



Ecco Chamber

FORTNIGHTLY ITALIAN NEWS MADE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

ITALCHAM BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

WHAT AN EVENING

WHERE BUSINESS MEETS PLEASURE

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Chamber's Note

Where Business Meets Pleasure

The first Aperol Aperilink of 2022 took place last week at Stelle in Sandton, adding a splash of colour to the work week of all in attendance. It was a beautiful late summer evening seen through orange-tinted drinks and enlivened by the distinct Italian culture of many of our guests.

Now a reputed event, amalgamating key Italian values of quality, style, and taste, the Italian Chamber provides its members and stakeholders with a space where new connections are easy to make and where doing business is only a pleasure.

"Attracting the younger generation to our events is becoming a priority and this is one of the reasons we provide membership rates to everyone who is a member of the Giovani Italo Sudafricani" said Chamber Secretary General Pamina Bohrer.

A major thank you needs to go out to Campari who have realised the powerful entry point that exists in the Italian business community which is not isolated but in fact, spreads widely across the South African economy. A second resounding acknowledgment goes out to Acrow who sponsored the wine for the event.



The catering provided by Stelle was of the usual high standard that has made them a renowned Italian restaurant in Johannesburg and an extra stroke of enjoyment was added by a performance of Italian classics by Warren Field, a regular at Stelle.

The next event will be happening in Cape Town on Thursday 7 April and the following one to take place in July in Durban after which three events will take place in the second half of the year. We welcome all to our next meeting which is also a party, where business will meet pleasure.



Italcham!

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ITALCHAM BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BLACK TIE & BUBBLES

Celebrations can only seldom happen. That is how they keep their potency. This law proved true last night when the first Business Excellence Awards ceremony took place after two years on ice. The event took place at the residence of the Ambassador of Italy to South Africa in Pretoria, led by Master of Ceremonies Neil Andrews and a special performance of Italian classics by the Johannesburg Opera.



Sponsors Nedbank, Renergen and Italtile all made the event possible and that extra bit special. To the same ebullient effect, prosecco sponsored by Spirits and Bubbles was given to guests as a welcome drink, with Ferrero providing chocolates for the gift bags at the end of the evening. Household Italian names were present with catering provided by Mastrantonio and Italian wine from Vinotria.

This year's Business Person of the Year was won by Stefano Marani of Renergen, who provided a wonderful presentation on the astounding performance of his company and the future of helium in technology. The prestigious award of Business Enterprise of the Year was won by MSC Cruises who have made a remarkable recovery after two hard years for the tourism industry. In addition, MSC donated exclusive tickets that were auctioned for R40-thousand with the proceeds going entirely towards the donation to Little Eden.



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ITALCHAM BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

A special recognition was awarded to the Italian Sporting Club. Its committee members namely: John Vaglietti, Piergiorgio Devalle, Riccardo Pinna and Riccardo Adriano had the vision and tenacity to implement a remarkable turnaround that took the club from the brink of liquidation towards a secure and prosperous future.



Finally, the esteemed Lifetime Achievement Award, was customarily handed over by Cavaliere Maurizio Mariano to Alberto Fogolin who has been a successful businessman in the construction industry. Additionally, Fogolin received the prize for his charitable support to underprivileged sports people and service to the non-profit sector in South Africa.

A cheque for R120-thousand was donated to Little Eden, with 10% of all ticket proceeds being donated to the Chamber's charity of choice. Italian Ambassador, his Excellency Paolo Cuculi, provided some wise words which summed up the spirit of the event. "Behind the figures are companies and people who are committed to doing great things. This year's success comes from us standing firm with the traditions between South Africa and Italy."



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ITALCHAM
BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2022 WINNERS

BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR



STEFANO MARANI
RENERGEN

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR



MSC CRUISES



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



**ITALIAN SPORTING
CLUB**

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



ALBERTO FOGOLIN

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ITALTILE

ITALTILE

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
ITALTILE
FOR SPONSORING
THE EVENING



RENERGEN

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
RENERGEN
FOR SPONSORING
THE EVENING



NEDBANK

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
NEDBANK
FOR SPONSORING
THE EVENING



VODACOM

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
VODACOM
FOR PROVIDING
THE EVENING'S WIFI



MSC CRUISES

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
MSC CRUISES
FOR SPONSORING
THE CHARITY AUCTION

S&B

SPIRITS & BUBBLES

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
SPIRITS & BUBBLES
FOR SPONSORING
THE WELCOME DRINKS



FERRERO

WE WOULD LIKE TO
THANK
FERRERO
FOR SPONSORING
THE EVENINGS GIFT BAGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SMILE

NETWORKING & COCKTAIL

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
AN ITALIAN APERITIVO
& BUSINESS NETWORKING
EVENT
HOSTED EXCLUSIVELY FOR
THE MEMBERS OF SMILE

24 MARCH 2022

18 : 00

ITALIAN CLUB
JOHANNESBURG,
BEDFORDVIEW



CAMERA DI COMMERCIO E
INDUSTRIA ITALO-SUDAFRICANA

COMMITES

SMITHS[™]

SOUTH AFRICAN DRY CRAFT GIN

Elderflower Citrus Spice



SMILE
SMALL MEDIUM ITALIAN
LEAGUE OF ENTERPRISES



EU Chamber

Engagements with Department of Home Affairs

3 March 2022

Italcham is a proud member of the EU CHamber. Within this context was given the opportunity to engage and discuss the important issues related to immigration, visas, and skills with the South African Department of Home Affairs. It has been understood that the manner in which these matters are managed can have a positive impact on investment as well as having positive knock-on effects in terms of job creation and transfer of skills and technology. The opposite can also be true. The EU remains the largest investor in South Africa. The European Chamber of Commerce and industry in South Africa is committed to ensuring that any issues that can form potential barriers to driving economic growth are thoroughly engaged.

At the end of 2021, The EU Chamber surveyed European firms in South Africa about the proposed new critical skills list. Respondents stressed the need to ensure that immigration processes remain agile, respond to new technologies and requirements as well as not undermine investment prospects by unnecessarily driving up

costs. It was appreciated that a number of changes were made to the new list of critical skills following engagement with stakeholders on the draft that was published for comment in 2021.



The EU Chamber welcomes the inclusion of some upper and middle management positions. Company knowledge is both critical to the investment and set-up of companies, and a long-term connection with head



EU Advocacy

Engagements with Department of Home Affairs

office and international competencies. The inclusion of a range of engineering skills in the list was also important for many of our members.

The EU Chamber must note, it was disappointing that the foreign language speaking skills were limited to call center roles. This is a limitation for companies looking to set up headquarters in South Africa and seeking to invest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Specific language skills are required and have the ability to attract large investments for Africa, centered in South Africa.



The procedural requirements for professionals and business people seeking to enter South Africa can put new investments and the expansion of existing operations at risk. This risk has been highlighted by the inefficient and lengthy process-times of visas which are an additional barrier to investment as they limit the opportunities for

companies to capitalise on and result in project delays and running over budget. There are considerable delays being reported by our members in some EU countries, including Belgium and France. In other cases, such as Croatia and Bulgaria, there appears to be a lack of urgency for providing assistance to business people who require short-term visas to come to South Africa for meetings and engagements with partners.

The EU Chamber has two additional points for future consideration. First, the EU Chamber would like to make a proposal that a specific visa linked to investment be introduced to aid in attracting new investment initiatives and



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Engagements with Department of Home Affairs

to bring in particular company skills and upper-management to launch company activities. The expansion of existing firms and new firms investing will inevitably increase economic activity and therefore create jobs locally.

Second, the length of time it has taken to revise the list of critical skills since 2014 does bode well for a flexible approach. This is increasingly important as we deal with rebuilding the economy following the unrivaled effects of COVID-19. Given increased digitalisation and internationalisation, a non-flexible list is not conducive to an evolving economy.

We propose having an extended list of basic critical skills in order to allow for greater flexibility that will account for the evolving needs of the local and international economy. This can be subject to the restriction on an investment basis to ensure the accountability of companies and governments alike.

