best business results. On the other hand, having subsidiaries and presence in 40 countries around the world is another challenge for us. **The cultures and modus operandi are very different from each other**. We must consider all markets and try to create a global strategy that fits all.



Natura Bissē
Barcelona

A Spanish skincare brand with an international spirit

SCIENTIFICALLY CRAFTED TO TRANSFORM YOUR SKIN
AND YOUR WELL-BEING AT EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

DISCOVER MORE AT [NATURABISSE.COM](https://www.naturabisse.com)

OTHER EVENTS

II ANNUAL BRITISH-SPANISH BUSINESS COCKTAIL

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was delighted to host the British-Spanish Business Cocktail Reception at the historic **Palacio de Santoña in Madrid**.

Members were invited to this exclusive evening and had the opportunity to **network with the British-Spanish business community** in the incredible setting of one of the best-preserved 19th century palaces in Madrid. Prior to the event, the Spanish Chamber organised a **Roundtable Discussion** in conjunction with the **Department for Business and Trade** and the **British Embassy in Madrid**, which is also where the discussion took place. A select number of companies attended, both Members and non-Members, and the Chamber was delighted to have been able to facilitate this valuable opportunity to connect with the British Government.

The Chamber's close relationship with the **Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom** was exemplified by the attendance of **H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco**, and **H.E. the Ambassador of the UK to Spain, Mr. Hugh Elliott**. The Spanish Ambassador expressed that "in the last year and a half, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in London has acquired 30% more Members. I believe that the work that it does, together with the Embassy, is an example of public-private collaboration and demonstrates the value of the Chamber's network." The British Ambassador reiterated the importance of British-Spanish bilateral relations, both culturally and economically, highlighting the "excellent collaboration between the two embassies". It was evident that the **relationship between Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as that of the Chamber and the British Embassy, have never been stronger**.

Ángel Asensio, President of the Cámara de Comercio de Madrid, and **Pascual Navarro, Secretary of State for the European Union**, also addressed the audience, and emphasised the importance of the evening in cementing the positive bilateral relations between the two nations.

The evening was a pertinent example of the Chamber's ability to successfully connect British and Spanish businesses, as well as to **bridge the gap between public and private institutions**. The attendance of large Spanish investors, representatives from several ministries, large and small companies, and regional Chambers of Commerce demonstrated this, and the Chamber prides itself on being able to facilitate these connections.

This event was kindly sponsored by Chamber Patron **Marqués de Cáceres**, Benefactor **Mahou San Miguel**, and the **Spanish Ham Master**.





H.E. the Ambassador of the UK to Spain, Mr. Hugh Elliott, delivering a speech to guests at the II Annual British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, during his speech to guests at the II Annual British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, making a speech to guests at the II Annual British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



(From left) Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber, Ángel Asensio Laguna, President of Cámara de Comercio de Madrid, H.E. the Ambassador of the UK to Spain, Mr. Hugh Elliott, H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco, Alicia Varela, Director General of International Business and Investment at the Ministerio de Economía, Comercio, y Empresa, and Álvaro Nadal, Head of the Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in the UK.

Kathryn Walton (left), Foreign Trade Manager at the Spanish Chamber, and Cristina Ginés (Sener).



H.E. the Ambassador of Spain to the UK, Mr. José Pascual Marco (left) attending the II Annual British-Spanish Business Cocktail.



OTHER EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS' DRINKS RECEPTION

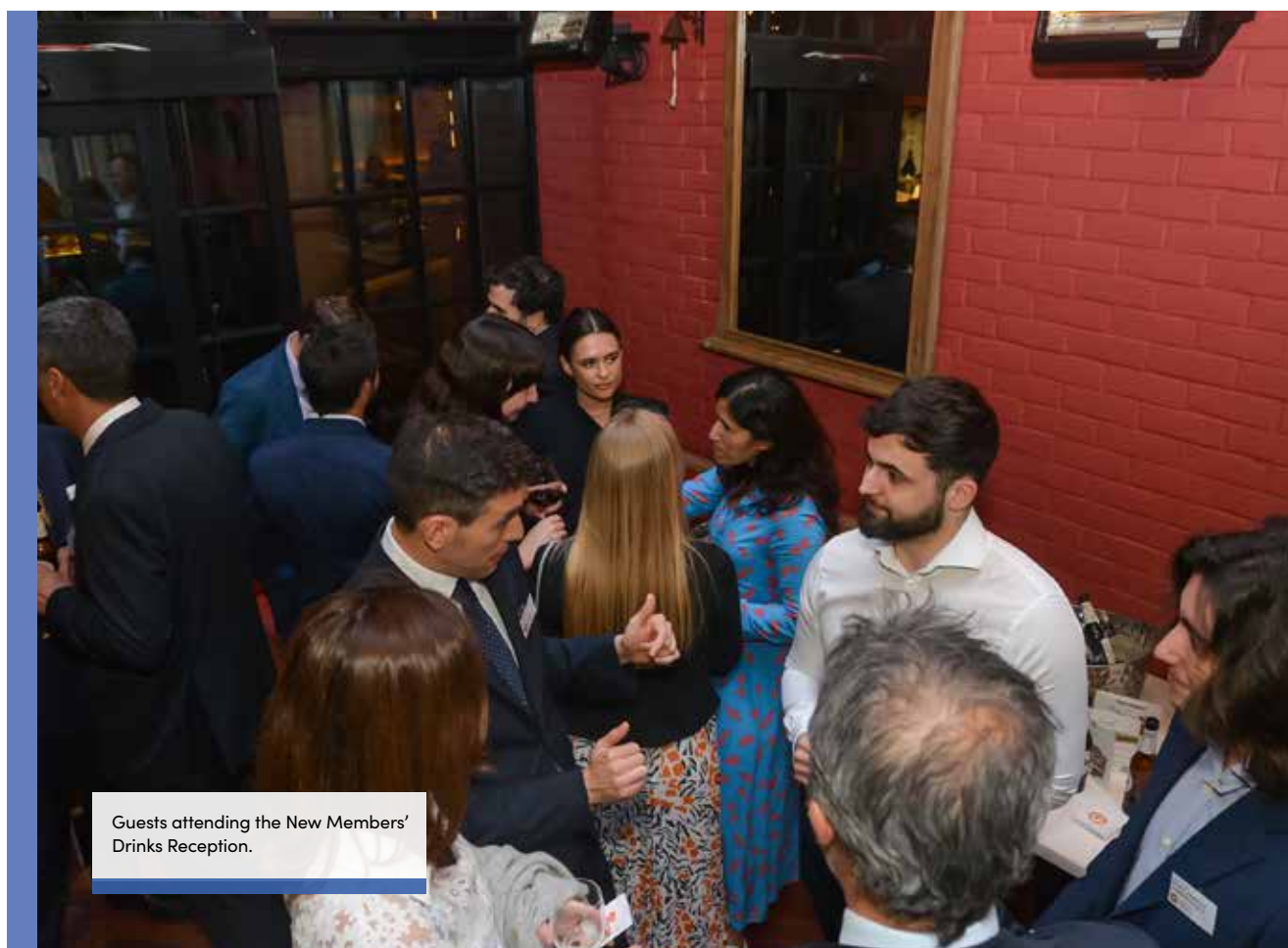
New additions to the Chamber's network were warmly invited to an evening drinks reception at **Chamber Patron BiBo Shoreditch's** stylish Spanish restaurant. Attendees had the opportunity to get to know the **President of the Chamber, Eduardo Barrachina**, Members of the Executive Board, Chamber staff, and fellow new Members.

Guests enjoyed a glass of cava and a selection of delicious tapas while networking in a relaxed setting.

This event was kindly sponsored by Chamber Benefactor **Raventós Codorníu** and **Victoria Málaga**.

RAVENTÓS CODORNÍU
WINERIES & VINEYARDS

VICTORIA
MÁLAGA 1896



Guests attending the New Members' Drinks Reception.



Rebecca Wall (left) Head of Events and Corporate Relations at the Spanish Chamber, greeting guests at the New Members' Drinks Reception.



Guests attending the New Members' Drinks Reception.

OTHER EVENTS

SEMINARS

24TH MAY

SEMINAR | COMMON LEGAL AND TAX ISSUES BETWEEN UK AND SPAIN

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was thrilled to once again team up with **Benefactor Buckles Solicitors** and **Member ZADAL** to hold another informative session covering the common legal and tax issues that arise for individuals that have relocated between the UK and Spain.

This seminar covered legal issues, including the **financial implications in the event of a divorce after having relocated from Spain to the UK**, such as considerations regarding marriage contracts vs pre/postnuptial agreements, the powers of the English courts in such cases, and the distribution of assets under English law upon divorce.

The discussion also provided information for the Succession of Spanish nationals with assets in the UK, including those with one or multiple wills, details on Domicile and UK Inheritance Tax (IHT), and some brief remarks on mental incapacity for Spanish nationals living in England & Wales.



(From left), Constantino Vidal (ZADAL), Paula Piquer and Álvaro Aznar (Buckles), and Carlos Saldaña (ZADAL).

