

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN BUSINESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



in cooperation with:



Special Event One/23

Panel Discussion on Apprenticeships and Skills

On **Monday, 27 March 2023**, GIUK hosted a **Panel Discussion on Apprenticeships and Skills**, in cooperation with the **German Embassy, MakeUK and the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany** at the **Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas Club, London SW1**.

Productivity has always been the most important measurement of performance in business. Unfortunately British productivity does not compare favourably with other industrial nations, including Germany. Education and skills affect productivity and well educated and skilled apprentices are vital for the success of business. The UK has made fostering vocational skills a priority. GIUK Executive President, Dr Bernd Atenstaedt, who chaired the panel discussion, said in his opening address that it may be useful to introduce further elements of the German Dual Vocational Training System into the UK, which has proved successful in Germany and has increased skills and in turn, productivity. Recent GIUK surveys amongst German business in the UK have supported this.



Royal Over-Seas Club

HE Miguel Berger, German Ambassador and Patron of GIUK, then addressed the meeting, emphasising the importance of skills. This was followed by the first keynote speaker the **Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Minister of State (Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education), Department for Education**, who spoke about the UK Government's skills agenda and Germany's technical education system which he loves. The second keynote speaker was **Stephen Phipson CBE, Chief Executive Officer, MakeUK**, who emphasised the importance of apprentices in business. The third keynote speaker was **Sir Michael Barber, Advisor to the UK Government on the Skills Reform Programme**, who is currently looking into the German Dual Vocational Training System. This was followed by the fourth keynote speaker **Dr Ralf Hermann, Head, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (GOVET)**, who spoke about the system and set out current trends. The last two keynote speakers were **Bob Shankly, HR Director, BMW Manufacturing (UK) Ltd (MINI)** and **Sarah Black-Smith, General Manager, Motion Control Business, Siemens plc** who used slides to show how their companies had already introduced something like the Dual System into the UK.



The Panel during the opening address

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Dr Bernd Atenstaedt



German Ambassador and Minister Halfon



Stephen Phipson CBE



Sir Michael Barber



Dr Ralf Hermann



Bob Shankly



Phil McClenon

Some 50 members and guests took part and after hearing from the keynote speakers everyone enjoyed a very lively question and answer session, chaired by GIUK Chairman and Chief Executive, Phil McClenon, who also gave the vote of thanks.

A very rewarding event for all participants.



Sarah Black-Smith



Most participants during the discussion