



*The annual GGI European Conference took place at the famous mediterranean seaside resort Cannes in France*

# GGI European Conference in Cannes

The annual GGI European Conference was held in Cannes, France from the 26 to 29 April 2012 at the Martinez Hotel, located directly on the Promenade de la Croisette. The event was hosted by GGI's local member firm, Anthony & Cie.

The conference was kick-started on Thursday with a meeting of the International Taxation Practice Group, and also by a round of golf for those participants

who had arrived early. The evening programme comprised a dinner at the hotel, the introduction of the new GGI member firms and a presentation on upcoming future GGI conferences and events.

The formal segment of the conference began on Friday morning, with opening speeches from Mr. Claudio G. Cocca, President and Founder of GGI, as well as a warm welcome speech from the confer-

ence host, Prof. Robert Anthony. As the key note speaker for the conference, Candace Johnson, who amongst other things is the co-initiator of SES/ASTRA and SES Global, the world's preeminent satellite group, held an inspiring presentation on the role of accountants and lawyers in supporting global entrepreneurs and innovation as a whole. Following this, Mr. Bill Jamieson gave a comical view of the eurozone crisis and the various challenges that still lie ahead. Mr. Jamieson is the Executive Editor of The Scotsman and a regular contributor to Scotland on Sunday, Spectator Business and to BBC Scotland, both radio and television. The Friday afternoon programme consisted of a number of Practice Group Meetings

The Friday evening programme took place in the fashionable Bâoli restaurant-lounge. A cocktail reception followed the wonderful dinner when participants had the opportunity to stay on and enjoy the drinks and music.

Saturday morning consisted of a number of fascinating workshops. Among others, there was the establishment of the new GGI Practice Group – Labour Law. Prof. Robert Anthony and Candace Johnson hosted a workshop on early stage investments and finding the right innovative companies. GGI's honorary vice-president, Mr. Oliver Rothschild, offered a look at the nine

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*Sightseeing in Cannes*



*Networking coffee break*



*Peter Kaeser, Candace Johnson, GGI members*



*Conversation at dinner*



**Workshop outside**



**Oliver Rothschild and GGI members**



**Lively discussions and focused work at the GGI European Conference**

characteristics of successful business leaders and entrepreneurs, while Dr. Robert D'Alessandro investigated the various compliance challenges of directorship across trusts, companies and funds. Mr. Michael Reiss von Filski held a workshop in which new GGI members were introduced to the alliance, as well as to all the tools available to them and how to best utilize membership of GGI.

The afternoon programme gave participants the chance to visit some of the popular sight-seeing destinations in the area. These included the city of Antibes, the Picasso Museum, Lerins Island and others.

To conclude the successful conference, the participants were invited to a fabulous black-tie gala dinner at the prestigious "Le Majestic" hotel, which besides serving a delicious meal also staged a small cabaret show and a live band for the attendees.

The next European Regional Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 18 to 21 April 2013.

