

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

THE VOICE OF GERMAN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



Special Event One/15

Panel Discussion on Skills Training in the UK



The German House

On Tuesday, 27 January 2015, the **German Ambassador, HE Dr Peter Ammon**, our Patron, hosted a **Panel Discussion on Skills Training in the UK**, organised by the **German Embassy** and **GERMAN INDUSTRY UK (GIUK)** at the German House, 34 Belgrave Square, London SW1. Our VIP Speakers were **Mr Adrian Bailey MP**, Chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Business, Innovation and Skills, and our members **Professor Jürgen Maier**, Chief Executive of **Siemens plc**, **Mr Paul Willis**, Managing Director of **Volkswagen Group UK Ltd**, **Mr Jürgen Zahl**, Managing Director of **Brose Ltd** and our Chairman and Chief Executive, **Dr Bernd Atenstaedt**. The Panel Discussion was moderated by **Mr Hamish McRae**, Associate Editor of **The Independent**.

Some 70 representatives from Government, Parliament, business and the media attended the event.



HE Dr Peter Ammon

The **Ambassador** said that in this new world of global competition and rapidly advancing technologies, we owe it to our young people to provide them with an opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to succeed. The UK has made fostering vocational skills a priority, and the Prime Minister recently proclaimed the objective of making it “the new norm for young people to either go to university or into an apprenticeship”.



Mr Adrian Bailey MP



Mr Jürgen Zahl, Mr Paul Willis,
Prof Jürgen Maier (L→R)

Mr Adrian Bailey MP, welcomed the contribution by German companies to the professional skills base in the UK.

The UK CEOs of **Siemens**, **Volkswagen** and automotive supplier **Brose** talked about how their companies combine elements of the German Dual Vocational Training System (Dual System) with the British educational system in their recruitment and training of young people here.



Some participants during the discussion and afterwards (below)



Mr Hamish McRae

Dr Bernd Atenstaedt, mentioned that GIUK has been lobbying the UK and Welsh Skills Ministers over many years to introduce the Dual System into the UK which would be welcomed by German business in this country and many British companies. Elements of the German system have now been adopted here as the current UK Skills Minister, Mr Nick Boles MP, has acknowledged recently to us. We shall continue working with the Governments on the Dual System.



This was a very interesting and rewarding event for all present.

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