

ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2025

# NEWSLETTER

**EBO** EUROPEAN  
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WORLDWIDE NETWORK

**ECCSL**  
The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka



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## \$100m Rural-Urban Development Project by WP to boost agriculture, climate resilience

The Cabinet of Ministers on Monday approved a five-year Integrated Rural-Urban Development and Climate Resilience Project set to launch...

( 6 February 2025, [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk))

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## Budget keeps CSE up; Rs. 775 m net foreign inflow

The Colombo stock market gained by over 1% yesterday, boosted by what investors saw as a positive Budget presented by President and Finance Minister Anura Kumara Disanayake. The benchmark ASPI gained by...

( 18 February 2025, [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk))

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## Sri Lanka Bank's Association Welcomes Budget as "positive", stresses importance of implementation

Sri Lanka's banks have welcomed the maiden Budget of the new Government, describing it as "positive" and one that seeks to maintain policy consistency, especially on...

( 19 February 2025, [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk))

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## Tourism industry records best-ever January arrivals



Sri Lanka's tourism industry has achieved a record-breaking start to 2025, welcoming 252,761 visitors in January, surpassing the previous high...  
( 6 February 2025, [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk))

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## Sri Lanka strengthens Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system with launch of new UN-supported digital transformation initiative



The Government of Sri Lanka and the United Nations in Sri Lanka have launched the 'Transforming Local Administrative Data Collection Systems for SDG Acceleration' Joint Programme, marking a significant step towards strengthening the country's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system...

( 13 February 2025, [www.ft.lk](http://www.ft.lk))

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# NEWS UPDATES FROM EUROPE

## 91 new EU-funded projects to deliver innovative research on sustainable food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, and environment

The EU is investing 500 million in new projects that will advance the Green Deal objectives for sustainable transformation of the EU economy and society...

(23 February 2025, [www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com))

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## Adversarial Exposure Validation: A Viable Tool for Cybersecurity of European Business

Cybersecurity remains of paramount importance to businesses in the European region. As cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, companies are bolstering their tools and strategies to protect...

(13 February 2025, [www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com))

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## How does the EU protect business from unfair trading practices?

Anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures protect European companies operating in the single market from imported goods with...

(10 February 2025, [www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com))

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## Eurozone records marginal GDP growth after forecasts of stagnation



Regional output was slightly better than previously thought, although the eurozone is still hampered by productivity woes. In the final three months of 2024, seasonally adjusted GDP increased by 0.1% quarter-on-quarter in the eurozone and by 0.2% in the EU, Eurostat said on Friday...

(14 February 2025, [www.euronews.com](http://www.euronews.com))

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# MEMBER NEWS

## Hayley's posts 53% y-o-y PBT growth to Rs.22.52 bn in 9 months

The Hayleys Group maintained its strong growth momentum during the first nine months of the financial year ending 31st March 2025, recording a 53% y-o-y increase in Profit Before Tax to Rs. 22.52 bn...

*(17 February 2025, www.islands.lk)*

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## Cargills records strong 3Q performance; optimistic about 2025

Leading blue-chip company Cargills (Ceylon) PLC has reported a strong bottom-line performance for the last quarter of 2024, driven by...

*(16 February 2025, www.sundaytimes.lk)*

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## Qatar Airways Partners with Virgin Australia and Opens 28 New Routes

Travelers looking for new, competitive options to fly between Australia and Europe had received promising news with Virgin Australia's announcement of an upcoming partnership with Qatar Airways. Industry sources had reported...

*(19 February 2025, www.travelandtourworld.com)*

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# ECCSL EVENTS

## Netherlands: The Gateway to Europe – A Successful Forum Hosted by ECCSL

On Thursday, January 30, 2025, the European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands, hosted the Netherlands: The Gateway to Europe forum. This event brought together industry experts, and key stakeholders to explore how Sri Lankan businesses can leverage the Netherlands as a strategic gateway to the European market.



The forum featured speakers who shared their expertise on logistics, and fostering connections with European buyers. Discussions highlighted how Rotterdam, Europe's largest and most efficient port, serves as a key hub for Trade, and how Sri Lankan businesses can navigate the European market by taking advantage of the schemes and incentives offered by the Netherlands.

### Key Highlights from the Forum:

- Mr. Nishan Dissanayake, Senior Policy Advisor at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka, set the stage by outlining the forum's objectives and emphasizing the growing economic ties between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands.
- Mr. Iwan Rutjens, Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands, delivered an insightful keynote address on the Netherlands' strategic role in fostering trade relations and economic collaboration between the two countries.
- Ms. Myrthe van der Gaast, Programme Manager for Market Intelligence at CBI, provided practical insights into how CBI supports Sri Lankan exporters with market intelligence, training, and trade partnerships.
- Mr. Greg Tyrrell, Managing Partner at GrowEurBusiness, shared actionable strategies for doing business in the EU, focusing on market dynamics, overcoming challenges, and identifying opportunities for Sri Lankan businesses.
- Mr. Sjaak de Klein, Senior Manager at the Holland International Distribution Council (HIDC), highlighted the Netherlands' world-class logistics infrastructure, showcasing how the Port of Rotterdam and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol can facilitate seamless access to European markets.
- Mr. Michiel van Erkel, Agricultural Counsellor at the Embassy of the Netherlands, concluded the formal proceedings with reflections on the key takeaways and a forward-looking perspective on Sri Lankan-European trade relations.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. John Wilson, President of ECCSL, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, participants, and organizers for making the forum a success. A networking session followed, providing attendees the opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations.

The forum, which underscored the importance of building stronger trade relationships between Sri Lanka and Europe. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and look forward to continuing the dialogue in future events.