8TH NOVEMBER

SEMINAR | TAX RISKS OF EMPLOYEES WORKING ON A CROSS BORDER BASIS

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was delighted to team up with **Chamber Member Blick Rothenberg**, a leading tax, accounting, and business advisory firm, for this seminar held at their London office.

The session aimed to address the tax situation created by employees that work on a cross-border basis and provided an overview of the **tax implications of a global workforce** so companies can identify these when dealing with inbound and outbound employees (with a particular focus on remote workers, business visitors, and non-executive directors).

The seminar also gave useful tips on how to avoid the traps of navigating the complexities of having such a global workforce and to help companies with compliance across jurisdictions.



WEBINARS

17TH JANUARY WEBINAR | YOUR PENSION, YOUR OPTIONS

In our first webinar of the year, the Chamber was pleased to invite **Luis Villar, Chartered Wealth Manager at Chamber Member St James's Place Wealth Management**, to discuss pension planning.

The webinar addressed the topics of different types of pensions, how much you need to save for retirement, how much can be contributed to your pension, how tax relief works, how to consolidate your pension and secure your legacy, and retirement options and tax planning considerations. Mr. Villar shared valuable insights on how to best plan for retirement and provided specific advice for Spanish individuals, families and companies in the UK.

Mr. Villar shared valuable insights on how to best plan for retirement and provided specific advice for Spanish individuals, families and companies in the UK.



20TH MARCH WEBINAR | 2023 UK BUDGET

This webinar was held in collaboration with the **Council of Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the UK** (of which we are a proud member) and discussed the tax and immigration implications of the 2023 UK Spring budget for international trade and investment in the UK.

The CFCC was delighted to be joined by **Chamber Member Blick Rothenberg**, alongside **Ebl Miller Rosenfalck and Crestview Strategy**, in a panel discussion on the implications of the Budget on international businesses looking to expand into the UK.

The webinar specifically focused on the aspects of the Spring Budget potentially affecting international businesses looking at UK expansion, those that are already here, and also expanded on the current work visa options for those coming to the UK, as well as immigration trends, including those pertaining to sponsorship.

13TH APRIL WEBINAR | HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS CHANGING THE BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

Held in collaboration with new **Patron of the Chamber, Plain Concepts**, this webinar explored the potential applications of AI in the commercial landscape.

The session provided an overview of what AI is and aimed to simplify its complexities, while demonstrating how AI is transforming the way businesses operate and compete.

This webinar specifically focused on the practical uses and results of AI across a range of industries and explored how AI is being used to drive innovation, boost productivity, and transform the customer experience. The session then explored the way these uses shape the development and adoption of AI.



WEBINARS

19TH SEPTEMBER WEBINAR | OPENING A COMPANY IN THE UK FOR SPANISH CITIZENS

This session was held in collaboration with **Chamber Member Flying Formations** and sought to provide an introduction to Spanish citizens looking to set up a business in the UK on the processes and benefits involved.

The webinar covered the benefits of conducting business in the UK, what the process of opening a UK LTD and entering the UK market entails, and details on the different forms of taxation required of businesses in the UK.

Attendees were then given the opportunity to ask questions directly to the speaker and have their specific concerns and queries addressed.



21ST SEPTEMBER WEBINAR | CREATING EXPERIENCES THAT WOW: HOW DIGITAL EXPERIENCE PLATFORMS ARE TRANSFORMING THE WAY YOUR CLIENTS APPROACH YOUR BUSINESS

For this webinar, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK teamed up with **Benefactor Member knowmad mood** to deliver this session on how to optimise the digital potential of companies in order to maximise their growth.



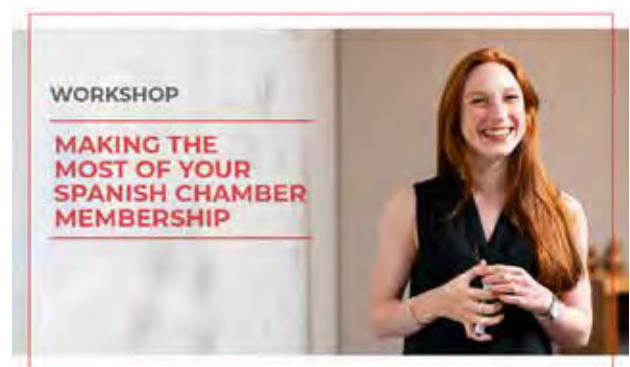
The webinar provided an insight into the UK's Digital Market and explored and gave examples of how to launch a complete digital strategy, including managing and tailoring content across different platforms, the impacts of AI on Digital Experience Platforms, and solutions to frequent digital challenges companies face.

Attendees then had the opportunity to ask questions and have their specific company needs addressed.

WORKSHOPS

27TH JANUARY, 31ST MARCH, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 24TH NOVEMBER WORKSHOP | MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SPANISH CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

This series of Online Workshops were held by the Chamber's team and gave new and prospective Chamber Members the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of joining our association and the services provided by each tier of Membership.



These sessions were interactive, and guests were encouraged to share details of their business and commercial needs so that the Chamber team could best guide them in their situation. Non-members were informed of the ways a Chamber Membership would assist them and existing Members were advised on how to maximise the benefits of their membership.

ELEVATOR PITCH SPEED NETWORKING EVENTS

4TH APRIL, 5TH DECEMBER

Our hugely successful **Elevator Pitch speed networking event** returned this year for two editions, and both were once again sold out.

The event took place in a hybrid format at the Chamber's London office, meaning attendees also had the opportunity to participate online. Each guest gave a **short presentation about their company to representatives from a variety of different industries**, after which attendees could ask them questions.

Following this, participants then had the chance to network further over a light breakfast and continue the conversations and connections they had established earlier.

The Chamber hosted a second edition of the **Elevator Pitch** in December, which proved just as popular as the first. The maximum number of companies attended, from a great variety of fields, which led to very interesting discussions and connections being made between guests.



Guests attending the Elevator Pitch speed networking event.



TOURS AND EXPERIENCES

20TH JANUARY, 15TH SEPTEMBER LONDON RETAIL TOURS IN COLLABORATION WITH BRANDLOND

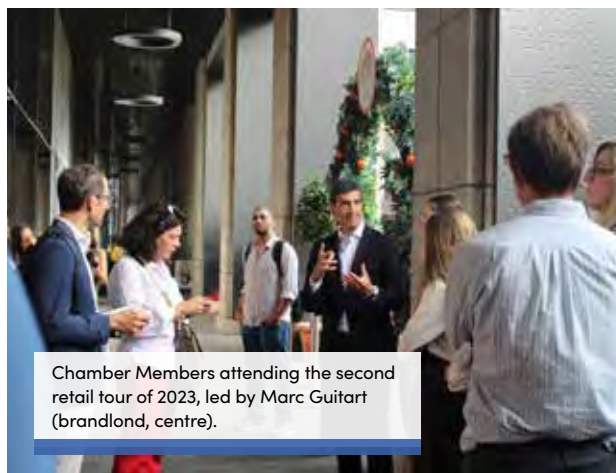
The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was excited to partner with Chamber Member **brandlond**® to offer **two** exclusive retail tours of Central London in 2023. This unique opportunity offered attendees the chance to immerse themselves in brand experiences and was led by **branding expert and founder of brandlond**®, **Marc Guitart**.

The events consisted of a guided tour of selected brands that focus on their point of sale as a central part of their business model, and Marc Guitart's commentary of the tour analysed how brand experience can offer added value and differentiation to products or services. The first tour began at the Chamber's office in Marylebone and went through Marylebone High Street, Oxford Street, and ended in Mayfair. The tour was then followed by light refreshments at **Mercato Mayfair** and a chance for guests to discuss their experience.

The second carefully planned route began at Eataly by Liverpool Street Station and went through Spitalfields and Shoreditch. Marc provided a **guided and commented tour through selected brands** that focus on experience and point of sale as a part of their business model. This retail tour was also followed by light refreshments.



Marc Guitart (brandlond, right), guiding the first retail tour of Central London for Chamber Members.



Chamber Members attending the second retail tour of 2023, led by Marc Guitart (brandlond, centre).



Chamber Members attending the second retail tour of 2023, led by Marc Guitart (brandlond, right).

2ND MARCH, EXPERIENCE | CASTILLA-LA MANCHA WINE TASTING

This exclusive tasting experience was held in collaboration with **Instituto de Promoción Exterior de Castilla-La Mancha (IPEX)** and took place at Chamber Benefactor **Hispania's** popular London restaurant.

Attendees of the event had the opportunity to taste wines from three Spanish Designations of Origin (DOs): Castilla-La Mancha, Manchuela, and Almansa. The selection featured a variety of high-quality Spanish wine from twenty handpicked regional bodegas, served with a selection of delicious canapés provided by **Hispania's accredited Chef Marcos Morán** (one Michelin Star and three *Soles Repsol*) and prepared with ingredients from Castilla-La Mancha.

