

Consular Association Dinner with European Commission and OFMdFM Officials

14 June 2011

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: The Consular Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) hosted a dinner with guest speakers Maurice Maxwell – Head, European Commission Office in Belfast and Jonathan Bell MLA – Junior Minister, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdFM), last night at the Ramada Plaza, Shaw’s Bridge.

This was through an initiative directed by Lord Diljit Rana MBE – President of CA-NI & Hon. Consul of India to Northern Ireland and Dr Christopher Stange – Secretariat of CA-NI & Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland, to further engagement and awareness, for the benefit of all Consular Members and stakeholders.



R-L:

Jonathan Bell MLA, Junior Minister - OFMdFM; Lord Rana MBE, President - CA-NI; Maurice Maxwell, Head - European Commission Office in Belfast with Executive and Members of the Consular Association of Northern Ireland

The Consular Association/Corps of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) serves all Foreign Consular Officials (Career and Honorary) based in Northern Ireland. Each Member is formally accredited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the United Kingdom.

Discussion focused on European and International Affairs, related to how best we can further links and opportunities in trade and investment between Northern Ireland, regionally, and in the framework of the countries formally represented on a Consular basis in Northern Ireland.

There was dialogue on the various Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities in Northern Ireland, issues faced, and the contributions made to socio-economic development in Northern Ireland.

The objectives of CA-NI are to bring its Members together in close and friendly co-operation, for the development and protection of their mutual interests, as well as, representing the Consular Association to Government Departments, other central/local authorities, and internationally within the framework of Consular activities.

The Consular Association of Northern Ireland extended thanks to the European Commission and the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister for the continued support and future engagement for the benefit of all its citizens in Northern Ireland.

ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITOR:

For more information please visit our website: www.ca-ni.org

- **President:** Lord Diljit Rana – Hon. Consul for India to Northern Ireland
- **Vice President:** Mr Milan Mladek – Hon. Consul for Czech Republic to Northern Ireland
- **Secretariat:** Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland
- **Treasurer:** Mr Donald Price – Hon. Consul for Denmark to Northern Ireland
- Consuls are appointed to further the interests of the country they represent by encouraging commercial, academic and cultural activities. They also endeavour to assist, and protect the interests of their nationals. All their work is done within the terms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR), an International Protocol which was drafted and agreed by the International Law Commission, and signed by the respective Governments on 24th April 1963.
- Consul Generals, Consuls, and other Consular Officials in Northern Ireland, whether they are Career Consuls or Honorary (Hon.) Consuls, are all appointed by the Governments of the Sending States to the Receiving State in the United Kingdom via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Each official receives a Letter of Commission which is recognised by the Government of the United Kingdom as conferring Consular standing in accordance with the VCCR.