# ECCSL EVENTS

## ECCSL Hosts Industry - Focused Event on Inclusive and Sustainable Food and Agriculture

The European Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka (ECCSL), in partnership with the SCOPE programme, recently hosted its second industry-focused event to promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

Following the success of its November 2024 event on tourism, this session focused on the food and agriculture industries, bringing together government representatives, industry leaders, and stakeholders to discuss practical strategies for embedding inclusivity and sustainability.

Key speakers included Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General of the Sustainable Development Council, who highlighted strategies to drive equitable and sustainable economic growth, and CEOs like Mr. Maliek De Alwis (MA's Kitchen) and Mr. Randeewa Malalasoorya (Ceylon Biscuits Limited), who shared successful business examples.

Participants engaged in group discussions, sharing challenges and strategies for adopting inclusive and sustainable models. The event underscored the collective benefit of fostering these practices to position Sri Lanka as a global leader in sustainable business.

This initiative is supported by the EU, the German Federal Foreign Office, and GIZ, in collaboration with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Justice and National Integration.





## ATG GROUP KICKS OFF OUTBOUND TRAINING SERIES TO EMPOWER WORKFORCE

---

(Colombo) The ATG Group of Companies has launched an outbound training (OBT) series across all of its factories, underlining its robust commitment to the growth and development of the employees. This initiative supports ATG's broader vision of fostering a sustainable and resilient future for its workforce.

The training series is designed to enhance employee relationships, leadership skills, and teamwork, aligning with ATG's Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) framework that is developed based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Participants received practical training in communication, leadership, time management, and strategic thinking skills to navigate the evolving demands of a sustainable workplace. Through immersive activities, employees were encouraged to develop their decision-making, collaboration, and innovation abilities, thereby driving organisational resilience and sustainable growth.

This training highlights the significance of teamwork and cooperation in cultivating an inclusive and collaborative culture. It promotes diversity, equal opportunities, and leadership development, empowering employees to actively contribute to ATG's ESG agenda and reinforcing a collective responsibility for sustainability throughout the group.

Mr. Jamaal Abdeen - Project Manager of ATG Group of Companies, stated, "As a global leader, ATG is firmly committed to embedding ESG principles across all our facilities. We believe it is crucial to empower our workforce by fostering collaboration, inclusivity, and leadership development. Through our outbound training programme, we are actively supporting our employees in contributing to sustainable growth and innovation. Our goal is to drive a culture of teamwork and responsibility, reinforcing ATG's dedication to sustainability and long-term success."

For over 30 years, ATG has integrated ESG principles into its core business operations, and this OBT series marks yet another milestone in its journey toward sustainable change. The initiative encourages employees to take ownership of the company's ESG objectives, supporting long-term growth.

Looking ahead, future phases of the training programme will continue to engage employees in sustainability-driven problem-solving, environmental stewardship, and responsible innovation. ATG remains dedicated to equipping its workforce to champion ESG principles and contribute to sustainable growth.

# MEMBER ARTICLES



**About ATG:** ATG Intelligent Glove Solutions is a pioneering leader in the glove industry, providing cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions that redefine hand protection. With a relentless commitment to excellence, ATG is revolutionizing the way industries approach workplace safety, comfort, and performance. Our intelligent gloves are engineered to meet the diverse needs of professionals across various sectors, empowering them to work with confidence and efficiency.



## TRADE EVENTS - EUROPE

# MARCH

14  
17

### INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR AND EXHIBITION

e.genre@galeriephocea.com

**VENUE :** MARSEILLE, FRANCE

THE "SALON INTERNATIONAL DES ARTISTES CONTEMPORAINS" (SIAC) IS AN INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR HELD ANNUALLY AT THE PARC CHANOT IN MARSEILLE. THIS EVENT, ORGANIZED BY GALERIE PHOCEA, HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT MEETING POINT FOR ART LOVERS AND PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

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13

### PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CHAIN & SECURITY WORLD LONDON

info@corvusglobalevents.com

**VENUE :** LONDON, UK

THE "PHARMA SUPPLY CHAIN & SECURITY WORLD" (PSCS WORLD) IS AN ANNUAL TRADE FAIR AND CONFERENCE HELD AT THE HILTON LONDON KENSINGTON IN LONDON. ORGANIZED BY CORVUS GLOBAL EVENTS, THIS EVENT PROVIDES A CENTRAL PLATFORM FOR EXPERTS IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY TO SHARE AND LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST INNOVATIONS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO SUPPLY CHAIN AND SECURITY...

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13  
15

### INTERNATIONAL GREEN CIRCULAR ECONOMY EXHIBITION

fgexpo@helexpo.gr

**VENUE :** THESSALONIKI, GREECE

THE "FORWARD GREEN (FG EXPO)" IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR THAT WAS LAUNCHED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2023 AND HAS SINCE TAKEN PLACE ANNUALLY AT THE THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & CONGRESS CENTER IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE. THE NAME "FORWARD GREEN" SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENTS...

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13  
14

### COMPOTEC MARINE CARRARA

compotec@carrarafiere.it

**VENUE :** CARRARA, ITALY

THE "COMPOTEC MARINE" IS A SPECIALIZED TRADE FAIR FOCUSING ON COMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR THE MARITIME INDUSTRY. THE NAME "COMPOTEC" STANDS FOR "COMPOSITE TECHNOLOGIES," REFLECTING...

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- ECCSL updates & Events info
- **Member highlights**
- New member introductions
- **Advocacy updates**

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- Policy makers
- **European Diplomats in Sri Lanka**
- Sri Lankan Missions in Europe
- **European trade partners**
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