

8 May 2009

GERMAN INDUSTRY UK

in conjunction with



**Panel Discussion on Vocational Training in Germany and Britain**  
at the Reform Club in London SW1 on 8 May 2009

All of us in industry are aware of the importance of vocational training and it has been one of the great concerns of the members of GERMAN INDUSTRY UK for a long time: Too many (short term) programmes not any long term solution in the UK unlike Germany which has a long established dual vocational training system.

We started a dialogue with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills some two years ago and discussed our concerns with the Minister for Skills Mr David Lammy MP over dinner in October 2007 ([www.gi-uk.co.uk/events2007](http://www.gi-uk.co.uk/events2007)) followed by a survey amongst German companies in the UK in November 2007 ([click here to download the survey](#)).

In the summer of 2008 Mr Bob Bischof and Dr Bernd Atenstaedt accompanied the Minister to Berlin and Düsseldorf for talks with the German government, employers and unions and visits to training facilities of Mercedes-Benz and Henkel.

Mr David Lammy MP was promoted Minister of State later in 2008 and we continued our dialogue with the new **Minister for Skills Lord Tony Young of Norwood Green** over dinner in March 2009.

**On 8 May 2009** the Minister was one of the speakers of our **Panel Discussion on Vocational Training in Germany and Britain** together with the German Deputy Minister for Education and Research Mrs Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Member of the Board of BMW AG Mr Harald Krüger, and Member of the Board of Bentley Motors Ltd Ms Christine Gaskell, in the Reform Club London SW1.



The Reform Club

The event was kindly sponsored by

BMW Group



SIEMENS

**Dr Bernd Atenstaedt**, Chief Executive of GERMAN INDUSTRY UK gave a short introduction and shared the presentations.



Presentations were made by

Mrs Cornelia Quennet-Thielen

Lord Tony Young of Norwood Green



Mr Harald Krüger

Mrs Christine Gaskell



**The Presentations were followed by lunch for everyone**

Mrs Cornlia Quennet-Thielen and Mr Harald Krüger

Dr Andreas Hoeschen, Mr Anthony Eastwood, Mr Jason Reakes and Mr Herbert Quelle (Ir)



Mr Clemens Richter and Mr Mark Siviter (Ir)

Mr Anthony Eastwood and Ms Christine Gaskell



**The discussion after lunch was chaired by Mr Bob Bischof formerly Chief Executive of Jungheinrich and the Boss Group.**



Mr Harald Krüger, Mrs Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Mr Bob Bischof, Lord Young, Ms Christine Gaskell (lr)

**The event was a great success with some 50 participants from government, industry, unions, universities and colleges.**

