

A look at what 2009 brought and what is on the agenda for 2010

by BCCH Chairman Gergely Mikola



The world and the economic environment have significantly changed during the months behind us and among a long series of items still being debated, one thing is for sure: most of the companies have faced challenges and some have faced serious ones in these times. Among these changes, BCCH strategy has remained the same, and in fact, has been confirmed: help members do, sustain and do more business. And not only business, but both EU and local political environments were changing in 2009. Voicing businesses' needs regarding competitiveness, predictability and transparency therefore were high on the agenda.

I am pleased and proud that the British Chamber of Commerce closed a successful year in 2009. I am convinced that economic difficulties upgrade the relevance and importance of chambers. The BCCH has recognised this responsibility and has addressed it with a series of developments in its operations. We worked hard to improve our offer to our members as a result of which 2009 has been an outstanding year: BCCH membership has grown around 8%, we held 50+ events of different sizes and themes, introduced new events and services and have started to play a more significant role in Europe as part of the COBCOE family.

BCCH regards COBCOE as an immensely valuable framework to our efforts beyond the borders of Hungary, which, in our highly international world is something that is hard to live without. I am proud of the project we have recently carried out with COBCOE and the local Embassy, where we organised meetings with relevant ministries and decision makers on Hungary's EU presidency agenda, which undoubtedly has proven a successful initiative, delivering value for all stakeholders involved.

As for the present and the future, there is unavoidably a rebound, a point from where a new development follows. I believe the more prepared a business is for the rebound, the more favourable position it will have in a reshaping world. In my view, it will be a business environment with a series of different agendas, different priorities and different opportunities. Carbon footprint, sustainability, efficiency will likely play a greater role in the future's business thinking. That is why, besides helping its member run their businesses successfully in the present times, the BCCH is committed to helping prepare for the future. All our services, events, forums, seminars and conferences will be tailored around these principles.