

## Consular Association Dinner with European Commission and OFMdFM Officials

14 June 2011

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** The Consular Corps/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, CA-NI & Dr Christopher Stange – Secretariat, CA-NI, 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:**

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