

THE 10TH
DOMINICAN
WEEK
IN THE UK

Dominican Republic:
A Global Hub
in Latin America
and the Caribbean

Tuesday, 14th November

In and Out Club, 4 St James's Square,
St. James's, London SW1Y 4JU

09:00 - 12:35

Agenda

Time

Activity

09:00-09:30

Guests' arrival and registration

09:30-09:40

WELCOMING REMARKS

Jeremy Browne, CEO - Canning House
Amauris Vásquez, President - Britcham Dominican Republic

09:40-09:45

AMBASSADORS' REMARKS

HE Elnio Durán, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UK
HE Mockbul Ali, British Ambassador to the Dominican Republic

09:45-10:30

PRESENTATION ONE

Logistics Hub of the Dominican Republic

Daniel Peña, Deputy Director - Customs of the Dominican Republic

10:30-11:00

PANEL ONE

Empowering Global Trade: The Dominican Republic as a Logistics Hub

MODERATOR: Chris Bennett, Managing Director - Caribbean Council
SPEAKERS: Jaak Rannik, Vice Chairman of the Board - Grupo Rannik
Dirk Hoffmann, Director, Product Development, UK Ports and Terminals - DP World
Ian Jenkins, Lecturer and researcher - University of Birmingham

11:00-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:00

PRESENTATION TWO

Dominican Republic: Your Destination for Nearshoring

Biviana Riveiro Disla, Executive Director - Dominican Republic's Export and Investment Centre (PRODOMINICANA)

12:00-12:30

PANEL TWO

What to Expect When You're Investing

MODERATOR: Jacopo Dettoni, Editor - fDi Intelligence
SPEAKERS: Claudia León Campos, Senior Manager, International Tax Advisor, EMEIA Latin American Business Centre - EY
Manuel Cabral, Founding Partner - Blue Compass Consulting
Horacio Rossi, Honorary Vice President - Canning House

12:30-12:35

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Miriam Stern Velázquez, Director of Trade - Embassy of the Dominican Republic in the UK

Speakers



HE Mockbul Ali

British Ambassador to the Dominican Republic

HE Ambassador Ali was appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Dominican Republic and Non-Resident Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti in succession to Mr Chris Campbell in August 2020. His previous roles at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office have included postings in and policy advice roles on African and Middle Eastern countries.



Chris Bennett

Managing Director - Caribbean Council

Over 15 years, Chris has advised hundreds of UK and international investors in the Caribbean and Central America, facilitating business growth and major transactions. He serves as the UK representative for EURACEN, sits on the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's Advisory Board, and co-founded CIAC. His extensive experience includes roles at the European Commission, a manufacturing industry trade body, and Parliament. A fluent speaker of Spanish, Italian, and French, Chris is a graduate of the London School of Economics and University College London.



Jeremy Browne

CEO - Canning House

From 2010 to 2012, Jeremy served as Minister of State for Latin America in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Since leaving elected office, Jeremy has served as the City of London Corporation's Special Representative to the EU, worked as an International Business Ambassador for Aberdeen Standard Investments (abrdn), and advised the environmental investment firm Renewity.



Manuel Cabral

Founding Partner - Blue Compass Consulting

Manuel, founder of Blue Compass Consulting, leads public affairs and communications. Formerly heading Corporate Affairs for Philip Morris International in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean, he advises businesses in regulated sectors. With 15+ years' experience, Cabral holds an MBA from Imperial College London, a Master of Laws from George Washington University, and a master's in public relations & Corporate Communications from Georgetown University, plus a Bachelor of Laws from Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra.



Jacopo Dettoni

Editor - fDi Intelligence

Jacopo, editor of fDi Intelligence at the Financial Times, spearheads editorial coverage and strategic development. A seasoned speaker and moderator on global trade and investment, he brings a wealth of experience from reporting in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Dettoni holds a master's degree in Economics and Finance from the Catholic University of Milan, specializing in trade policies and economic welfare.



HE Elnio Durán

Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the UK

HE Ambassador Durán, a leading Dominican agribusiness expert, has significantly increased the country's exports, particularly to the United Kingdom. Holding degrees from PUCMM and Texas A&M University, he serves as Vice President of Grupo Banamiel SAS and heads Don Gabin Project and Durafil SRL. Awarded the Honour Medal in 2017, he has held prominent roles in organizations like ADOBANANO and served as Banana Advisor to the President of the Dominican Republic. Durán is renowned for introducing advanced irrigation systems, enhancing efficiency in agriculture.



Dirk Hoffmann

Director, Product Development, UK Ports and Terminals - DP World

Dirk, a dynamic problem solver in perishable cargo supply chains, brings three decades of fervor for international trade. Currently, as Director of Product Development at DP World UK, he excels in navigating all facets of fresh food shipping. His previous roles include Commercial Manager at Geest Line, Managing Director at Safmarine Southern Africa, and tenure at Maersk in Centre Reefer Management. Dirk holds a Master's Degree in Maritime Management from Stellenbosch University Business School and is a Fellow of the Institute of Shipbrokers, London.



