



Flash Report

The European Business Association Georgia held its 6th Board Meeting at the Embassy of Austria in Tbilisi on Monday 5th February 2018.

The meeting was attended by the Board:

- John Braeckveldt; (Chair).
 - Jonne Catshoek;
 - Paul Russell Clark;
 - Antonio Alferez Burillo;
- Paata Lomadze; represented by John Braeckveldt under the proxy.
 - Irina Sak.

In addition: H.E. Mr. Arad Benkö, Ambassador of Austria to Georgia, Mr. Carlo Natale, EU Delegation, Mr. David Lee, CEO of EBA Georgia and Board Secretary, Ms. Mariam Kuchuloria Deputy CEO of EBA Georgia and Mariam Ghreuli Communications Coordinator, Diana Khidesheli, Economic Analyst, Amalia Umurshadyan, Policy Analyst, Archil Bakuradze, CEO of Crystal (EBA Georgia's member), Ms. Ana Lataria, Head of Marketing Office at Austrian Embassy and Sonja Schragen, Political Attache of Austrian Embassy also attended the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks and review and approval of the minutes of the 5th Board Meeting, John Braeckveldt;
2. Austrian Export feasibility study, Diana Khidesheli;
3. Services provision strategy, Paul Clark;
4. Report on the meeting with the German Business Association, John Braeckveldt;
5. Services provided for members, David Lee;
6. EBA Position Paper regarding SMEs, Amalia Umurshadyan;
7. Membership status, progress on new members, Mariam Ghreuli;
8. Future events for the members, Mariam Kuchuloria;

Resolutions:

The CEO presented a report on the EBA activities/events since 5th board meeting. Planned events were discussed by the board.

Of particular note was EBA's new program "**Mediation and Arbitration**" - Alternatives for speedy and efficient dispute resolution. This will be launched by the EBA on February 14th, 2018 and The Minister of Justice will present the draft Law on Mediation to the business community for the first time.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.



Membership Status:

Membership continues to grow on plan (7 new members, 2 core and 5 general since the last board meeting in December) 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.

Agreed next steps:

EBA will continue to expand its membership with several high profile additions expected this month. A clearer map of the membership segmentation/services will be produced to show EBA's clear differentiation and focus.

Highlights from Past Month:



Public-Private Dialogue on Transport and Logistics in Georgia, December 25, 2018

Deputy CEO and EBA members from logistics sector participated in Public-Private Dialogue on Transport and Logistics in Georgia: Main Challenges and Development Perspectives organized by Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee of the Parliament, Business and Economic Center and USAID,G4G.



Memorandum of Understanding, January 23, 2018

European Business Association, the Georgian Farmers' Association and the Export Development Association's Memorandum of Understanding.

SME Challenges and Support Mechanisms, January 30, 2018

EBA Georgia opened the conference presentations on Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises' challenges.

Over 20 of our SME members were present supported by our Core Members CRYSTAL JSC MFO and TBSC Consulting.

The dialogue between public and private sectors was initiated by the Committee on Sector Economy and Economic Policy and was chaired by Roman Kakulia.

Members of Parliament, International Organizations - USAID, European Business Association (EBA), Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association (GSMEA) and Federation of Georgian Manufacturers talked about the challenges facing the medium and small businesses and the experience of EU Member States in this regard.



SMEs are essential to any modern economy and the engine of the nascent Georgian export industry.

With a clear focus on SMEs and Competition Policy supported by our large European Core Members, the European Business Association has a unique business model and the capacity and experience to support the business development of Startups and SMEs.