

OVERHEARD AT THE CHAMBER

The E-Business Seminar 2001 will be held on November 15, 2001 at the Sheraton Hotel. Registration will begin in October. Companies interested in working on the project or in sponsoring the event, should contact Lic. Fernanda Salerno at: fsalerno@amchamar.com.ar

• TOURISM COMMITTEE

The principal goal of the committee is to develop a program to attract tourists from the US. To this end, the committee is working on two projects:

- 1- Inviting opinion leaders and well-known personalities to Argentina to visit Buenos Aires, Iguazú, Mendoza, Bariloche, Calafate and Puerto Madryn.
- 2- To coordinate with a cable channel (People+Arts, Travel Channel or a similar channel) the transmission of TV programs about Argentina in the US.

• TELECOMMUNICATIONS & IT COMMITTEE

The committee sent a letter to President de la Rúa recommending that he veto the law recently sanctioned by Congress which allows cities and states to tax the use of the ground and airspace. The committee also held a workshop to evaluate the results of the opening of the telecommunications marketplace after one year. Speakers included communications secretary Henoch Aguiar and others.

• ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Working group on Soil Remediation:

Guillermo Huarte reported on the soil remediation project the group is working on. One of the fundamental objectives of the project is to propose to the environmental policy secretary a standard method for cleaning up contamination which includes evaluation of risk, technical, administrative and legal issues.

Working Group on the Environment Handbook:

Laurence Wiener presented a draft of the Environment Handbook to the committee. The objective of the project is to develop a practical document explaining environmental regulations at the national and Province of Buenos Aires levels. The book will be written in English in order to be used both locally and at overseas headquarters for international firms. The handbook will include an analysis of current climate for environmental law in the executive and legislative branches and likely future developments in Argentina. Publication is planned for December 2001.

Environment Committee to Speak at FARN:

Horacio García Carmona coordinated a speech before the non-governmental environment organization FARN to discuss the Social Responsibility of companies. The meeting will take place on September 27 at FARN's offices.

Mónica Fenrnández spoke about **Dupont** best practices related to extraction of liquid effluents.

• PATENT & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The committee recently decided to study the following issues:

Frequency interference on open channels and on cable and the satellite signals law. Draft legislation on frontier limits in GATT. A draft law to modify the current patent law.

Adhesion of Argentina to PCT.
The draft generic products law

• GAS & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Committee members are preparing a letter for the Secretary of Energy where they will stress the importance of making changes in the regulation of the Electronic Market. This is a good time to do so, they argue, since monies accumulated in the Stabilization Fund will help neutralize any short-term risk and will aid in the smooth transition to new market rules. At the same time, they are evaluating the impact of the emission of the Patacones bonds and how laws forcing public utilities to accept them will affect companies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AMCHAM'S COMMITTEES:

fsalerno@amchamar.com.ar
dmartin@amchamar.com.ar
jdeleon@amchamar.com.ar