

Trade Mission to Brussels

16 – 18 September 2013

Closing date: Friday 16 August 2013

Pre-departure briefing: Monday 9 September 2013

This mission will combine traditional networking opportunities between British and Belgian companies in the form of B2B meetings. It will help to facilitate bilateral trade, with the prospect of learning more about European public procurement, and the EU funding and finance programmes available to SMEs.

WHY BRUSSELS?

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and the heart of the European Union. Easily accessible from London, Brussels is a gateway for British companies, not only to the Belgian market with 11 million consumers, but also to the wider European marketplace.



In 2010, the United Kingdom was Belgium's fifth largest supplier with more than five per cent of total Belgian imports coming from the British Isles, while exports to the UK accounted for seven per cent of Belgium's total sales. Frequent high-speed direct trains between the capitals of both countries help to facilitate bilateral trade by giving entrepreneurs the opportunity to conduct business efficiently.

In addition, some of the most important EU institutions have their headquarters in Brussels, including the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Council. This gives businesses direct access to the heart of European policy making.

This unique combination of numerous business opportunities and access to European institutions make Brussels an attractive destination for British businesses.

SECTORS:

This mission and the B2B matchmaking will be multi-sectoral.

THE BENEFITS

- Networking with leading business organisations and companies from Brussels
- Individual programme of B2B meetings
- Meetings with EU officials during visits to the European Commission and the European Investment Bank with presentations on the subject of European public procurement and EU funding/finance programmes for SMEs
- Increased visibility resulting from national participation
- Pre-visit and in-country briefings providing market information and advice on how to do business in Belgium
- Company profile in the trade mission brochure circulated to companies in Brussels
- Services of an experienced mission manager before and during the visit
- Competitive costs through group travel
- Post-event press coverage in London Business Matters, the official publication of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) with a readership of approximately 18,000

THE PROGRAMME (subject to change)

Mon 16 September

8.52am	Depart London (by Eurostar)
12.05pm	Arrive Brussels
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Visit to the European Investment Bank
4.30pm - 5.30pm	Presentation on the Business Environment in Belgium by Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry

Tue 17 September

10.00am - 4.00pm	Visit to the European Commission
7.00pm - 9.00pm	Networking reception

Wed 18 September

10.00am - 5.00pm	B2B meetings with Belgian companies organised by Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry
7.52pm	Depart Brussels (by Eurostar)
9.03pm	Arrive London

THE COSTS

- Trade mission participation fee: £150 (there is a discounted rate of £75 for London Chamber of Commerce Premier Plus members)
- Travel package: a competitive travel package will be available

TRAVEL

LCCI will appoint a travel agent who will provide a competitive travel package. This will include train tickets and hotels on a bed and breakfast basis. You can make your own travel arrangements but it is highly recommended that you stay in the mission hotel in order to make the most of the networking opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY

All applications will be subject to approval by LCCI.

HOW TO APPLY

For the full application pack, please contact the Mission Manager:
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Please complete and return the application form by Friday 16 August 2013.