

ISSUE: APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER



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Welcome to
The European
Chamber of
Commerce

Founded in 1998, the principal aim of ECCCSL is to promote, strengthen and preserve business relations between Sri Lanka and 28 countries in Europe.

The 1st phase of our website is launched under
www.eccsl.lk

Await phase 2 which will incorporate a host of services for
our subscribers, members and partners.

For any inquires please contact us

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ABOUT US

The Voice & Window to Business with Europe

The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka was founded in 1996. Its primary objective is to stimulate, strengthen and promote economic and business relations between Sri Lanka and the 50 member countries of Europe. ECCSL broadly seeks to provide, inter-alia, efficient and professional information, advisory, consultative, promotional and representative linkages between Sri Lanka and European business entities.

ECCSL has today emerged as a dynamic association of European and local companies conducting business in Sri Lanka. The quality and scope of commercial interests represented in the membership reflects the consolidation of its strong presence in Sri Lanka.

OUR OBJECTIVE

To stimulate, strengthen and promote economic and business relations between Europe and Sri Lanka.

OUR VISION

- To be the most valued European Business support partner in Sri Lanka.
- To be the representative body for the European businesses in the country.
- To be the most valued lobbying force in Sri Lanka.
- To be a trusted discussion partner for Sri Lankan Institutions and the Government.

OUR MISSION

To be the voice and the window to business with Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues in Sri Lanka.

OUR SERVICES

- Business Networking
- Event Management
- Trade Fairs
- Trade Inquiries
- Business Information
- Business Opportunities
- Business Delegations (Inbound & Outbound)

BECOME A MEMBER

Register with us to make most of the services and facilities being offered to enhance your business in Europe.

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OUR PARTNERS



NEWS UPDATES FROM SRI LANKA

SL exporters explore cutting-edge food technology at Anuga FoodTec Exhibition in Germany

A delegation of nine representatives from Sri Lanka, representing key stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture, Elpitiya Plantation, Eastern and Allied Agencies and Hettigoda Industries embarked on a visit to the Anuga FoodTec trade fair in Köln, Germany. Organized by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Sri Lanka (AHK Sri Lanka), this initiative aimed to immerse the delegates in the latest advancements in food production, processing, packaging, and storage.

(1st April, 2024, www.ft.lk)



[Read More](#)

“A single window for all investments that simplifies investment”

Board of Investment (BOI) and Port City Economic Commission Chairman Dinesh Weerakkody in this interview responds to some of the questions posed covering the investment challenges facing the country.

(2nd April, 2024, www.ft.lk)

[Read More](#)

France assures unwavering support for SL's debt restructuring process



State Minister of Finance Shehan Semasinghe stated yesterday that France's unwavering support for the debt restructuring process has been guaranteed by France's ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Jean-François Pactet.

(4th April, 2024, www.ft.lk)

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NEWS UPDATES FROM SRI LANKA

Power and Energy Ministry reviews comprehensive fuel strategy for next year



Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera chaired a meeting to assess and strategise the country's fuel supply dynamics for the next 12 months.

(6th April, 2024, www.ft.lk)

[Read More](#)



Embassy of Sri Lanka in Vienna promotes Ceylon tea and tourism in Austria and Hungary

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria organised two Sri Lanka destination promotion events at the famous Lugner City Shopping Centre and Europe Westfield Shopping City Sud in Vienna on 15 and 16 March respectively.

These two events were organised in parallel to Sri Lanka's participation at two key European travel and trade fairs, namely, Ferien Messe Wien 2024 in Austria and SIRHA Budapest International Trade Fair in Hungary by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

The two promotional events were an immense success in showcasing Sri Lanka as a tourism destination to the Austrian public. Lugner City owner and Austrian celebrity Richard Lugner took part in the ceremonial opening of the event at the Lugner City. During the opening ceremony, Sri Lankan traditional dance performances by the Pradeep Wickramasinghe Performing Arts dance troupe captivated the audience. The invitees and the public had opportunity to witness Sri Lankan rhythms, including drums and Kandyan dance.

(6th April, 2024, www.ft.lk)

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NEWS UPDATES FROM EUROPE

How reliant are European nations on North Sea infrastructure?

