

# European Chambers of Commerce Newsletter

*“Committed to promoting the European community through trade, investment and competitiveness.”*

## Events & News

### European Business Seminar: European business in Latin America: Trends and Outlook March 9, 2011: Brickell Bay Office Tower : Miami

On March 9, 2011, the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast, the Spain-United States Chamber of Commerce, the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the German American Business Chamber and the British-American Business Council Miami hosted the second 2011 European Business Seminar Series at the Brickell Bay Office Tower, 1001 Brickell Bay Drive, Suite 2110, Miami, Florida 33131. Joachim Bamrud, Executive Editor of Latin Trade Group led an informative discussion on recent trends, trade between the EU and Latin America and European investments in Latin America.



**Volume 1. Issue 7**

**March 2011**

*Inside this issue:*

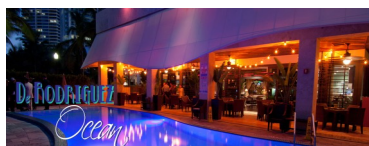
Events & News

From Our Chambers

Calendar of Events

### New Year's Networking Reception at The Hilton Bentley : De Rodriguez Ocean January 27, 2011 : 101 Ocean Drive : Miami Beach

The European Chambers in Miami joined forces again for another successful Business Card Exchange Cocktail, on January 27th, 2011. Over 200 guests attended. The Hilton Bentley/De Rodriguez Ocean served some delicious appetizers and complimentary cocktails to our guests. Be sure to check out their website at [www.hiltonbentleymiami.com](http://www.hiltonbentleymiami.com) for more information.



## News From Our Chambers



# Roundtable Dinner focuses on Global Economy

### **BABC TAKES CENTER-STAGE AS POWERFUL ADVOCATE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES IN MIAMI**

On Friday, January 28th, our Council kicked off 2011 with a roundtable dinner featuring top business leaders from the US, UK, and China. Senior executives from British Airways, AstraZeneca, Lloyds, Caja Mediterraneo, Walmart Latin America, and the China Sourcing Center, among others, met for dinner and a roundtable discussion led by UK Consul General, Kevin McGurgan. Throughout the evening, the group (see attached photo below) discussed the global economy, its impact on South Florida, and what the future holds for Miami.

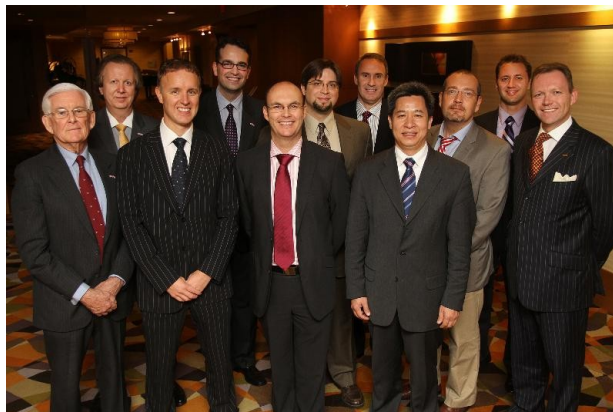
"Our goal," explained Carlos F. Gonzalez, recently elected president of BABC Miami's chapter, "is to highlight the powerful role that the British American Business Council can play as an advocate for international businesses in South Florida." According to Gonzalez, the BABC will play a critical role in the local economy in the years to come. "US, UK, and now Chinese companies, view Miami as a convenient 'hub' for their operations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean."

Gonzalez, who is a litigation partner at international law firm Diaz Reus & Targ added that the new UK government's decision to strengthen economic ties with Latin America will be very beneficial for Miami. "We are a gateway city, and our economy and infrastructure are uniquely set up to take advantage of expansion efforts by UK businesses." Gonzalez explained that Miami offers a safe, secure, and convenient location for UK and other foreign companies looking to enter the booming Latin American market. "Miami is a stopping point for flights to and from Europe and Latin America - there is no reason to go anywhere else."

This year, the BABC will focus on three distinct areas of interest to international businesses in Miami - the economy, education, and the workforce. A series of exclusive roundtable dinners, public events, and cocktail and networking receptions will be held at venues throughout Miami.

The British American Business Counsel is the largest transatlantic business network, and consists of 25 chapters and 2,500 member companies -- including many of the world's largest multinationals -- based in major business centers throughout North America and the United Kingdom. Members participate in the BABC to gain access to a broader transatlantic business network, including marketing, networking and business intelligence opportunities.