7TH MARCH

EXPERIENCE | INTERNATIONAL TASTING: WINE, SPIRITS, AND BEER

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, in collaboration with the **Council of Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the UK (CFCC)**, was delighted to invite Members and friends to the 13th edition of this hugely popular networking event, which is always a highlight of the year's events calendar.

Guests were able to network with members from many international Chambers of Commerce in the UK in a less formal setting and sample a wide selection of delicious wines, spirits, and beers from around the world.

Guests attending the International Tasting event.



Guests had the opportunity to sample a range of drinks at the International Tasting event.



INTERVIEW WITH LORD DOMINIC JOHNSON OF LAINSTON CBE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS AND TRADE

Q: In your opinion, what factors make the United Kingdom attractive to foreign investors, and what more could be done to further attract and facilitate foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country?

A: The UK is one of the best places in the world to invest. We're the **top European destination for greenfield foreign direct investment projects** and we also have the third highest levels of inward investment in the world at \$2.7 trillion.

Our robust and business-friendly environment incentivises foreign companies to expand, trade, and invest reliably in the UK – and Spanish companies are no exception. In 2021, the inward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) **in the UK from Spain reached £41.3 billion in 2021. This shows the UK is the most important destination for Spanish overseas direct investment** – principally in finance, telecommunication, energy, insurance, air travel, retail, and hospitality.

According to the latest **Barometer Survey** by the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, **43% of Spanish firms investing in our country say that they're planning to expand their investments by 2023**, showing that the UK remains a top destination in the world for companies to invest and grow.

Q: Which UK sectors do you believe could benefit the most from an increased presence of Spanish companies in the United Kingdom?

A: The green energy sector could massively benefit from an increased presence of Spanish companies in the UK. We have already seen British and Spanish businesses joining forces to develop and deliver green energy from offshore wind, solar and hydrogen.

For example, Spanish energy company and **Chamber Patron Iberdrola**, has been one of the largest investors in the UK in recent years, most notably installing their largest offshore wind project globally in East Anglia. The company is also looking to invest a further £10 billion in green energy generation and electricity networks infrastructure between 2023-2025.

The UK Government has a key focus on improving the nation's physical and digital infrastructure, and Spanish firms getting involved can certainly boost those efforts through the help of initiatives which provide huge new opportunities for Spanish investors. Our Investment Atlas identifies the UK's most investable sectors such as life sciences, electric vehicles, and clean technologies.



It provides a visual representation of more than 50 strategic investment opportunities around the UK – each of which have sustainability at their core. From developing sustainable aviation technologies in Southwest England to plans for new wind farms off the coast of Wales and Scotland, **there is a great opportunity for Spanish companies to make a difference.**

As two of Europe's most creative tech hubs, the **UK and Spain are perfect partners to harness the opportunities presented by the digital revolution** that is sweeping the planet. From GreenTech to virtual reality and AI, British start-ups and scale-ups are pushing the boundaries across this fast-evolving global market. This presents many opportunities for Spanish investors who are already among the largest European investors in the UK's cutting-edge financial services sector.

Q: Bilateral trade relations between Spain and the United Kingdom are more important than ever. How do you see this relationship evolving in the coming years?

A: The economic bonds between our nations are deep, strong and of enormous importance to us both. Total trade in goods and services between the UK and Spain was £56.8 billion (in current prices) in 2022, an increase of 53.2% in comparison to 2021 – the biggest number since the records began. **Every investment creates jobs for people, growth for towns and prosperity for both the UK and Spain.**

As for investment, the **UK is the biggest European investor in Spain** (£95.9 bn of outward stock of British investment in 2021, and the highest value in the records) while Spain is among the top global investors in the UK.

The future for UK-Spanish investment is bright, with **new opportunities presenting themselves in the tech, finance and science sectors** – areas in which the UK has set itself apart from the competition, not only due to our skills but also our liberal and adaptable economic model. We must continue to work together to **remove market barriers to provide easier access for both UK and Spanish companies** to collaborate and work together to make a difference.



Official photo of Lord Dominic Johnson of Lainston (front, centre), with the Executive Board of the Spanish Chamber at the 136th Annual General Meeting.

“ THE ECONOMIC BONDS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS ARE DEEP, STRONG, AND OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE TO US BOTH.

GUEST SPEAKERS 2023



17TH JANUARY

**LUIS VILLAR, CHARTERED WEALTH MANAGER,
ST JAMES'S PLACE**

Luis Villar is a Chartered Wealth Manager that helps individuals, families and businesses achieve their personal and financial goals through bespoke, holistic financial planning and investment advice. Prior to working at St. James's Place Wealth Management, Luis was Managing Director at Actus International, and is currently a Partner at True Potential LLP, a position he has held since May 2023.



20TH JANUARY AND 15TH SEPTEMBER

**MARC GUITART, BRANDING EXPERT
AND FOUNDER OF BRANDLOND**

Marc Guitart is a brand consultant and business designer. He founded Creative Strategic Consultancy agencies brandcelona® in 2006 and brandlond® in 2018, which are based in Barcelona and London respectively.

Combining branding design and brand consultancy services with university teaching, Marc has been recognised throughout his career for his excellence, and has won several international awards. He is also an international lecturer for different universities in Europe, America and Asia.



23RD FEBRUARY

**THE RT HON. GREG HANDS MP,
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND CHAIRMAN
OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY**

The Rt Hon. Greg Hands MP has been Minister for London and Minister of State for Trade Policy since November 2023. He previously held the position of Minister of State at the Department for International Trade from 9 October 2022 and 7 February 2023, and was Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy between 16 September 2021 and 7 September 2022.



2ND MARCH

**LORD DOMINIC JOHNSON OF LAINSTON CBE,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR INVESTMENT**

Lord Johnson has been Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade since February 2023. Prior to this, he held the position of Minister of State (Minister for Investment) in the Department for International Trade between November 2022 and February 2023, and before that he was joint Minister of State in the Department for International Trade and the Cabinet Office. Also of note, between 2017 and 2019, Lord Johnson was Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party.



20TH MARCH

MELISSA THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, BLICK ROTHENBERG

Melissa Thomas has been a part of Blick Rothenberg since 2000. While there, she undertook her training for the ACA qualification and remained with the firm ever since, becoming their Director of International Business in July of 2023. Melissa completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Exeter, where she read Sociology and Economics, which she followed by three further years of study at ICAEW.



20TH MARCH

PATRICK GILMOUR, PARTNER, EBL MILLER ROSENFALCK

Patrick Gilmour has spent his career in the legal world. Prior to his current position of Partner at EBL Miller Rosenfalck, where he is also the firm's Head of Corporate, he has been a Partner at the prestigious Courts & Co, DMH Stallard, and DKLM LLP firms, and served as General Council at Testbase at Pangea Limited until the beginning of 2023.



20TH MARCH

CELIA MCSWAINE, VICE PRESIDENT & FORMER SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, CRESTVIEW STRATEGY

Celia McSwaine is Vice President at Crestview Strategy, a London-based public affairs agency, where she advises clients on government relations, public affairs strategy, and political campaigning. Celia has been a Special Adviser to two UK Secretaries of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, and one Chancellor of the Exchequer.



29TH MARCH

FRANCES GERTRUDE CLAIRE D'SOUZA, BARONESS D'SOUZA, CMG, PC, FORMER SPEAKER AND CURRENT MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness D'Souza is a British scientist and politician, who was Lord Speaker of the House of Lords from September 2011 to August 2016. Prior to her peerage, Baroness D'Souza was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the 1999 New Year Honours for services to human rights following her work with the United Nations. Baroness D'Souza was then created a Lord Temporal as Baroness D'Souza, of Wychwood in the County of Oxfordshire, on 1 July 2004.



13TH APRIL

JAMES BANDO, COUNTRY LEAD FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, PLAIN CONCEPTS UK

James Bando is the Country Lead for Business Development at Plain Concepts UK, and focuses on building the Plain Concepts Brand. James has a passion for Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) along with all new technology from Robotics to the latest in AI.

Plain Concepts is a developer led company with a focus on looking at how new trends in technology can be used to simplify your business process. They look at all aspects of IT from structural such as Cloud Migration and Security to Practical, to ways that data is collected, enriched into information and then understood to become knowledge.



19TH APRIL

PAUL SCULLY MP, MINISTER FOR TECH AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY AND MINISTER FOR LONDON

Paul Scully MP has held the position of Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy) at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology since February 2023. He is also Minister for London, having been appointed in February 2020.



3RD MAY

LEO DOCHERTY MP, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPE

Leo Docherty MP was appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) on 27 October 2022. He was previously Parliamentary Secretary (Minister for Defence People and Veterans) for the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Defence from April 2021 to July 2022, and has served as the Member of Parliament for Aldershot since 2017.



16TH MAY

**MARIA FISENTZOU, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
FTI CONSULTING**

Maria Fisentzou is a Chartered Civil Engineer, testified Delay Expert, and CEDR accredited mediator, with over 30 years of industry experience. She is currently involved in the dispute resolution world, where she has acted as party-appointed delay expert on several construction and engineering projects around the world. She also prepares delay and disruption analysis for claims for extension of time, loss and expense, and acceleration measures. Her work is applied not only to formal dispute resolution proceedings, but also to risk assessments and negotiated settlements.



