Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar
Food and drink industry 2011: challenges and opportunities
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 8th March 2011
Venue: Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

WESTMINSTER FOOD & NUTRITION FORUM

Agenda subject to change

8.45 - 9.00	Registration
9.00 - 9.05	**Chairman's opening remarks** **William Bain MP**, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
9.05 - 9.15	**How will the future food chain differ from today's?** *What are the key challenges facing the food and drink industry, in terms of sustainability, workforce development and profitability in a difficult economic climate?* **Joanne Denney-Finch OBE**, Chief Executive, IGD
9.15 - 9.25	**A skilled workforce for the future** *Following warnings of a 'skills gap' in the UK's food and drink industry, what can be done to ensure the UK workforce is adequately skilled for the future? With changing technology, will a different skill set be required in the future? Is a career in the food and drink industry seen as an attractive choice for today's graduates and school-leavers? Will funding cuts in universities threaten the flow of well-qualified graduates into the industry?* **Justine Fosh**, Skills Solutions Director, National Skills Academy
9.25 - 9.35	**Innovation in food: what will be the next developments?** *What trends are likely to be seen in future food development? What will be the influence of the drive for 'natural' products, and technologies such as nanotechnology?* **Dr Paul Berryman**, Chief Executive, Leatherhead Food Research
9.35 - 9.45	**Achieving sustainable growth** *How is climate change affecting the drinks industry and how is this likely to develop in the future? Are UK consumers 'on board' with efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their consumption, and how does this currently translate into buying habits? Is this likely to change in the future?* **Julie Hesketh-Laird**, Director of Operational & Technical Affairs, Scotch Whisky Association
9.45 - 9.55	**Opportunities for the food and drink industry going forward: the view from the Food and Drink Federation** *Looking to the future, what will be the priorities for the food and drink industry, and what are the key areas for change and development? What has been the impact of the change of Government on the food and drink industry? How could Government most effectively support the food and drink industry, both in the near future and in the longer term? What should be the role of regulation?* **Melanie Leech**, Director General, Food and Drink Federation
9.55 - 10.15	Questions and comments from the floor
10.15 - 10.25	**Meeting the environmental challenges of the future** *What challenges for the food and drink industry are posed by global climate change and increasing pressure on the world's resources? What can the food and drink industry do to meet these challenges? What is the best way for the industry to take responsibility for the full life-cycle impacts of its products, particularly the consumer-use phase?* **Dr Sally Uren**, Deputy Chief Executive, Forum for the Future
10.25 - 10.35	**Case study: the response from a major food and drink company** **Emma Flack**, Communications Director, Unilever UK & Ireland
10.35 - 10.45	Questions and comments from the floor
10.45 - 10.50	**Chairman's closing remarks** **William Bain MP**, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
10.50 - 11.10	Coffee
11.10 - 11.15	**Chairman's opening remarks** **Mark Spencer MP**, Member, Environmental Audit Select Committee
	The challenge for policy
11.15 - 11.30	**Policy responses to consumer concerns: the view from the OECD** *Comparing the efforts of governments and the private sector in responding to consumer concerns on food, health and nutrition. Is there a need for greater international co-operation on food issues?* **Wayne Jones**, Head, Agro-food Trade and Markets Division, Directorate for Trade and Agriculture, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
11.30 - 11.45	**What future for UK farming - diversification, innovation and sustainability** *How is UK farming evolving, and what changes are likely to be seen in the future? How might Government efforts to reduce 'red tape' for farmers and proposed changes to the Common Agricultural Policy affect UK farming, and how will changes be felt across different sectors of production?* **Gwyn Jones**, Vice President, NFU
11.45 - 11.55	**Policy to meet the demands of tomorrow's consumers** *What are the most important factors in driving consumer behaviour? How might food buying habits change in response to issues such as financial pressures, interest in the environment and concerns over animal welfare? How should consumer preferences be used to inform policy development on areas such as food labelling and use of new farming techniques?* **Dr Stella Walsh**, Senior Lecturer, Hospitality & Retailing, Leeds Metropolitan University
11.55 - 12.05	**Food security as a strategic objective for policy** *Is the challenge of food security currently affecting the UK's food and drink industry? Is this set to change in coming years? What could policymakers do to improve the UK's food security, and do current levels of UK food production need to increase? What part should technology play? Will food insecurity at a global level mean UK consumers see changes to the range of products currently available?* **Professor Richard Tiffin**, Director, Centre for Food Security, University of Reading
12.05 - 12.25	Questions and comments from the floor
12.25 - 12.55	**The role of Government: beyond 'Food 2030'** **Sarah Church**, Deputy Director, Food Security and Sustainability, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Questions and comments from the floor
12.55 - 13.00	**Chairman's closing remarks and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks** **Mark Spencer MP**, Member, Environmental Audit Select Committee **Michael Ryan**, Senior Producer, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum