

News Release

19th March 2010

Events Sector meets with Government officials to call for further industry support ahead of meeting with Members of Parliament

Representatives from the Business Visits & Events Partnership (BVEP), the umbrella organisation for the UK business tourism and events industry, met with officials from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) this week to put forward the events sectors case for further government support. Chairman of the BVEP, Michael Hirst OBE, said the talks were "constructive and far reaching."

The meeting comes ahead of a further initiative taking place later this year at the House of Commons as part of the annual National Meetings Week campaign. On 20th October, the BVEP will host an event attended by the new intake of MP's to lobby for a greater voice in parliament and within constituencies where business events play a vital role in the local economy. The event is being sponsored by Confex Group, and is expected to attract over 200 MP's and guests.

Michael Hirst concludes; "the meeting enabled a substantial overview of the many issues confronting the sector, and whilst the General Election is likely to cause a delay in taking some of these forward, we now feel well placed to capture the attention of whatever Government is elected."

The meeting also took place at the same time as new figures released show that events are now worth an estimated £24.6bn to the UK economy.

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About the Business Visits & Events Partnership

The Business Visits and Events Partnership's aim is to lead the way in supporting a competitive, high quality and more profitable business visits and events sector in Britain. The Partnership seeks to provide a cohesive industry voice and works with VisitBritain and other government departments and agencies to influence and develop policies and practices favourable to the growth of tourism, trade and creative enterprise from business visits and events and with the support of the leading trade organisations and government agencies with an interest in conferences, meetings, exhibitions, trade fairs, incentive travel, corporate hospitality, and business, sporting, cultural and festival events.

Members of the BVEP include;

- **Association of British Professional Conference Organisers**
- **Association for Conferences and Events**
- **Association for Events Management Education**
- **Conference Centres of Excellence**
- **Department for Culture, Media & Sport**
- **Eventia**
- **Events Industry Alliance**
- **Events Industry Forum**
- **Hotel Booking Agents Association**
- **International Congress & Convention Association**
- **International Special Events Society**
- **Meet England**
- **Meetings Industry Association**
- **Meeting Professionals International**
- **National Outdoors Events Association**
- **Northern Ireland Tourist Board**
- **Site Global**
- **UK Inbound**
- **UK Trade & Investment**
- **VisitBritain**
- **Visit London**
- **VisitScotland**
- **Visit Wales**

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