Our thanks go to the Conrad Hotel for hosting a wonderful dinner, and for the sponsorship of Diaz Reus & Targ, an international law firm focusing on trade and business transactions, complex commercial, civil, and criminal litigation and arbitration matters, operating offices in Miami; Shanghai, China; Frankfurt, Germany; Caracas, Venezuela, and Mexico City, Mexico and affiliate offices in Colombia and Brazil. For more information, visit [www.diazreus.com](http://www.diazreus.com).





## The FACC of Florida's 2011 Annual Gala Dinner



### ***At the Sofitel Miami – Luxury Hotel***

As part of its 27th Anniversary celebration, the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida will lionize its Business Collaboration during its 2011 Annual Grand Gala Dinner, set for Thursday, May 29th, at the Sofitel Miami – Luxury Hotels.

More than two-hundred prestigious guests are expected to attend a special evening, under the Auspices of the Honorable François Delatre, Ambassador of France to the United States and in the presence of Gaël de Maisonneuve, Consul General of France in Miami.

The event will start with a reception to network and enjoy some cocktails and appetizers in the sumptuous Sofitel's Garden. Then it will be followed by a delicious four-course meal, prepared under the direction of Pierre Sudre, Sofitel's Head Chef.

Finally to make this night unforgettable, a raffle, silent and live auctions with luxury gifts will occur during the dinner; sponsored by leading corporations like Cartier and many other generous donors. This will enable the Chamber to raise funds for its daily operations, and supporting its mission, as well as it has been striving for these past 27 years in Florida.

Sponsorships opportunities and RSVP forms will be available upon request starting the Monday 21 March. For more information or if you have any question regarding this event, feel free to contact Mathias Laglaine at 305.374.5000 or [matt@faccmiami.com](mailto:matt@faccmiami.com)





## Mercedes-Benz B-Class F-Cell World Drive through Miami

### Mercedes-Benz B-Class F-CELL en route in the USA

From 25 February to 18 March the Mercedes-Benz F-CELL World Drive completed the second leg of its world tour with three neon green B-Class F-CELL vehicles. The U.S. journey began in Fort Lauderdale, FL and headed towards New Orleans, LA. In total, the vehicles racked up around 7500 kilometers in just the USA and Canada. After their brief visit, the F-Cell cars boarded a plane and head to Australia via Seattle, WA. Before the US tour the F-CELL World Drive has already clocked up more than 3600 kilometers on the roads of Europe.

By the end of the USA tour the B-Class F-CELL vehicles had been refueled around 35 times during 18 legs – but only one time was at a public hydrogen filling station in Torrance, Los Angeles.

During the F-CELL World Drive, three Mercedes-Benz B-Class F-CELL vehicles are passing through 14 countries and 4 continents – to drive around the globe once. Organized by Mercedes-Benz, the circumnavigation of the world started on 30 January 2011 in Stuttgart and is scheduled to last 125 days, until the vehicles return to Stuttgart again at the beginning of June, after covering a distance of some 30,000 kilometres. The aim of the tour is to demonstrate the technical maturity and suitability for everyday use of electric vehicles with fuel cells, and at the same time highlight the need for a comprehensive hydrogen infrastructure. The Stuttgart-based automotive manufacturer is being supported on the tour by Linde AG, which is responsible for supplying the hydrogen.

Source: Mercedes Benz

Read more about the F-CELL World Drive here [here](#)



## Joint Reception at the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Miami with the GABC Miami, GACC South and the German Consulate General

On March 16th, on the occasion of the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Miami the Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy, the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern United States and the German American Business Chamber of South East Florida-Miami invited to a joint reception at the German Pavilion at the Seatrade cruise shipping. GABC Miami members and guests of the German Consulate General were invited to attend the show and the reception. German companies joined this event at the German Pavilion where a great number of German companies exhibited and showcased their services and products. Companies who are involved in the shipping and cruise industry meet their existing and potential buyers at Seatrade. The German Pavilion is one of the largest exhibition areas among all countries/destinations showcased at Seatrade. The Pavilion was catered by a team from Hamburg with German food and the beer was sponsored by Beck's.

