

BVEP Newsletter - April issue

"A new season brings new goals and challenges, with plenty of activity including the newly agreed mission statement by the Partners at the beginning of this year.

- To garner cohesive opinion of these stakeholders and to collectively influence and develop the policies, practices and strategies that support and generate growth in the sector.
- To raise sector awareness through clear communications of the social and economic benefits of the business visits and events sector.

*We welcome the initial results of the **VisitBritain consultation** on its tourism strategy 2020 and the strong endorsement by many trade and tourism bodies that business tourism should be re-instated in VisitBritain's on-going plans. Progress is being made on the **Ministerial Bid Support initiative**, first mooted in the Partnerships Subvention Report last year. The Minister for Tourism, Hugh Robertson has agreed to write to his Ministerial colleagues asking for their co-operation in the bidding process for events. Following on the changes to **China visa processing**, the Prime Minister announced further improvements to the issue of Indian business visas. This comes as the Partnership continues to call for the general introduction of a **Special Events visa**. Many of these desired improvements will be reviewed as part of the **All Parliamentary Group Inquiry** into the competitiveness of the UK events industry, while the Partnership begins to prepare **a new manifesto of industry wide policies** prior to the 2015 General Election, ensuring the industry's needs are embodied in the policies of the political parties."*

Michael Hirst, Chair of the Business Visits & Events Partnership

In the news – Nick de Bois launches APPG inquiry at International Confex

Nick de Bois MP, Chair of the APPG on Events outlined details of the inquiry at International Confex (19 – 21 March) and called for written submissions and witness testimonies before the deadline on Friday 19 April.

These testimonies will form the basis of a report and a series of recommendations that will be passed onto Ministers throughout government. The report will later be presented to the industry at a special event in the summer hosted by International Confex and the Britain for Events campaign who are providing secretarial support to assist the inquiry.



For more information on the Inquiry and how to participate visit www.britainforevents.co.uk

Campaigns – Amending the Package Travel Directive

The Partnership has put its support behind efforts being made by the Tourism Alliance and other tourism industry bodies to have the definition of "Package" under the Package Travel Directive amended so as to remove "other tourism services" in order to allow small tourism businesses to work together to provide value-added products to customers without having to bear unnecessary costs and potential liabilities. This would leave only the combination of transport and accommodation covered by the Directive.

Simplifying the definition of a package will help create a more favourable environment for UK event organisers to bundle products within destinations. This will help to greatly increase the value of business extenders, pre and post event participation by attendees, delegates and partners in additional visit activities.

For more information please contact Kurt Janson at the Tourism Alliance on kurt.janson@tourismalliance.com

In the news – MPI Economic Impact Survey

The first of the UK Economic Impact Survey (UKEIS) results was announced by Meeting Professionals International Foundation (MPIF) on Wednesday 20 March at International Confex.



Initial indications show that expenditures on meetings, exhibitions and other events during 2011 were worth over £40 bn. This includes £7.7 bn of accompanying persons spend, a rise of 14% on previously reported figures collated by the Partnership. Further work is being done to scope the full economic impact of the sector which will be announced in the summer.

The results provided a detailed profile of the UK meetings and events industry and are a first of their kind to show the geographical spread, shape, size and scale of the UK Meetings Industry.

Read more about the progress of the study [here](#)

Partnership – BVEP partners to establish Parliamentary Affairs Steering Group

The BVEP has set about plans to establish a Parliamentary Affairs Steering Group under Brian Kirsch, Head of Eventia's Regulation Committee, and together will prepare a manifesto ahead of the 2015 General Election in order to lobby and influence policies early.



Michael Hirst pointed out that business travel and events growth was stifled by high VAT and other travel taxation, health and safety regulations, and policies that impacted on the UK's international competitiveness.

In a recent research conducted by the World Economic Forum, Britain came 138th out of 140 countries for price competitiveness.

"It's not appreciated what this industry does. Backing events is backing growth. In terms of exports and inward investors we are one of the main conduits to increasing these" commented Hirst.

To apply to join the Working Group please contact Brian Kirsch at brian.k@event-assured.com;

Research – 'Britain for Events Report' to be updated

The Partnership's comprehensive overview of the industry's size, value, characteristics, trends, opportunities and key issues, last published in 2010, is to be updated by the end of 2013. The work will be carried out by Tony Rogers of Tony Rogers Conference and Events Services, who has compiled the previous reports from submissions made by representative bodies covering each sector of the industry.



There has been a remarkable improvement in the perception of the industry and its size and scope since the last publication and the new report will show a much changed landscape, with many new challenges and issues set to confront businesses in the sector.

To submit content for the new Report please contact Tony Rogers at tony@tony-rogers.com;

Contact us

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