POLITICS

GAMING

BUSINESS

PROPERTY

SOCIETY PAST ISSUES

Search

EU companies consider chamber of commerce

ECONOMY

Vítor Quintã | 21/01/2013 | in Economy

HOME

The EU representative in Macau says a new version of a business-matching programme is on the way

The city may soon have a European Chamber of Commerce, according to Vincent Piket, the head of the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macau.

"We will try to set up a European Chamber of Commerce to help not only the firms Vincent Piket has been head already operating in the market but also newcomers in areas that are relevant for the region," Mr Piket told Business Daily.

Hong Kong has a European Chamber of Commerce but there are few business organisations in Macau, including the British Business Association of Macao and the France Macau Business Association.

Mr Piket, a Dutchman, said he had a meeting with a number of European chambers in Macau on Friday and had talked about a single chamber.

"It was they who launched the discussion, which is still at an initial stage," he said. He also said there might be a successor to the European Union Business Information Programme (EUBIP), which began in 2009 and ended last year.

Mr Piket's predecessor, Maria Castillo Fernández, told Business Daily in August that funding for the programme would not be renewed.

But in October the vice-chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, Jens-Erik Olsen, said there had been talks with the European Union about extending the programme for another year at no extra cost.

Mr Piket said: "We hope during the course of this year to launch another project, much in the spirit of EUBIP, to continue the work of strengthening business information and representation."

He said the budget for the new programme would be "a little bit smaller".

It was "important to see business representation as more than just a function of the availability of EU funds", he said.

European outreach

"My biggest challenge is to explain to potential partners that Macau is bigger than it seems because it has a large outreach to mainland China," said Mr Piket, who took over the EU office in September.

He said Macau offered a "very welcoming environment" for European companies, with solid support from the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute.

With Europe "coming out of the financial crisis", economic recovery would depend on "European firms engaging in regions where there is strong growth, particularly Greater China," he added.

He is confident they will succeed and said they would create "specialised industry and services based on high value-added and high knowledge".

Mr Piket spoke at a seminar on the outlook for the European Union this year, sponsored by the EU-funded Jean Monnet Chair at the University of Macau.

He said people in Hong Kong and Macau understood that austerity measures had given Europe "a more stable framework to return to what it's all about: growth and job creation".



of the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macau since September

'MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS TO **EXPLAIN TO** POTENTIAL PARTNERS THAT MACAU IS BIGGER THAN IT SEEMS'

Vincent Piket, head of the Office of the European Union to Hong Kong

Opinion Editorial



THE ROAD TO ASIAN UNITY JASWANT SINGH



PROTECT US FROM THE TRUTH



THE SAVER'S DILEMMA



ANOTHER ALPHABET SOUP



REBALANCING THE STATE'S BALANCE SHEET MICHAEL SPENCE



INDIA'S GROWTH CROSSROADS

MOST POPULAR

Tiger Airways boost Singapore flights

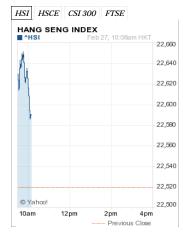
Ground breaking for MGM Cotai next Wednesday (22 Feb 2013)

SHFL loses appeal over electronic game patent (25 Feb 2013)

Protect us from the truth (22 Feb 2013)

Another alphabet soup (22 Feb 2013)

Enabling law for Taiwan casinos 'unlikely before Q3 (21 Feb 2013)



POLL

What do you think of the political reforms that added two directlyelected seats and two indirectlyelected seats to the assembly?:

- Too bold
- Too timid
- Just right
- There was no need

Vote

1 of 2 27/02/2013 10:25 The Business Daily is a media product of De Ficção - Multimedia Projects

Business Daily Block C, Floor 9, Flat H, Edf. Ind. Nam Fong, N° 679, Av. do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado, Macau TEL (853) 2833 1258 FAX (853) 2833 1487 EMAIL sub⊕macaubusinessdaily.com

2 of 2