Countries like the UK and Norway are still significantly reliant on North Sea energy resources. However, harsher tax measures have led to several energy companies, such as Shell, pulling back from their offshore oil fields.

(10th April, 2024, www.euronews.com)



[Read More](#)

Macron's deficit dilemma depends on sound tax policy

Fixing the deficit issue doesn't have to be an all-or-nothing game; French citizens and policymakers should recognise that reform is more complicated than punishing the rich or vilifying the poor, Sean Bray writes.

(11th April, 2024, www.euronews.com)

[Read More](#)

Industrial emissions: Council signs off on updated rules to better protect the environment

The Council today adopted the revised directive on industrial emissions (IED) and the regulation on the establishment of an industrial emissions portal (IEP), two complementary pieces of legislation aimed at regulating and monitoring the environmental impact of industrial activities.

(12th April, 2024, www.consilium.europa.eu)

[Read More](#)

Euro 7: Council adopts new rules on emission limits for cars, vans and trucks

The Council has today adopted the Euro 7 regulation, which lays down rules on emission limits for road vehicles and battery durability. This is the last step in the decision-making procedure.

(12th April, 2024, www.consilium.europa.eu)

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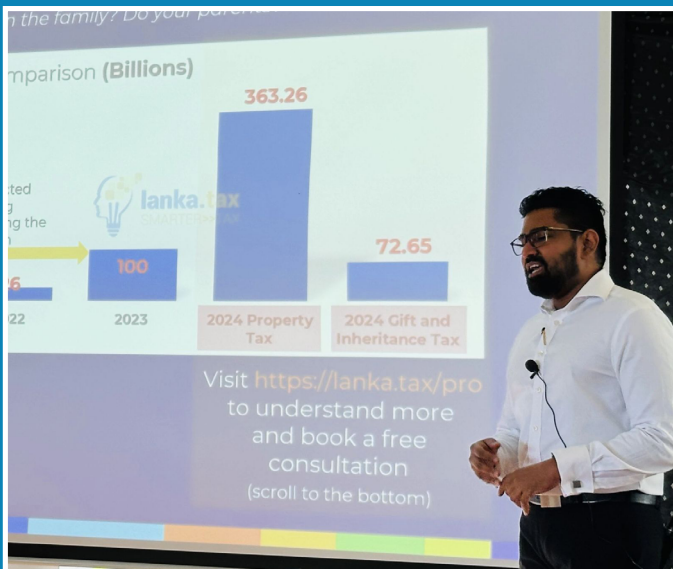
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ECCSL EVENTS

ECCSL Breakfast Meeting - Personal Taxation

ECCSL in collaboration with Mr. Mahesh Yogarajan of lanka.tax conducted a successful session on personal taxation, attended by ECCSL members and non-members at the Colombo Swimming Club on the 25th April. The session discussed strategies for better planning to minimize individual tax liability and compared little known revisions to personal taxation that have come into effect since January 1, 2023.



**ECCSL BREAKFAST CLUB
BREAKFAST MEETING**

NAVIGATING PERSONAL TAXATION

Expert Strategies and Tips Like You Haven't Heard Before

Join us for a practical discussion on personal taxation to minimize your tax burden, reduce tax liability, and protect yourself from penalties.

- Recent changes in personal taxation
- Property tax
- Inheritance tax
- Wealth transfer taxes, and more.

25TH APRIL 2024

9am to 11am
Registration & Breakfast 9am

Venue
Colombo Swimming Club
148, Storm Lodge, Galle Road, Colombo 03

Tickets: Rs. 5,000 for ECCSL Members & Rs. 8,000 for Non-Members



MEMBER NEWS UPDATES

Damith Pallewatte appointed HNB Acting CEO

HNB PLC announced the appointment of Damith Pallewatte as Acting CEO, effective from 6th April, subject to approval of his fit & propriety from Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

(9th April, 2024, www.dailymirror.lk)

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Aitken Spence Travels wins prestigious CPM Best Management Practices Award 2024

Aitken Spence Travels, the leading destination management company in Sri Lanka, clinched the coveted category award for the Hospitality and Tourism sector at the esteemed CPM Best Management Practices Company Awards (BMPC) 2024.

(11th April, 2024, www.island.lk)

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Hayleys Fabric celebrates triple triumph at ISPO Textrends

Hayleys Fabric PLC recently announced that three of its innovations were recognized at the ISPO Textrends Spring/Summer 2026 in Germany.