16TH MAY

**EMMA HEAD, TECHNICAL SERVICES DELIVERY
DIRECTOR, HS2 LTD**

Emma has worked in the UK railway industry since 1999 and was previously Director of Safety Strategy at Network Rail. She joined High Speed Two Ltd (HS2 Ltd) in August 2015 as a member of the Executive Committee with accountability for Safety and Assurance. Assuming the role of Technical Services Delivery Director in August 2021, Emma now oversees Health, Safety, Security, Quality and Assurance, Environment and Town Planning, and the Engineering, Technical and Innovation functions, acting as the overarching technical authority for HS2 Ltd.



16TH MAY

**NURIA PUIG-MAS, BID DIRECTOR,
FERROVIAL CONSTRUCTION**

Nuria is a highly experienced professional who has worked in the construction sector for many years. Prior to her current role, Nuria worked as Operations Director at Mace, and works to deliver complex project finance and infrastructure projects across a number of sectors, both in the UK and internationally.



16TH MAY

NURIA VÁZQUEZ, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, MACE

Nuria Vázquez, Operations Director for Mace, is a procurement professional with 24 years' experience as procurement leader of major and iconic construction programmes both in Spain and in the UK, with a vast record in supply chain management. Her knowledge base comes from working on projects across a variety of industry sectors, including infrastructure, transportation, residential and commercial.



24TH MAY

ÁLVARO AZNAR AZCÁRATE, PARTNER & HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL, BUCKLES SOLICITORS LLP

Álvaro Aznar Azcárate is a dual qualified English Solicitor and Spanish Abogado with over a decade's experience in cross-border private client law. He acts on behalf of High-Net-Worth individuals and charities in the planning and administration of complex international estates.



24TH MAY

PAULA PIQUER RUZ, ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR, BUCKLES SOLICITORS LLP

Paula Piquer is an Associate Solicitor and Spanish Abogado at Buckles Solicitors. She has been practising in London since 2009, specialising in international family law matters, particularly in issues surrounding divorce, finances, children, asset protection, recognition and enforcement of foreign orders, and disputes concerning choice of forum and jurisdiction. Her dual qualification also allows her to advise on Spanish and Catalan family law.



24TH MAY

CARLOS SALDAÑA, LAWYER, ZADAL ABOGADOS Y ASESORES TRIBUTARIOS

Carlos Saldaña is a member of the Madrid Bar Association and has over 10 years of experience in providing tax advice on mergers and acquisitions, group restructurings, along with tax implications for real estate transactions. During his career he has provided advice regarding tax structures for both national and international clients. Additionally, Carlos specialises in providing tax advice to Private Clients. Prior to joining ZADAL, he was a senior associate in Ecija's tax team, and has also worked for Roca Junyent and PwC.



24TH MAY

CONSTANTINO VIDAL, PARTNER, ZADAL ABOGADOS Y ASESORES TRIBUTARIOS

Constantino Vidal has an extensive professional career both in Spain and abroad. His wide-ranging expertise covers corporate tax advice, mergers and acquisitions, cross-border transactions, restructuring, and private banking and wealth management. Constantino began his career at Garrigues before moving to the Financial Taxation area at Cuatrecasas, and was Head of Tax at Ecija. He is a member of the Madrid Bar Association and of the Association of Economists of A Coruña, and professor and lecturer at different educational institutions and business schools.



7TH JUNE

IGNACIO CARTAGENA, CONSUL GENERAL IN EDINBURGH

Ignacio Cartagena Núñez, Consul General of Spain in Edinburgh, has spent his career as a diplomat in the Spanish Foreign Service. Nuñez holds a PhD in Public International Law, a Diploma in Advanced European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, and a Masters in Energy Geopolitics from the Graduate Institute in Geneva. Throughout his career, he has held various diplomatic posts at the Spanish Embassies in Rome, Tirana and Moscow, as well as in the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.



5TH JULY

KEVIN HOLLINRAKE MP, MINISTER FOR ENTERPRISE, MARKETS AND SMALL BUSINESS

Kevin Hollinrake was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business and Trade on 7 February 2023. He was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy between October 2022 and February 2023. He is currently the sitting MP for Thirsk and Malton.



12TH SEPTEMBER

THE RT HON. GRAHAM STUART MP, MINISTER FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO

Graham Stuart was elected as the Member of Parliament for Beverley and Holderness in 2005. Graham joined the Department for International Trade in January 2018 as Minister for Investment, and he was Minister for Exports from February 2020 until September 2021. Following this, he was the Minister of State at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office from 7 July 2022 to 6 September 2022, and was Minister of State in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy from 6 September 2022 to 7 February 2023.



19TH SEPTEMBER

QAD RAJA, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER, CO-FOUNDER, FLYING FORMATIONS

Qad co-founded Flying Formations Ltd in 2011, a business consultancy firm which specialises in helping International clients set up and grow their businesses in the UK. Qad has a vast network and portfolio of clients from across the globe and has helped many companies enter the UK market.



21ST SEPTEMBER

EDUARDO CANO, ECOMMERCE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION DIRECTOR, KNOWMAD MOOD

As Director of Digital Transformation, Eduardo Cano specialises in orchestrating New Technology and eCommerce initiatives that redefine industries and push boundaries. With a distinct blend of lateral thinking and a sharp analytical mind, he excels in navigating the intricate realm of Digital Transformation with a clear focus on meeting business objectives.



8TH NOVEMBER

ALEJANDRO ABAD ALGARRA, CORPORATE TAX MANAGER, BLICK ROTHENBERG

Alejandro Abad Algarra is a Chartered Tax Advisor (CTA) and Spanish-qualified lawyer with over eight years of professional experience in the field of taxation in the UK and Spain. He joined Blick Rothenberg in 2019. Prior to that, he was an associate tax lawyer at the Spanish Law firm Garrigues. Alejandro specialises in Corporate Tax, with a strong focus on transfer pricing and international tax.



8TH NOVEMBER

ALAN TAM, PARTNER, BLICK ROTHENBERG

Alan Tam has over 22 years of experience working in partnership with companies advising on the tax, social security and payroll implications of their cross-border workforce at all levels of seniority, as well as supporting them in managing their global mobility functions cost effectively, ensuring good governance is in place and all risks are properly managed.



23RD NOVEMBER

NICHOLAS FITZROY, SENIOR UK/EUROPE ANALYST AND PARTNER, SIGNUM GLOBAL ADVISORS

Nico has a decade of experience producing political and economic analysis, mainly for corporations and governments. He previously worked at The Economist Intelligence Unit, where he focused on political and economic forecasting and headed up the firm's business risk practice. He was also a senior political risk analyst for G4S Risk Consulting.

He holds an MSc in International Relations from Bristol University, as well as an MSc in Psychology and a Graduate Diploma in Economics, both from Birkbeck, University of London.



28TH NOVEMBER

H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE EU DELEGATION TO THE UK, MR. PEDRO SERRANO

H.E. Mr. Pedro Serrano was appointed Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom in November 2022. A Spanish Career Diplomat, H.E Mr. Serrano has been an EU official since 2003. He has served as the Head of Cabinet of High Representative for Common and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission; Deputy Secretary General for Security and Defence Policy and for Crisis Response in the EEAS; Principal Adviser on External Affairs, Cabinet of the President of the European Council; and Ambassador and Acting Head of the EU Delegation to the UN in New York, among an extensive and impressive list of previous diplomatic roles.



13TH DECEMBER

DAVID BUCK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS AT THE DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS AND TRADE

David Buck was appointed Deputy Director for the Department for Business and Trade in the Investment Strategy & Operational department after five years in different positions in the organisation. Previously, he has worked in the British Army, the Ministry of Justice of the UK, and as a consultant on economic, fiscal and social policy for European Institutions.



13TH DECEMBER

JUAN DE LA CUEVA, CEO, NAVANTIA UK

Juan De la Cueva studied Naval Architecture and Engineering at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He began his career at Navantia Australia in 2002, where he became Director of Commercial and Business development from 2017-2019. He later went on to become the Shipbuilding Commercial and Business Development Director from 2021-2023, and the Chief Executive Officer of Navantia, S.A in August, 2023.



13TH DECEMBER

DANIEL FELIU, RETAIL & BUSINESS BANKING COO AND CUSTOMER INNOVATION, SANTANDER UK

Daniel has held this position since November 2023. Prior to this, he was Head of Customers, Marketing, and Strategy. He previously worked as Santander UK's deputy head of strategy and corporate development, a position he held since 2019. He first joined Santander in 2014 as part of the group corporate development team, after more than a decade working in investment management.



13TH DECEMBER

**PETER FOSTER, PUBLIC POLICY EDITOR,
FINANCIAL TIMES**

Peter Foster is the public policy editor of the Financial Times. He covers all aspects of UK policy.

