

## EBA Flash Report

### 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 EU Delegation in Tbilisi



## Flash Report

The European Business Association Georgia held its 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at the EU Delegation in Tbilisi on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Board of the European Business Association:

- John Hugo Freddy Braeckveldt (Chair);
- Jonne Jacob Catshoek by proxy to John Hugo Freddy Braeckveldt;
- Paata Lomadze;
- Paul Russel Clark;
- Irina Sak;
- Antonio Alferez Burillo by proxy to John Hugo Freddy Braeckveldt.

H.E. Mr. Carl Hartzell, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia; Mr. Carlo Natale, EU Delegation; Ms. Ada Nardaia, EU Delegation; Mrs. Mariam Kuchuloria, Deputy CEO of EBA Georgia and Board Secretary; Mrs. Mariam Ghreuli, Communications Coordinator; Christian Gessl and Colin M. Donohue, members of EBA Advisory Council.

#### Invited EBA members:

- Dasta Records Management, Daan Harmsen;
- Alog, Levan Ukleba;
- Finca Bank, Vusal Verdiyev.



## Agenda:

- Opening remarks John Braeckveldt; H.E. Mr. Hartzell
- Review and approval of the minutes of the 8th Board Meeting; John Braeckveldt;
- Last year achievements and future plans- John Braeckveldt;
- Cooperation with other EU business associations, creation of local EU business associations; John Braeckveldt
- EU labour dialogue event and further planning on business support, Mariam Kuchuloria;
- Membership directory list, update and planned release; Mariam Ghreuli
- Meeting with Georgian Revenue Services, customs legislation support; John Braeckveldt
- Startup Grind and EBA Platform for European countries for arranging startup/innovation business exchanges;
- Financial update, planning for the 2nd year – Paul Clark;
- Discussion.

## Short Summary of the Meeting:

The Chairman John Hugo Freddy Braeckveldt delivered a report on the EBA activities/events since 9th board meeting. Planned activities were discussed by the board.

Mr. Colin Donohue presented the **EBA and Startup Grind Tbilisi** and EBA cooperation and emphasized on bringing European Experts as speakers at the Startup Grind Tbilisi monthly events.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

## Membership Status:

Membership continues to grow on plan (8 new members – 2 Core and 6 General since the last board meeting in July, 2018) and still stays as the primary focus of the management. EBA continues to receive unsolicited applications over the web site as well as through targeted interactions. All new members are being interviewed in person and their businesses and factories visited. Any company not meeting the requirements for European business relationships or the EBA Code of Conduct is rejected.



EBA has more European Core Members than any other International Business Association in Georgia.

### **Agreed next steps:**

EBA will continue to expand its membership with several high profile additions expected this month.

### **Highlights from Past Month:**

#### **EU-Georgia Dialogue on Labour, Employment and Social Issues, September 19-20, 2018**

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.

## Annual Celebration of our partner project USAID, G4G September 14, 2018



EBA CEO addresses USAid on the need for enhanced SME sector development and a more transparent dialogue and less elitist business association dialogue with Government.

“The future of Georgia depends on Exports to Europe and the Rest of the World. It is our members in the SME sector that are leading Georgia’s exports’ innovation and growth”.

## Study Trip to Austria, September 24-28, 2018

EBA Georgia was in Vienna with Georgian Companies to study Green Technology.

Earlier in July EBA Georgia attended the Prime Minister's Speech about plans for the Green Economy. Many of our members are producing energy efficient and green products for export to Europe.

“The green economy is an absolute priority for us, which will enable us to build a new level of economic prosperity and quality of life for our citizens. Most European countries have embarked on the path of building such an economy and we have a unique potential to become one of the leading countries moving in this very important direction.”

The Prime Minister referred to the need for European Standards and EBA fully supports this initiative. EBA Georgia was in Vienna with Georgian Companies to study Green Technology.





### Site Visit at EBA Members in Gori, September 21, 2018

Italian company GRUBER GENETTI and its official representative in Georgia AGRO-COM invited EBA Board Members and Management to the field day to introduce intensive garden of new types of apples.

The Minister of Agriculture spoke at our members Kvarkheti Agro LLC orchard. The perfect example of European Standards of Agriculture in Georgia.



### Interview with Mr. Carlo Natale, September 12, 2018



EBA CEO David Lee interviewed Mr. Carlo Natale, the Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Georgia on the priorities for Georgian businesses. The video quickly generated up to 20, 000 views.

### EBA Member and the Swedish Embassy meeting, September 18, 2018

EBA organized and attended a meeting with the Embassy of Sweden to Georgia and Georgian company - Orient Logic which is in the process of opening an office in Sweden.

EBA is delighted to assist companies which are intending to export or are already exporting to Europe.



### Site Visit at Meatana, September 6, 2018

EBA Chair and CEO visited Georgian meat processing Company Meatana and were impressed with the European technology and standards at the company's processing facility in Tbilisi. EBA is delighted to help the company through the path to their new goal – export to Europe!



### Member to Member meeting, August 10, 2018

EBA German Member DBF discusses the advantage of basalt fiber over steel in modern bridge and road construction with EBA Spanish member Eptisa.

**Report Ends:**

**Report Authorized by EBA Chair John Braeckveldt, 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 2018**