



## *The British Chamber of Commerce for Italy*

**Guest of honour and Speaker**

# John Hooper

John Hooper is Italy correspondent of *The Economist* and a Contributing editor of the *Guardian*.

He began his career in journalism somewhat unconventionally when, as an 18 year-old Cambridge university freshman, he travelled to the breakaway state of Biafra to help make a network television documentary on the Nigerian civil war.

Since then he has worked for the BBC, NBC, Reuters and several other news organisations. He was diplomatic correspondent of Independent Radio News and has worked as a foreign correspondent on Cyprus, and in Spain, Italy and Germany.

He has also reported from several war zones including, most recently, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Algeria.

For several years, he was a presenter of the BBC World Service current affairs programme, 24 Hours.

In 1997, Hooper was part of the award-winning Observer team that uncovered the first great migrant trafficking disaster in the Mediterranean in which a Maltese vessel, the F174, sank with the loss of almost 300 lives.

He is the author of *The Spaniards: a portrait of the new Spain* (1986), which won the Allen Lane Award for a best first work of non-fiction; *The New Spaniards* (1995 and 2006), and *The Italians*, published in hardback in 2015 and in paperback in January this year.