He joined the FT in April 2020 from the Telegraph Media Group where he had held the position of Europe editor since 2015, focusing on the Brexit negotiations. He has more than two decades of experience covering global affairs from all sides of the world, based in New Delhi (2004–2008) and Beijing (2008–2012), as well as Washington DC, where he served as The Telegraph’s US editor from 2012.



13TH DECEMBER

BARONESS SARAH LUDFORD, HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Sarah Ann Ludford is a current member of the House of Lords, after being made a life peer as Baroness Ludford of Clerkenwell in the London Borough of Islington on 30 September 1997. Before that, she served as a Councillor for the London Borough of Islington from 1991–99, and was elected MEP for London at the European Parliament election in 1999 and again in 2004 and 2009.



13TH DECEMBER

**FORMER AMBASSADOR LEWIS LUKENS,
SENIOR PARTNER AND CEO OF UK/EUROPE,
SIGNUM GLOBAL ADVISORS**

Lewis Lukens served as US Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, Deputy Executive Secretary for Hillary Clinton, Senior Director at the National Security Council working for Dr. Condoleezza Rice and President Bush, and US Consul General in Vancouver. Most recently, Lewis was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in London. He is now Senior Partner and CEO of UK/Europe at Signum Global Advisors.



13TH DECEMBER

**JUAN CARLOS MACHUCA, PARTNER AND HEAD
OF LONDON OFFICE, URÍA MENÉNDEZ**

Juan Carlos Machuca joined Uría Menéndez in Madrid in 1996 and has worked out of the firm’s London office since January 2000. He is the current resident partner in the London office. Juan Carlos’ practice focuses on corporate law, banking, finance, regulatory, investment funds, private equity and capital markets. He also advises clients on M&A transactions and on insolvency and restructuring proceedings.



13TH DECEMBER

**VÍCTOR MANUEL MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA,
DIRECTOR, INDRA**

Víctor Martínez is Director of North Europe and Canada ATM Programmes at Indra, and the Indra iTEC Collaboration Director. Víctor is also the Indra Senior representative at the iTEC Alliance Steering Committee and takes part in the iTEC Alliance Board. Víctor has developed most of his 20 year career in the Indra ATM Division, which he joined in 2013. He has held his current position since January 2019.



13TH DECEMBER

**ÁLVARO NADAL, HEAD OF ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL OFFICE, EMBASSY OF SPAIN UK**

Álvaro Nadal is the former Cabinet Minister for Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda of Spain (2016-2018). He was elected as a Member of Parliament of Spain in 2008 where he served until 2019. He is a State Economist and Trade Expert, having graduated in Law and Economics from ICADE University in Madrid and completed his studies as a visiting PhD Student in Economics at Harvard University (1997-1998).



13TH DECEMBER

**MARÍA ROMERO PANIAGUA,
MANAGING PARTNER, AFI**

Ms. María Romero Paniagua graduated in Economics from Alcalá de Henares University (with the highest honours) and has completed the Afi Escuela de Finanzas Masters in Banking and Finance. She has spent her entire career at Afi, where she has worked in several areas. She began her career in the Banking and Insurance area in 2007, specialising initially in tracking the Spanish mortgage market; by 2009 she was in charge of Afi's Spanish real estate research coverage. In 2011 she moved to the Macro & Markets Research area, taking over Spanish macroeconomic research. More recently, she has been working in the firm's Applied Economics area.



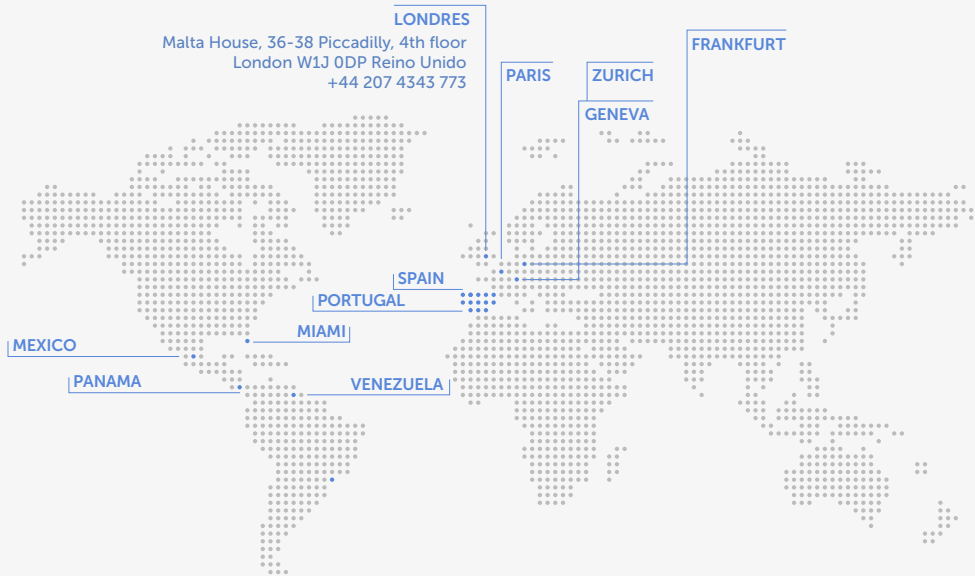
13TH DECEMBER

JOAN SINTÉS SEGARRA, CCO, PLAIN CONCEPTS

Joan has worked at Plain Concepts since 2018, where he was the Sales and Business Development Manager. Prior to his current role, he held the position of EMEA Sales and Marketing VP, and assumed his role as Chief Commercial Officer of Plain Concepts on 1st January 2024.

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RESIDENCES



RETAIL



HOTELS



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SINCE 2013



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Ignacio Morillas (Gunnercooke, left), and Carla Vargas Puccio (Roman), attending the Annual Golden Award 2023.





The V Barometer report.



Foreign Trade Department

FOREIGN TRADE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, the **Chamber's Foreign Trade Department** has been very active in its efforts to promote and strengthen the commercial and economic ties between Spain and the UK. The following section will detail the services it has provided for clients across several sectors, as well as the events and conferences the department has attended or organised.

TRADE MISSIONS AND AGENDAS

During 2023, the **Foreign Trade Department** was commissioned by five regional Chambers of Commerce in Spain to carry out Trade Missions with several local companies. In total, **26 Trade Agendas** were organised, allowing Spanish companies to get in touch with relevant contacts in the British market.



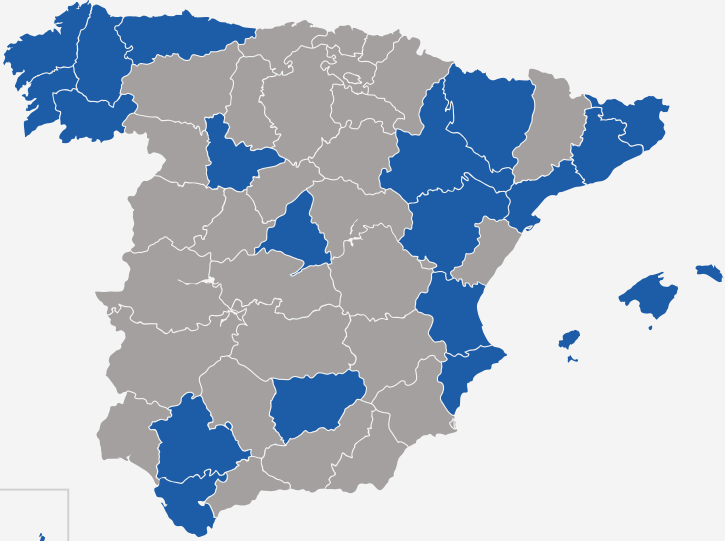
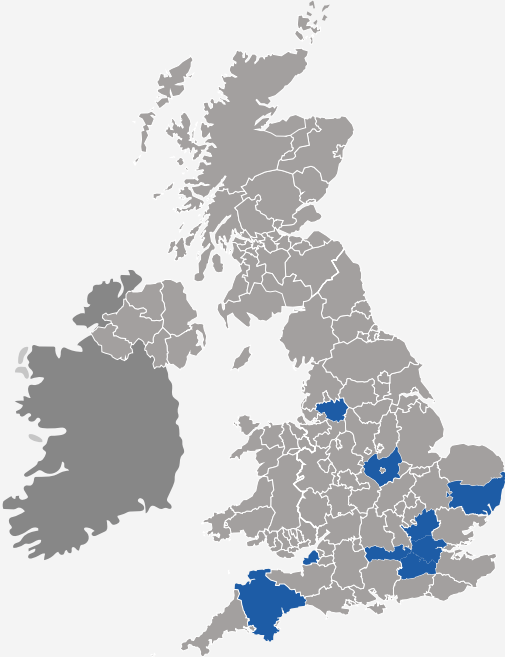
Additionally, the team was contacted by a Spanish food company who were looking to bring their chilled, 'ready to eat' range of products to the British market. We compiled a database of 50 relevant British importers, allowing the client to expand their sales internationally. The Department was also contacted by a Spanish artisan jewellery company that was looking to connect with British importers of brass souvenirs, such as keyrings and plates.