(16th April, 2024, www.dailymirror.lk)

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Commercial Bank appoints new Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC yesterday announced the appointment of international investment banker Sharhan Muhseen as Chairman, and financial services professional Raja Senanayake as Deputy Chairman, effective 22 April 2024.

(17th April, 2024, www.dailymirror.lk)

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Frank Dandy on Moving Production to Sri Lanka: A Sweden Sri Lanka Business Council Interview

Since 2017, Daniel Hörnqvist has been the CEO of the Swedish fashion brand Frank Dandy. When he took over, he brought with him extensive experience from e-commerce and the outdoor market. This included responsibility for the launch of the e-commerce brand Bikester in the Nordic region in 2013. In 2015 he took on a position as board member at Frank Dandy before moving on to an executive role. One of the most important decisions in recent years for Frank Dandy has been to move manufacturing to Sri Lanka.



[Read More](#)

Sri Lanka Ranks #1 on Timeout's "Best Places for Solo Female Travel in 2024."

Solo female travel is having a moment – according to a recent survey, over half of Gen Z women would consider travelling abroad alone. That means more women than ever are heading off to far-flung destinations in search of new friends, different cultures and memorable experiences. But where should they go, and what should they know?

[Read More](#)

“Let’s put an end to Food Waste” - a creative competition to promote the message

ATG Gloves Knitting (pvt) Ltd in Wathupitiwala recently organized a creative competition centered on the importance of - putting an end to food waste and ensuring food safety.

The competition aimed to showcase creative ideas and messaging of the company’s employees, to enhance the knowledge of their fellow brethren on food safety, eliminating wastage and ensuring nutrition standards. These creative messages were displayed on notice boards and selected locations inside the company premises.

ATG Gloves Knitting PVT LTD has been actively engaged in the areas of reducing food waste, improving the nutritional well-being, health and safety of its employees, their families and the communities around them, for a considerable period of time. The company considers this as one of their priorities in the employee development and corporate responsibility agenda, thus spearheading the ATG Group’s commitment towards Sustainable Development Goals.



Catering staff serve food to factory staff members adhering to maximum health and safety standards.



Bins used to dispose of food waste are relatively small in size than the other waste bin categories. This is a strategic move to create a subliminal barrier in the minds of those who use these bins.



This notice board displays artworks submitted by employees for the competition focused on the theme of reducing food waste.

group trainings were organized covering the entire company, to apprise the staff members of the importance of ending food waste, improving the nutrition standards of them and their families.

The competition for the first quarter of 2024, took place from September first (01) to December thirty-first (31) 2023. During this period members of the ATG family were afforded the opportunity to submit their creative arts, essays, prose and even posters that spoke about the importance of reducing food waste and ensuring food safety.

To duly recognize and acknowledge the achievements of the winners of the Creative competition, a special ceremony was held on February eighth (8). Mr. Sulalita Ranasinghe - General Manager of ATG Gloves Knitting in Wathupitiwala presented the awards and certificates to the winners.



The winners of the competition with Mr. Vipula Ranasinghe - General Manager of Gloves Knitting PVT LTD.

TRADE EVENTS - EUROPE

MAY

03

ART3F LYON

www.art3f.com

VENUE : FRANCE

FOCUSSED AREA: THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR, ART3F, TAKES PLACE EVERY YEAR IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, AND SWITZERLAND. INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AND FAMOUS GALLERY OWNERS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE, AS WELL AS REGIONAL EXHIBITORS, MEET IN LYON TO PRESENT THEIR WORKS THROUGH LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS. SINCE 2014, ART3F HAS OFFERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER NEW TALENT AND ESTABLISHED ARTISTS IN CONTEMPORARY ART. THERE IS A LARGE CENTRAL RESTAURANT OFFERING A VARIETY OF FOOD AND LIVE MUSIC, PROVIDING VISITORS WITH THE CHANCE TO DISCOVER NEW TALENT AND MEET THE STARS OF TOMORROW.

