



B3CF - British & Commonwealth  
Chamber of Commerce in Finland

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# 2025 REVIEW: EXECUTIVE REPORT



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Chamber of Commerce in Finland**

# EXECUTIVE REPORT 2025

**British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland ry**  
Presented at the Annual General Meeting 2026

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## Executive Director’s Overview

Dear Members,

I am pleased to present the Executive Report of the British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland for the year 2025.

The year was marked by continued economic uncertainty across Europe and the United Kingdom. Despite these headwinds, the Chamber strengthened its institutional position, deepened diplomatic and international partnerships, and delivered high-quality programming aligned with our mission of fostering UK–Finland and Commonwealth business relations.

Our work throughout 2025 reflects a Chamber that is lean, internationally connected, governance-focused, and increasingly recognised as a credible platform for business diplomacy and structured cooperation.

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# 1. Key Achievements and Milestones

In 2025, we welcomed **11 new members**, including **Lumen Digital Oy / Valos as a new Patron Member**. Notable additions such as **Berlitz** and **Howden Finland** further enhanced the Chamber’s professional and international profile.

While the broader economic climate remained challenging, we secured over **€10,000 in sponsorship support**, ensuring continuity and quality across our events and initiatives.

Strategically significant milestones included:

- The official visit of the **696th Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman The Rt Hon. Alastair King DL**, reinforcing Finland’s visibility within the City of London ecosystem.
- Active participation in the **British Chambers of Commerce Global Business Network**, strengthening our global integration.
- The signing of a formal **Cooperation Agreement with the British-Estonian Chamber of Commerce (BECC)**, initiating structured Nordic–Baltic collaboration.
- Continued Commonwealth engagement, including Patron participation in the **Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey**.

These developments confirm B3CF’s role as a structured connector between business, diplomacy, and international trade networks.



*Members’ Breakfast hosted by Howden Finland – October 2025*

## 2. Leadership and Governance



Strong governance remains fundamental to the Chamber's credibility and long-term development.

At the AGM 2025, members elected two new Board members:

- **John Klang**, representing Shipstores Nyman & Co, one of the Chamber's longest-standing members and former Deputy Auditor. His extensive cross-border experience brings continuity and Nordic perspective to the Board.
- **Cecilia Naadensua Quarshie**, representing Ceci Educare Oy, whose entrepreneurial leadership strengthens the Board's diversity and forward-looking orientation.

In addition, **Nina Hasu**, representing Scandinavian Trust CMS Oy, was elected Deputy Auditor, reinforcing our oversight framework.

During the year, we also undertook a comprehensive governance review in alignment with the **British Chambers of Commerce International Quality Standards and Good Governance Guidance**. This framework establishes best practices across governance, financial management, membership value, stakeholder engagement, and communications.

The Governance Working Group initiated a review of the Chamber's **Articles of Association and internal policies**, ensuring alignment with international standards while remaining fully compliant with Finnish legislation. Proposed revisions will be presented for consideration at the AGM 2026.

These steps represent a deliberate strengthening of our institutional framework and position the Chamber for sustainable development within the BCC Global Network.

### 3. Strategic Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations

Throughout 2025, B3CF deepened its engagement with embassies, government stakeholders, and international partners.

#### United Kingdom and Finland

Cooperation with the **British Embassy in Helsinki** remained close and constructive. At a Members' Breakfast hosted by Howden Finland, **HMA Laura Davies** presented the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy. The event provided members with direct insight into the UK's long-term economic direction.

We held a productive meeting with **Lassi Noponen, Head of Business Finland**, and maintained engagement with the Finnish diplomatic network in London, including meetings with Ambassador **Jukka Siukosaari** and his successor **Teemu Turunen**. Cooperation with the Business Finland team in London further strengthened cross-border information exchange.

#### Commonwealth and International Diplomacy

As a Commonwealth chamber, our engagement extended beyond bilateral relations.

We paid tribute to **H.E. Mr Charles Josob, Ambassador of Namibia**, upon his retirement and welcomed his successor, **H.E. Mr Gebhard Benjamin Kandanga**. We also met **H.E. Mr Demetris Samuel, Ambassador of Cyprus**, ahead of Cyprus assuming the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2026.

These engagements underscore B3CF's distinctive position at the intersection of Nordic, UK, EU, and Commonwealth networks.