A database of potential customers was put together by the Trade Department, and these details enabled the client company to establish contact with potential buyers in the British market.

IN 2023 WE WORKED WITH 12 DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE UK AND WE COLLABORATED WITH 20 AREAS OF SPAIN

12
AREAS OF THE UK

20
AREAS OF SPAIN



TRADE EVENTS

INSTITUTO DE PROMOCIÓN EXTERIOR DE CASTILLA-LA MANCHA (IPEX)

In collaboration with IPEX, the Chamber's **Trade Department** organised a wine tasting event for 20 wineries from the region of Castilla-La Mancha. The central Autonomous Community is **the largest wine producing region in Spain** and is responsible for half of Spanish wine output. The event took place in Chamber Benefactor **Hispania's** central London restaurant and welcomed a group of 25 buyers and specialists from wholesalers and off-trade companies based in the United Kingdom. The attendees had the opportunity to taste an **extensive variety of wines made with a selection of local grapes**, as well as an assortment of delicious canapés made with ingredients from Castilla-La Mancha. This was the fourth face-to-face meeting organised by IPEX as part of their promotional scheme abroad.



Guests enjoying a range of wines at the IPEX Trade Event.



Guests had the opportunity to learn about wine from experts from Spain's largest wine-producing region.

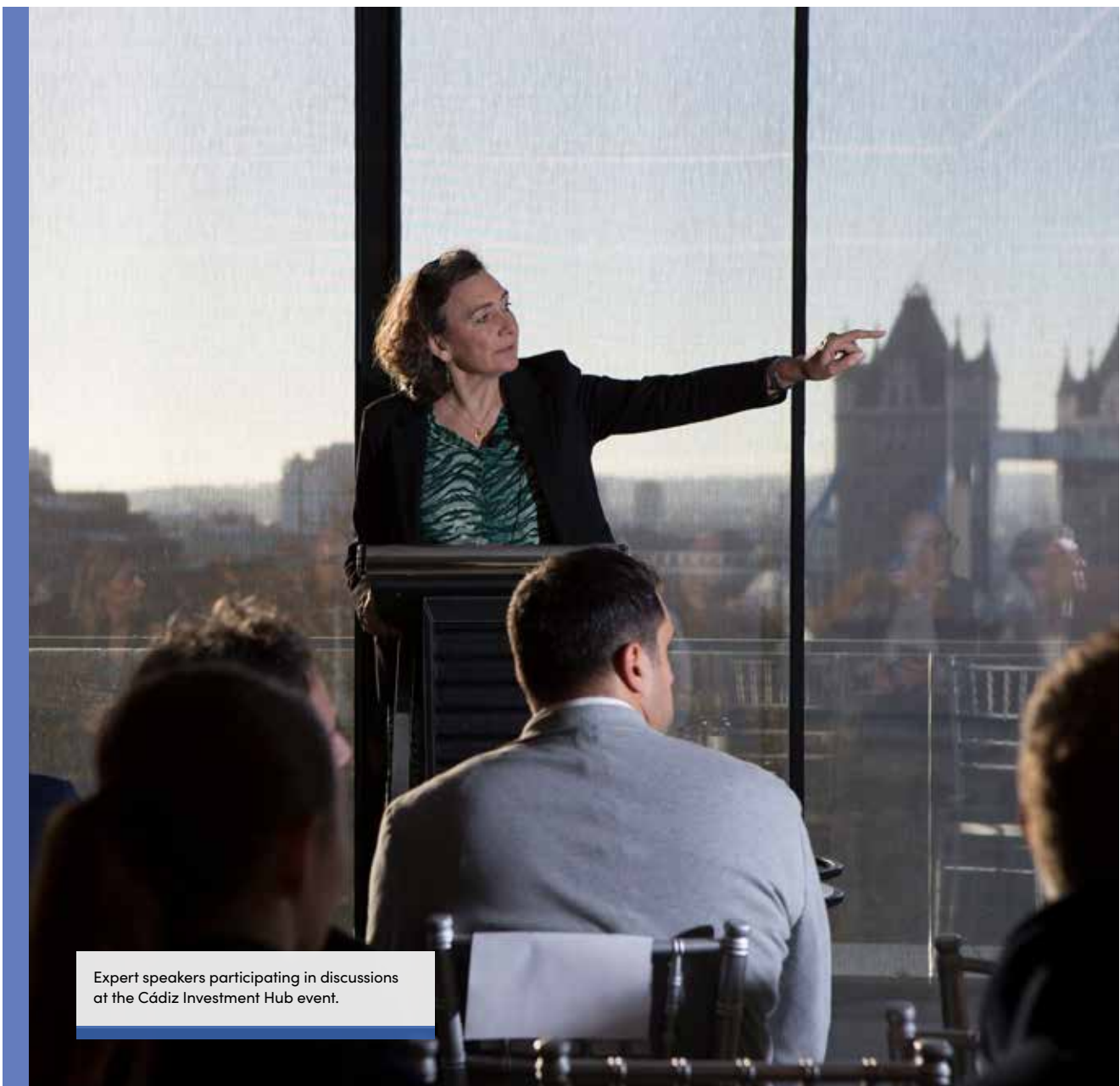


Guests enjoying a range of wines at the IPEX Trade Tasting Event.

TRADE EVENTS

UNVEILING CÁDIZ: SPAIN'S NEW HORIZON FOR INVESTMENT

Cádiz Investment Hub, an initiative driven by the **Cádiz Employers' Confederation (CEC)** and funded by the **Regional Council of Cádiz**, held their first London event at Skyline Tower Suites with the aim of promoting foreign investment in the region. The Chamber's **Trade Department** worked to invite a variety of sector-specific guests who enjoyed several informative roundtable discussions, expertly moderated by **El País' Rafa de Miguel**. Cádiz's emerging investment opportunities within the energy, aerospace, naval, blue economy, tourism and agri-food industries were presented throughout the morning.



Expert speakers participating in discussions at the Cádiz Investment Hub event.



Expert speakers participating in discussions at the Cádiz Investment Hub event.



Rafa de Miguel, UK and Ireland correspondent at El País, (right), moderating a roundtable discussion at the Cádiz Investment Hub event.

TRADE EVENTS

IBÉRICA EXPO

The **Ibérica Expo** is the leading business-to-business platform for the promotion of the Spanish food and beverage industry across the globe. In 2023, **José Miguel Flavián, Head of the Foreign Trade Department** at the Chamber, moderated a roundtable discussion on how to promote and sell Spanish wine in the British market. Mr. Flavián advised the audience on how to best approach the process, as well as noting what should be avoided.



Miguel Flavián, Head of the Foreign Trade Department at the Spanish Chamber (far left), participating, in a panel discussion at the Ibérica Expo.



Guests attending the Ibérica Expo.

LONDON BUILD EXPO

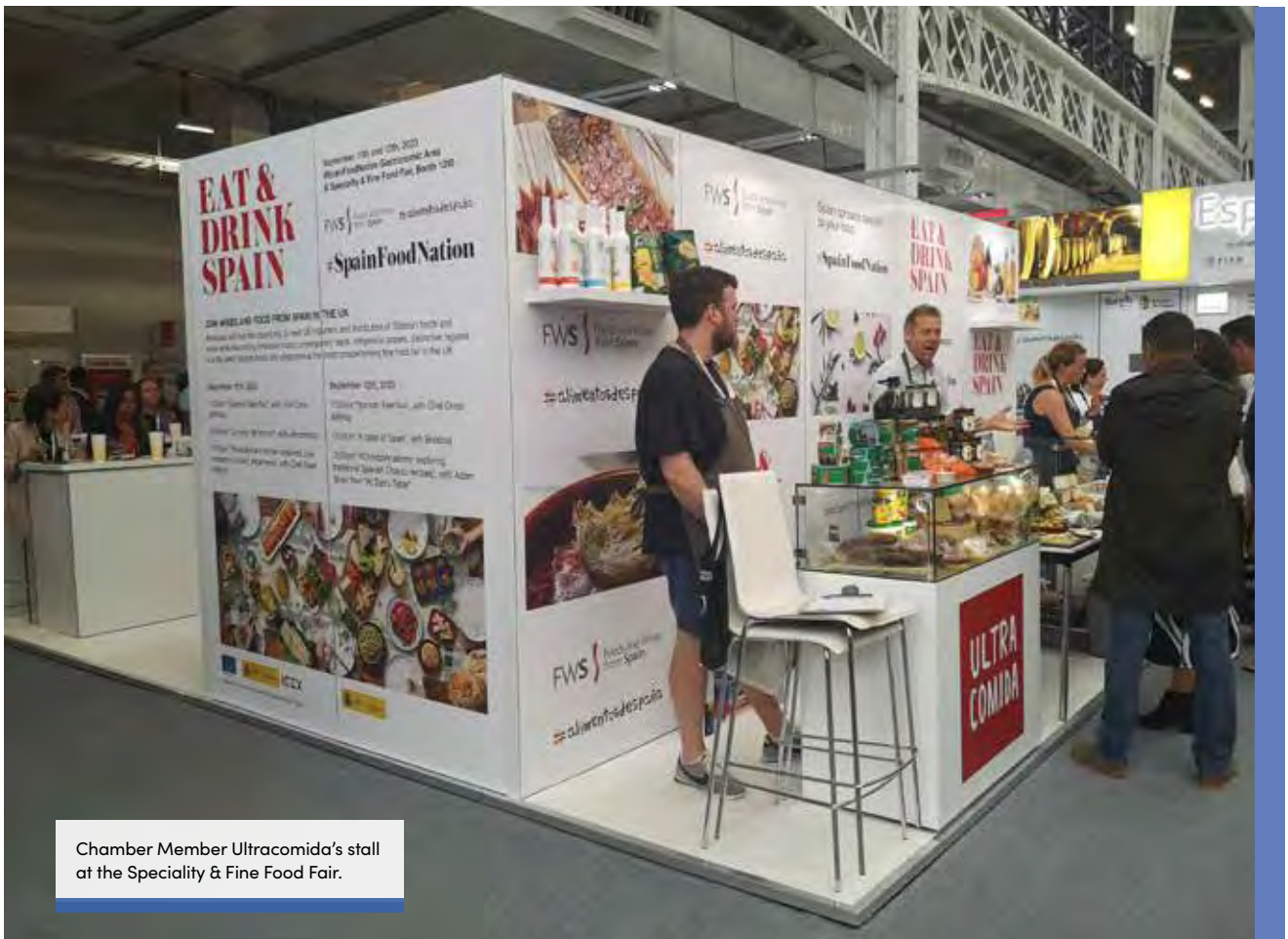
The Department's team frequently visits a variety of sector-specific expositions to gain industry knowledge, one of which included the **London Build Expo** that took place at Olympia London. This exposition is the **UK's leading construction show** and welcomes over **35,000 attendees**. It gave the team a chance to meet with procurement teams and buyers to learn about the latest projects and tender opportunities in the construction industry.

