

banking in Syria and 150 resolutions by the Credit & Monetary council. He announced unifying the Syrian Pound's exchange rate early in 2007. The Syrian pound has since been linked to IMF SDC. The Central Bank will issue treasury bills during the first quarter of 2007. Abdelkader Husrieh, Ernst & Young advisor, commented that reform in the Syrian banking sector would open doors for Arab and foreign institutions to develop investment partnerships.

Sir Gavyn Arthur, former Lord Mayor of the City of London,

(pictured above) emphasised Syria's need for SME's projects to support the infrastructure investments. He also highlighted the importance of having arbitration courts. Sir Roger Tomkys, Chairman of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce, expressed his dismay at the US economic sanctions imposed on Syria, commenting that no political changes had resulted.

In conclusion the Co-Chairman of the British Syrian Society, Dr Fawaz Akhras, (picture below) expressed high hopes of the changes and



reforms in Syria and said that the British Syrian Society will watch these with interest. He announced the formation of a committee to follow up the recommendations of the Conference.

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