#### Baltic and Regional Cooperation

The signing of the formal cooperation agreement with the **British-Estonian Chamber of Commerce (BECC)** marked an important regional milestone. Reciprocal participation in each other's events has already demonstrated the practical value of this partnership.

#### City of London Engagement

In cooperation with the **Finnish-British Chamber of Commerce in London**, we facilitated high-level engagement, including the **Finnish Lunch at the Old Bailey**, hosted by Sheriff Gregory Jones, which brought together representatives of Nokia, Metsä, the Finnish Embassy, FBCC leadership, and the City of London Corporation.

## 4. Events and Programme Highlights

The 2025 programme combined policy dialogue, Commonwealth engagement, and high-level networking.

### Commonwealth Energy – Vaasa Energy Week

A defining initiative was **Commonwealth Energy**, organised during Vaasa Energy Week 2025. The programme included a diplomatic luncheon hosted by the City of Vaasa and a Commonwealth Energy Seminar supported by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the Embassy of Namibia.

Discussions highlighted Finland’s leadership in green hydrogen, Southeast Asia’s renewable energy landscape, and Namibia’s hydrogen export potential. The programme concluded with a Commonwealth Dinner, reinforcing cross-border energy cooperation.

### High-Level Visits and Policy Dialogue

The visit of the Lord Mayor of the City of London formed a central highlight of the year, accompanied by curated engagements including the B3CF Patrons Dinner.

Additional thematic events addressed key issues shaping the UK–Finland relationship, including:

- Finnish Defence Policy and NATO
- Leveraging AI for International Business Expansion
- The UK’s Modern Industrial Strategy

The **8th Commonwealth Golf Day** and curated networking events further strengthened member engagement.



*B3CF Patrons’ Dinner at Billnäs Gård – June 2025*

## 5. Community Engagement and Advocacy

The Chamber's work extends beyond trade promotion to community responsibility and principled engagement.

### The 4th International Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

Now firmly established as a cornerstone of our calendar, the International Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch once again brought together business leaders, diplomats, and veterans in support of **His Majesty's Armed Forces veterans**.

The event featured ceremonial representation from the Honourable Artillery Company and video greetings from the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Funds raised will support two veterans through the Lifeworks Programme.

Notably, the Finnish chapter has inspired similar initiatives internationally, including in New Zealand and Estonia, demonstrating the growing global resonance of the Helsinki model.

### International Women's Day

In partnership with Indian Women in Finland Ry and the Embassy of India in Finland, B3CF hosted International Women's Day under the theme "Inclusive Future & Impact." The event convened business leaders and policymakers to advance practical dialogue on inclusive leadership and equal opportunity.

Through these initiatives, the Chamber demonstrates that responsible business, international cooperation, and community engagement are mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable growth.



## 6. Operational Overview

Operating with a lean structure supported by a committed Board and executive leadership, the Chamber delivered strong outcomes while strengthening governance alignment.

In response to the British Chambers of Commerce **International Quality Standards framework**, we began aligning our governance, policies, and operational practices with emerging global requirements. This includes the review of our Articles of Association and preparation of structured strategic planning aligned with BCC guidance.

Working Groups enhanced Board engagement and distributed expertise across priority areas. Full regulatory compliance was maintained throughout the year.

Operational success is ultimately measured by member impact. During 2025, members reported new client relationships, partnerships formed through Chamber events, and enhanced visibility within both Finnish and UK business ecosystems.



*Signing of the cooperation Agreement between B3CF and British – Estonian Chamber of Commerce*

## 7. Vision and Goals for 2026

Looking ahead, the Chamber will continue to strengthen services **for our members and with our members**, ensuring that engagement remains practical, responsive, and outcome-driven.

Key priorities include:

- Deepening Nordic–Baltic cooperation through structured regional collaboration
- Expanding access to new networks and international markets
- Leveraging our diplomatic, City of London, Commonwealth, and institutional relationships to generate tangible business opportunities
- Aligning fully with BCC International Quality Standards to ensure institutional maturity and long-term credibility

Our stakeholder network is a strategic asset. In 2026, we will continue converting that network into measurable value for our members.

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In closing, I extend my sincere gratitude to our Board, members, partners, sponsors, and diplomatic stakeholders for their continued trust and engagement.

Together, we will build on the foundations of 2025 and further strengthen the British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland as a trusted platform for business diplomacy and international growth.



**Vladislav Dobrokhotoy**

Executive Director

British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce in Finland ry

24 February 2026