



Flash Report

European Business Association participates in EU-Georgia Dialogue on Labour, Employment and Social Issues.

On September 19-20 EU-Georgia Dialogue on Labour, Employment and Social Issues was organized by the European Commission in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Around 60 participants from the Georgian Government, Parliament, Labour Inspectorate, Social Partners, and other national stakeholders, the European Commission, labour inspectorates from EU Member States' and selected partner countries and social partners, the EU-OSH Agency, and other international organizations were participating in the event.

In the framework of this event, a special session was dedicated to exchanges with European and Georgian businesses which was organized with the cooperation of EBA Georgia.

Jordi Curell - Director for Labour Mobility, European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion opened the session.

EBA Members illustrated how they dealt with labor issues and how European companies in Georgia could transfer their best practices to the Georgian Market.

Presentations:

John Braeckveldt - EBA chair, Gosselin Caucasus Regional Manager talked about vision of EBA, about its European values and European membership. He mentioned about the importance of Labour standards in Georgia and also countries obligations under the DCFTA. John Braeckveldt mentioned that the role of business sector is tremendous in order to raise awareness of the importance of better labour standards and working conditions for Georgia's economic association and free trade with the EU, and ultimately, for further development of it's economy and labour market.

Representatives of the member companies of EBA, **Archil Bakuradze** – Microfinance organization Crystal, Nino Khachapuridze – GPI Holding, **Natia Karkuzaevi**- Sade, **Paata Gogoladze** – Basalt Faser, **Dimitri Shvelidze** – Riverside Hotel and **Giorgi Tsertsvadze** –J&T Consulting presented activities of their companies related to labour issues. They talked about importance of safety norms and modern standards for different fields in Business sector of Georgia.



Discussion:

After presentations, experts from different countries of Europe shared their experience and best practice: **Pal Hilmar** Lund – Senior Adviser of Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, **Manuel Velazquez** – Labour Inspector of Spain, **Renars Lasis** – State Labour Inspectorate Latvia, **Karoly Gyorgy**, National Confederation of Hungarian Trade-unions, **Pietro Francesco de lotto** – General Director of Confederation of SMEs, **Edyta Doboszynska**, Polish Craft Association/ZRP, **Beka Peradze** – Labour Inspectorate of Georgia.

Discussants shared best practices of their countries. They talked about importance of communication and dialogue. Discussants mentioned that the role of business involvement in developing modern standards in Georgia is tremendous and it is important business to be ready and open for new regulations in order to protect their employees, product and of course costumers, discussants also answered several questions from the audience.



Next Steps:

European Commission, government representatives, Georgian Businesses and trade union expressed their readiness for future cooperation.

EBA is committed to a managed and full implementation of the rules under the DCFTA to ensure compliance without disruption to business operations with a view to increasing trade with Europe and improving the quality and efficiency of Georgian businesses practice.