



The 3rd Annual Meeting of the COBCOE Carpathian Group
Prague, Czech Republic, 10-11 September 2009

A report by Howard Rosen, President of COBCOE

The 3rd annual meeting of the COBCOE Carpathian Group took place in beautiful Prague on 10-11 September 2009. This is the one meeting each year when presidents and directors of the various COBCOE Chambers in Central and Eastern Europe get together to look for synergies and how they can provide new business opportunities to their members. This year, Chambers also had a joint meeting with their key UKTI contacts.

COBCOE President Howard Rosen brought everyone up-to-date of the various activities and initiatives from the COBCOE side. Aside from specific programmes for the benefit of chamber members (see www.cobcoe.eu/cobcoe-concierge), COBCOE is working hard behind the scenes on training and other support for directors and others working for COBCOE chambers.

The Chairman of the Carpathian Group, David Thomas, who is also Chairman of the British-Polish Chamber of Commerce, gave a detailed presentation on the future for the Carpathian Group. Suzy Adcock has now been appointed as part-time secretary to the group to co-ordinate follow-up, and they will also be looking to work with specific companies on a regional basis.

The group microsite, www.cobcoe.eu/carpathiangroup is already in operation but Suzy will be working hard to continually improve this, particularly to ensure that it is an effective window and information source for all members of COBCOE chambers in the Carpathian Group. A key focus will be to produce a consolidated events' programme covering all of the chambers in the group in order to publicise the regional networking opportunities for members of COBCOE chambers, who have the right to attend events organised by other COBCOE chambers at the same price as the local membership.

In addition to the above, attendees of the meeting talked in detail about possible areas of co-operation. The group is planning a major conference in Warsaw in 2010, and they also explored options for joint events.

A further meeting of the regional group will take place at the COBCOE Annual Conference in London on 23 March 2010, and their next full meeting is planned for early September 2009 in Timisoara, Romania.

The British Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic was a superb host, and all attendees of the meeting were grateful for their terrific support and hospitality.