Cruise Shipping Miami is the world's most important and largest annual meeting for the cruise industry. For over 26 years, CSM has brought together top industry suppliers, quality cruise line buyers and decision makers from around the world for 3 days of exhibition and 4 days of conference.





Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast, Inc.

## A TOAST TO ITALY

This year, the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast (IACCSE) celebrates two decades as the primary institution that coordinates and facilitates commercial and intellectual exchange between Italy and the Southeastern US. On April 8, 2011, the IACCSE will commemorate this special occasion with a Gala at the Coral Gables Country Club, remembering and honoring the many businesses, men and women who contributed to the Chamber and community over these past fruitful years of development and expansion. 2011 also marks Italy's 150th anniversary as a unified nation – an occasion that is not only being celebrated throughout Italy, but by expatriots all around the world. For those who need a brief refresher in modern Italian history, the country suffered a long period of political and military unrest after Napoleonic rule in Europe. A social and political movement for the unification of the various Italian states arose and became known as Il Risorgimento, most famously championed by patriot and military leader Giuseppe Garibaldi. It was not until after the wars waged against the Austrians were over and once the Garibaldi expedition to Sicily was completed in 1861 that his dream of unification could be realized. On the 17th of March that year, national unity was proclaimed in Torino, which became the first capital city of a unified Italy. Torino remained the capital for four years until 1865, when the centrality of the Government of the Kingdom moved to Florence. Rome became the final capital city in 1871, when the unification of the country was fully completed. So, we will ask you all to raise your glasses to the birth of a nation in 1861, and to 20 years of Italian achievement in the Southeastern US. Cheers to you all – Members and Friends! Your continued support, service and contributions are the key to our Chamber's past and future success. We leave you with a quote from the great American judge and legal scholar Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving."

Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast  
invites you to our

# GALA 20TH ANNIVERSARY

A Tribute to Italian Exploration, Innovation & Progress  
The Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast Recognizes  
Italian Businesses for 20 years of Service to the Chamber & South Florida

8 April 2011  
7 o'clock

Grand Ballroom  
Coral Gables Country Club  
997 North Greenway Drive, Coral Gables, Florida

tickets : \$150  
table of 10: \$1,350

black-tie optional | rsvp required

Sponsorship & Underwriting Opportunities available  
Contact: [gala@iaccse.com](mailto:gala@iaccse.com) or (305) 577.9868  
Tickets can be purchased online at [www.iaccse.com](http://www.iaccse.com)



## The Spain-US Chamber of Commerce Elects New Board of Directors

The Spain-United States Chamber of Commerce, proudly announces the election of five highly accomplished business leaders as the new members of its executive committee. Emilio González, President and CEO of INDRA USA, was elected as the Chamber's new president for 2011.

Indra USA is the US subsidiary of Indra Sistemas, S.A. the leading European IT solutions provider. Previously, González served as Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS), an Under Secretary equivalent position within the Department of Homeland Security. He also served as a Director on the National Security Council at the White House.

The new executive board consist of, Daniel Pedrosa, Director of Igape, the Galician Institute for Economic Development (First Vice President); Juan Jose Nuñez , President and CEO of Vertical 3 Media (Second Vice President); Pablo Calatrava, Director of the Trade Development and Promotion Agency for the Regional Government of Valencia, Spain, IVEX-Florida (Secretary); and Senior Vice President and General Manager of Caja Mediterráneo Miami Agency and President of Florida International Bankers Association-FIBA, Dario Fuentes Alvarez (Treasurer).

"The new board brings a renewed dedication and vigor to lead the Chamber in a new strategic direction offering more innovative services, enhanced business support, increased membership and greater opportunities to promote and strengthen bilateral trade between the United States and Spain" says Emilio González, the Chamber's new President.

---

## March/April 2011 Calendar

### Combined European Chamber of Commerce Events

#### European Networking Cocktail

**Date & Time:** March 31, 2011 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Location:** The Alexander | 5225 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140

**Cost:** Members: Free | Non Members: \$20

**RSVP:** Please contact your respective Chamber by March 29, 2011

### Individual Chamber Events

French American Chamber of Commerce

[Click Here for Upcoming Events](#)

German American Business Chamber South East Florida

[Click Here for Upcoming Events](#)

Italy-America Chamber of Commerce

[Click Here for Upcoming Events](#)

Spain U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[Click Here for Upcoming Events](#)