FINANCE MAGNATES LONDON SUMMIT

Held in the iconic Old Billingsgate Market, the team visited the **Finance Magnates London Summit**, the world's leading premium event in fintech, online trading, digital assets and payments. Once again, this provided an **invaluable opportunity for the team** to elevate their expertise and increase their network.

SPECIALITY & FINE FOOD FAIR

One of the highlights of the Department's events calendar in 2023 was the **Speciality & Fine Food Fair**. The event brought together buyers from across the retail, hospitality, foodservice, manufacturing, import & export, and wholesale sectors. This was a particularly memorable event for the Department as it provided an **opportunity to increase the visibility of a client** from the North of Spain to its network through a Commercial Presentation. The company displayed a fantastic array of healthy and ecological tinned food products.



Chamber Member Ultracomida's stall at the Speciality & Fine Food Fair.

JORNADAS

2ND JUNE

JORNADA PAÍS - CÁMARA DE ZARAGOZA

The **Foreign Trade Department** delivered a presentation that explored the trends and opportunities in the British market to companies from **the region of Zaragoza** that were interested in increasing their visibility and connecting with potential clients in the UK. This included the organisation of meetings with nine companies to discuss potential areas of collaboration, and how the Chamber could be of assistance in their efforts to enter the British market.



Miguel Flavián, Head of the Foreign Trade Department at the Spanish Chamber, participating in a conference held by the Cámara de Zaragoza.

6TH JULY

JORNADA PAÍS - CÁMARA DE VALENCIA

Foreign Trade Department delivered another market presentation in collaboration with its partner, **Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Valencia**. The presentation was attended by local companies who were informed about the many business opportunities in the United Kingdom. Our Trade Department also held one-to-one meetings with a handful of companies from the region to share information about its international trade services and highlight its role as a commercial nexus between Spain and the UK.



José Vicente Morata, President of the Cámara de Valencia, (left), addressing guests during the Jornada País.

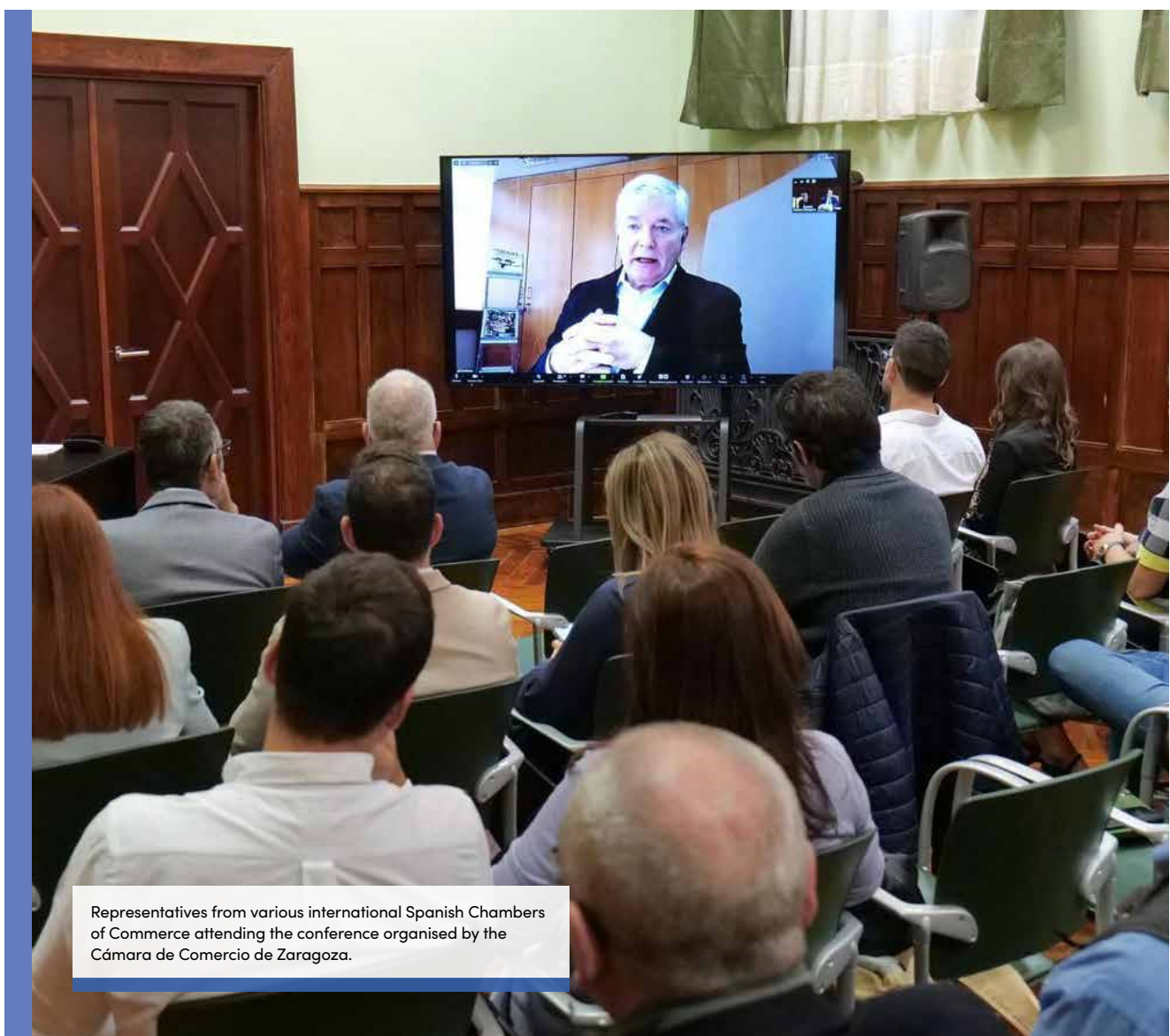


Guests attending the Jornada País held by the Cámara de Comercio de Valencia.

17TH NOVEMBER

JORNADA PAÍS - CÁMARA DE ZARAGOZA

The **Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Zaragoza** organised a conference to connect companies from the region with representatives from the **international network of Spanish Chambers**. The conference had a hybrid format: the Spanish companies were in an auditorium, and the speakers from the international Chambers connected online. Our Foreign Trade Department had the chance to pitch its services to a select audience of companies that are already exporting to the UK. These companies were informed of the various ways the Chamber helps Spanish companies to reach the UK market and were encouraged to join our network.



Representatives from various international Spanish Chambers of Commerce attending the conference organised by the Cámara de Comercio de Zaragoza.



Miguel Flavián, Head of the Foreign Trade Department at the Spanish Chamber (one from right), Kathryn Walton, Foreign Trade Manager (left of Miguel), Candela Rodríguez, Foreign Trade Intern (left of Kathryn), and vendors attending a Trade Expo.

Guests attending the International Women's Day networking reception.





The Chamber's Network

PATRON MEMBER INTERVIEW

SIGNUM GLOBAL ADVISORS



The Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK was honoured to have **Signum Global Advisors** join our institution as a Patron this year. Signum Global Advisors is a leading independent advisory firm specialising in policy and global markets. With offices in New York, Washington D.C., Dubai and London, they work with financial institutions and multinational businesses to provide the highest-quality predictive research. We interviewed **Stefan Griffiths, Partner at Signum Global Advisors**, to find out more about Signum's business in the UK and their experience as a Patron of the Chamber.