04

MINERANT

www.minerant.org

VENUE : BELGIUM

FOCUSSED AREA: MINERANT IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR MINERALS AND FOSSILS THAT HAS CONTINUOUSLY DEVELOPED SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1974 AND ATTRACTS HUNDREDS OF EXHIBITORS AND VISITORS EVERY YEAR. THE ORGANIZER OF THE FAIR IS THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ANTWERP. FOUNDED IN 1963 BY A SMALL GROUP OF MINERALOGY ENTHUSIASTS IT HAS DEVELOPED INTO AN ACTIVE ASSOCIATION WITH OVER 400 MEMBERS INCLUDING AMATEUR MINERAL COLLECTORS, STUDENTS AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL MINERALOGISTS, ALL WITH THE SAME COMMON INTEREST IN MINERALS.

08

PETROL STATION

www.paliwa.pl

VENUE : POLAND

FOCUSSED AREA: THE "PETROL STATION" IS AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR SERVICE STATION NEEDS, FIRST LAUNCHED IN 1993. THE NAME OF THE FAIR DIRECTLY REFLECTS ITS FOCUS: THE WORLD OF SERVICE STATIONS AND EVERYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH IT. THE FAIR IS ORGANIZED BY THE POLSKA IZBA PALIW PLYNNYCH, THE POLISH CHAMBER OF LIQUID FUELS, WHICH PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE POLISH FUEL INDUSTRY. IT NOT ONLY REFLECTS THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THIS SECTOR IN POLAND BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTS WARSAW'S SIGNIFICANCE AS A CENTRAL EXHIBITION CENTER IN EASTERN EUROPE.



14


FURNITECH

www.warsawexpo.eu

VENUE : POLAND

FOCUSSED AREA: FURNITECH, AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FOR FURNITURE TECHNOLOGY AND COMPONENTS, HAS BEEN HELD ANNUALLY AT PTAK WARSAW EXPO IN NADARZYN SINCE 2024. ORGANIZED BY PTAK WARSAW EXPO SP. Z O.O., IT ATTRACTS PROFESSIONALS AND ENTHUSIASTS FROM THE ENTIRE FURNITURE INDUSTRY.

THE FAIR SHOWCASES THE LATEST TRENDS IN FURNITURE DESIGN, PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES, RAW MATERIALS, AND SOFTWARE. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES AND AUTOMATION IN THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY.




15

THE ADVANCED MATERIALS SHOW

event-partners.org

VENUE : UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

FOCUSSED AREA: "THE ADVANCED MATERIALS SHOW" AT THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER (NEC) IN BIRMINGHAM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS "THE NANOTECHNOLOGY SHOW," STANDS AS A PREMIER EVENT IN THE REALM OF ADVANCED MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES. THE EXHIBITION IS HELD AT THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTER (NEC) IN BIRMINGHAM AND ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF EXPERTS FROM FIELDS SUCH AS AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AUTOMOTIVE, SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY, BATTERY TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, AND ENERGY. IT FOCUSES ON AREAS LIKE NANOMATERIALS, COMPOSITES, POLYMERS, CERAMICS, ADHESIVES, COATINGS, FOAMS, METALS, TEXTILES, AND THERMOPLASTICS.




28

EURO MINE EXPO

www.nolia.se

VENUE : SWEDEN

FOCUSSED AREA: IN THE SKELLEFTEÅ KRAFT ARENA IN SWEDEN THE EURO MINE EXPO IS HELD EVERY TWO YEARS. AT THIS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AND CONFERENCE A LARGE NUMBER OF EQUIPMENTS, DEVICES AND SERVICES THAT ARE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MINING BUSINESS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE VISITORS; FROM MINERAL EXTRACTION TO MINERAL PROCESSING UP TO SAMPLING AND ANALYSING. HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS AS WELL AS ENERGY SAVING ARE ALSO TREATED AT THE EURO MINE EXPO IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATION OF PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES. AS A NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE MINING BUSINESS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE FAIR, THE EURO MINE EXPO IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT NETWORKING EVENT, WHICH CAN SERVE THE INITIATION OF BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS ON A GLOBAL SCALE.



BRANDING & ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

The ECCSL newsletter is an excellent mode of communication to create awareness for your brand among 4000+ audience including ECCSL members, European Diplomatic Missions in Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan Diplomatic Missions in Europe, ECCSL corporate & trade partners and subscribers.

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- **Member highlights**
- New member introductions
- **Advocacy updates**

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