Ian Jenkins

Lecturer and researcher - University of Birmingham

Although now a university lecturer and researcher, Ian spent more than 45 years in senior positions within the global supply chain latterly with the London based global service provider Charles Kendall Group. During that time he delivered supply chain solutions for multi-national customers in some of the worlds most challenging environments and has extensive first-hand experience in the USA, the Caribbean and Latin America.



Claudia León Campos

Senior Manager, International Tax Advisor, EMEA Latin American Business Centre - EY

Claudia has 15 years of professional experience in tax matters. During her professional career, she has been involved in day-to-day advisory projects and the planning and analysis of the tax implications of investment projects, mergers, spin-offs, and acquisitions. She has developed experience in national and international tax planning and has participated in consulting projects involving tax diagnosis, due diligence processes and structuring of investment models, across sectors including energy, retail, professional services, and mining.



Daniel Peña

Deputy Director - Customs of the Dominican Republic

In August 2020, President Abinader appointed Daniel as Deputy Director of the Dominican Republic's Customs Agency (DGA). He has played a leading role in the increase of the custom's collections, achieving record high figures, and has been instrumental in the implementation of nonintrusive technology to drive efficiencies in customs operations. Prior to his time at DGA, he worked for 16 years in a diverse range of roles at Nestlé.



Jaak Rannik

Vice Chairman of the Board - Grupo Rannik

Jaak, Vice Chairman of Grupo Rannik, leads the growth of the logistics sector in the Dominican Republic through Agencias Navieras Rannik, established in 1919. As President of the Dominican Republic Shipping Association, he actively contributes to the industry's development, focusing on port infrastructure, inter-Caribbean shipping routes, and logistics businesses. Additionally, Mr. Rannik serves on the board of Haina International Terminals and Svitzer Caribbean, displaying his commitment to maritime cargo and tugboat operations in the Caribbean. He is set to represent the logistics sector at the 2024 Dominican Republic Logistics Summit.



Biviana Riveiro Disla

Executive Director - Dominican Republic's Export and Investment Centre (PRODOMINICANA)

Biviana, Executive Director at the Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic, is a prominent advocate for the country's investment climate. A lawyer specializing in Corporate Business Law, she played key roles at the National Institute of Telecommunications, focusing on regulatory policy and international affairs. Passionate about entrepreneurship and innovation, she received accolades, including Gala Magazine's "women of today" award. Riveiro also served as executive director of the National Association of Young Entrepreneurs and founded Grupo Legalia.



Horacio Rossi

Honorary Vice President - Canning House

With 42 years of civil engineering experience, including 38 in airports, Horacio oversees LATAM and Key Investor accounts for Mott MacDonald's aviation division. In the last 25 years, he's been a key player in aviation PPPs globally. His expertise spans greenfield airport delivery, PPP advisory, business plans, and P&L responsibility for a cluster of seven regional airports. Horacio's leadership extends to roles as an aviation expert for the EU Commission grant aid programs and ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau, as well as leading technical advisory projects for governments, lenders, and investors with UK-based firms Halcrow, Ch2M Hill, and Mott MacDonald.



Miriam Stern Velásquez

Director of Trade - Embassy of the Dominican Republic in the UK

Miriam, a legal expert, graduated Summa Cum Laude from UNIBE in 2009 and earned her LL.M in International Financial Law from King's College London in 2012 as a Chevening Scholar. With extensive experience in financial law, she worked at Rafal Sicard & Polanco and managed legal compliance at Grupo Popular, S.A. Notably, she served as Director of Communications at the British Embassy Santo Domingo and Secretary General of BANDEX. Currently, she is a Counselor at the Dominican Embassy in the UK, focusing on investment/Director of Trade, and a respected educator in financial markets and FinTech topics.



Amauris Vásquez

President - Britcham Dominican Republic

Amauris is the Founding Partner at De Camps, Vásquez & Valera, Attorneys at Law. He earned his Law degree from the "Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra" in the Dominican Republic. A Master's in Business Law holder from the University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, he has also completed programs in International Law in Helsinki and attended conferences in Panama and Paris. A specialist in energy, renewable energy, project finance, and more, he is a lecturer at the "Pontificia Universidad Católica madre y Maestra" in the Dominican Republic.

Further information

Location and transport

IN AND OUT CLUB

4 St James's Square, St. James's, London SW1Y 4JU

TUBE

The In and Out is just a short walk from Picadilly Circus Underground station on the Picadilly and Bakerloo lines.

BUS

Buses including the 9, 12, 14, 23, 88, 94, 139, 159 and 453 stop nearby.

Connect with us on social media



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Britcham DR

Embajada de la República Dominicana en Londres
Canning House

Tell us about your experience

We are constantly striving to improve and host events that interest our audience. In light of this, we would like to gather feedback on this policy dialogue.

All attendees will receive an email including a short post-event survey. We kindly ask that you provide any feedback you may have, such that we can provide the best experience possible at future Canning House events.