Q: Could you briefly describe Signum Global Advisors and your presence in the UK?

A: Signum Global Advisors, established in 2018, is a leading political and global macro risk advisory firm. **We provide best-in-class research, trend analysis and customised advice for an exclusive set of institutions**, ultimately helping clients navigate a world of ever-growing political and macro uncertainty; working with financial institutions and multinational businesses to anticipate and assess policy agendas and announcements that will have a material impact upon markets, sectors, asset classes, and business strategies. We are Anglo-American with one of our home bases in London, even though our clients are global, and with Spain being one of our key markets.

Q: What are the key values that define Signum Global Advisors and how are they implemented day-to-day?

A: Signum is an equal opportunity employer and proudly a diverse supplier. Each employee is required to safeguard against discrimination and unfair treatment, and **we treat all persons equally regardless of race, colour, sex, or any other distinction**. We pride ourselves on a personal touch, with our clients knowing us individually – and the reverse, allowing us to provide a “white-glove” quality of service to our work and how we engage with clients.

Q: How does Signum Global Advisors remain competitive in a globalised world that is constantly changing?

A: As the world becomes even more unpredictable, clients increasingly rely on us to help them mitigate against potential risks and focus on their main priority of growing their business. We offer **unrivalled, short, and concise research pieces**, paired with incredible access events with policymakers in Westminster, Brussels, Washington D.C. and globally, giving our clients perspectives that only Signum can provide. We also pride ourselves on our high-touch, personalised service; every client's needs are different and so we treat each client individually, **tailoring our services to match their priorities**. That personalisation, and our intellectual honesty (we produce a quarterly track record), is what keeps our client base with us and growing.

Q: As a new Patron of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the UK, how does your business hope to benefit from our collaboration?

A: Given we have a home base in London, **the reason we decided to join the Chamber as a Patron was due to our important Spanish client base, and personal connections with Spain**. We want to better engage with Spanish businesses in the UK, our home base, as well as get to know and better service firms looking to navigate political uncertainty – here and globally.



Q: What opportunities and challenges has your industry faced in the British market, and how has this affected Signum Global Advisors?

A: Like many markets, the UK has plenty of competition in every sector and that's also true when it comes to research providers. I think the biggest difference is our **blend of geopolitics and macro issues, matched with policymaker events** and our ability to align with companies' business strategies, helping to set us apart. It's an important lesson for anyone looking to enter the UK market: what your biggest strength to stand out is, and how that matches your clients' needs, whether big or small.

Q: What advice would you give to other Spanish companies that are looking to enter the British market?

A: Britain has many particularities, culturally of course, but often regulatory and especially politically. **It's important to partner yourself with the correct organisations to help navigate those differences** and get your business on the right foot, the Chamber being one, Signum being another.

Q: Looking ahead, is Signum Global Advisors currently working on any upcoming projects that you could tell us about?

A: We have seen incredible growth in 2023, including the opening of a new office in Dubai and reaching over 200 paying client firms. 2024 is set to be just as busy, with macro uncertainty continuing and big elections in the UK, US and EU (all of which are our areas of expertise) set to occur – **we will be supporting our clients through all the white noise and pairing with the Chamber to do supporting events.** Furthermore, we have trips to take clients to Washington D.C. and Brussels in Q1, are set to run an LGBT "policy & pride" event in London, and are even **expanding our coverage with a new Latin American hire** – something our Spanish clients in particular will appreciate.

“

IT'S IMPORTANT TO PARTNER YOURSELF WITH THE CORRECT ORGANISATIONS TO HELP NAVIGATE THOSE DIFFERENCES AND GET YOUR BUSINESS ON THE RIGHT FOOT, THE CHAMBER BEING ONE, SIGNUM BEING ANOTHER.

THE CHAMBER'S NETWORK



FEDERATION OF OFFICIAL SPANISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN EUROPE, AFRICA, ASIA AND OCEANIA (FEDECOM)

The Federation of Official Spanish Chambers of Commerce in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania (**FEDECOM**), is an international association, created in 1996, which comprises the 22 Official Spanish Chambers of Commerce located throughout those four continents.

FEDECOM was created with the aim of **promoting the development of the economic, commercial and cultural relations between Spain and the continents where it has a presence**, acting as an interlocutor between public and private Spanish institutions and international organisations.

The governing body of the entity is its board of directors, which is currently chaired by **Eduardo Barrachina, President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Kingdom**.

The three Vice-Presidents representing Europe, Africa and Middle East, and Asia and Oceania are:

Pablo López-Álvarez, who will combine the Vice-Presidency of Europe with the Presidency of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Belgium and Luxembourg; **Guillermo Cobelo**, President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in the United Arab Emirates; and **Marisa Flores**, President of the Official Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Every year, FEDECOM presents an award to a Spanish company for standing out for its commercial activity and international profile. This year, the award ceremony was held at the Spanish Embassy in Berlin, in the presence of **Volker Wissing, Federal Minister for Digital and Transport of Germany; Michael Theurer, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Minister for Digital and Transport of Germany; Richard Lutz, CEO of Deutsche Bahn; Xiana Méndez, Spanish Trade Minister; Eduardo Barrachina, President of FEDECOM, and Juan José de Vicente Caballero, President of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Germany**.

The Company of the Year 2023 award was presented to **Talgo**, a leading company in the **design, manufacture and maintenance of high-speed light trains**. The company was chosen for its outstanding international trajectory as a leading company in the global railway sector thanks to its unique technology and international presence. Talgo currently operates in countries such as Germany, Denmark, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan and Egypt, among others.

In a speech acknowledging Talgo's receipt of the award, **Eduardo Barrachina, President of FEDECOM**, stated that "twenty-two Spanish Chambers of Commerce from four continents have unanimously agreed to award Talgo in recognition of its **international success, its innovation, commitment to sustainability and ability to understand one of the most sophisticated railway markets in the world**, the German market". Mr. Barrachina then went on to add that "Talgo has a Spanish soul but a global spirit".



Volker Wissing, German Federal Minister for Digital and Transport (right), presenting the award to Carlos Palacio Oriol, Chairman of Talgo.

Full list of the FEDECOM members:

EUROPE

- Cámara Oficial Española de Comercio en **Alemania**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en **Bélgica y Luxemburgo**
- Camara de Comercio e Industria **Luso Espanhola**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en el **Reino Unido**
- **Maltese-Spanish** Chamber of Commerce
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en **Francia**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en **Italia**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en la **República Checa**



ASIA AND OCEANIA

- Spanish Chamber of Commerce in **Korea**
- La Cámara **Spanish-Australian** Chamber of Commerce
- Spanish Chamber of Commerce in **Japan**
- Spanish Chamber of Commerce in **Hong Kong**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio De España en **Filipinas**
- Cámara de Comercio **indo-española**
- Cámara de Comercio de España en **Singapur**



AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

- Spanish Business Council **United Arab Emirates**
- Cámara Española de Comercio, Industria y Navegación de **Casablanca**
- Cámara Oficial de Comercio de España en **Tánger**
- Chambre Officielle de Commerce d'Espagne au **Sénégal**
- Spanish Chamber of Commerce in **South Africa**
- CTECI Chambre **Tuniso- Espagnole**
- Cámara de Comercio de España en **Catar**



COUNCIL OF FOREIGN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (CFCC)



The Council of Foreign Chambers of Commerce is an **association of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce based in the UK.**

There are currently 41 members, the purpose of each being to **promote trade and investment between their respective countries and the British market.**

The Council meets four times a year to **promote, advance and protect the business interests and relations between CFCC members in the UK** as well as to discuss matters of common interest and to share ideas and best practices.

The ultimate goal of the CFCC is to **support the interests of its network of over 10,000 member companies** and enable each Chamber to expand its set of contacts.

COUNCIL OF IBEROAMERICAN CHAMBERS IN THE UK (CIAC)



The CIAC is an **independent business to business (B2B) network of UK based Chambers** with unrivalled expertise and contacts in Latin America and Spain.

The association currently represents a core membership of the **Spanish & Latin American bilateral Chambers of Commerce**, boasting a shared network of some 600 businesses based across Latin America, Spain, and the UK.

The objective of the CIAC is to proactively stimulate trade, investment and multilateral cooperation between the UK, Spain, and Latin America.

CIAC members hold regular meetings through the year to:

- Discuss mutual concerns of all participating business communities and to establish joint projects in this area.
- To share knowledge and expertise, as well as to participate in and/or organise joint events.
- Connect, grow, and expand their shared joint network of business contacts both in the UK and Latin America.
- Provide mutual assistance and cross-promotional support for each of the member Chambers of the CIAC.

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Spanish Chamber of Commerce of the United Kingdom
EST. 1886

Guests attending the International Women's Day networking reception.

Linklaters

MAP

1877
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Spanish Chamber
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