



### **Flash Report 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

The European Business Association Georgia held its 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at Embassy of The Republic of Poland in Tbilisi on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The meeting was attended by the Board:

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

In addition: H.E. Mr. Mariusz Maszkiewicz - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Georgia; Mr. Przemysław Pierz – Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tbilisi; Mr. Marcin Rurowic - Vice chairman/ Founder of the Polish-Georgian Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Mr. David Lee, CEO of EBA Georgia and Board Secretary; Ms. Mariam Kuchuloria Deputy CEO and Ms. Mariam Ghreuli Communications Coordinator.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Opening remarks and review and approval of the minutes of the 4th Board Meeting, John Braeckveldt;
2. Website development;
3. Services provided for members, David Lee;
4. Membership status, progress on new members voted and list of to meet, Mariam Ghreuli;
5. Future events for the members and potential members; Mariam Kuchuloria;
6. Report on 2017 and planning of 2018.

### **Resolutions:**

The CEO presented report on the EBA activities in 2017. Plans for 2018 were discussed by the board. Minutes of the last meeting approved.

### **Membership Status:**

Membership continues to grow on plan 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 Georgian business association membership segmentation will be produced to show EBA's clear differentiation and focus.

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

#### **Seminar on Competition, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

European Business Association in the Framework of the European Union Project «Support to the Georgian Competition Agency», organized the seminar on competition for its members, and for other interested parties on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017.



The following expert speakers from Europe gave presentations on best practice to raise awareness of how businesses can protect themselves from Anti-Competitive behaviors:

Aurelio La Torre - The EU Project, Team Leader, Senior Legal Expert

Francois Souty - The EU Project, Senior Economic Expert

Jurate Soviene - Deputy Chair, Lithuanian Competition Council

Dijana Marcovich -The EU Project, Senior Competition Law Expert



Anita Nyeso - Competition Expert, OECD Competition Division

Nodar Khaduri – Chairman of the Competition Agency of Georgia engaged in Q&A discussion with the members of EBA Georgia.

In addition: Mr. David Lee, CEO of EBA Georgia and



Board Secretary, John Braeckveldt Chair, Ms. Mariam Kuchuloria Deputy CEO, and Ms. Mariam Ghreuli Communications Coordinator.

The seminar aimed to present the necessary skills to reflect on the presence of anti-competitive behaviors in their respective market (cartels, abuses of dominant position, restrictive mergers) and highlighting the measures that businesses could take.

During the seminar the speakers also explained how state policies could distort fair competition (state aids and subsidies, concessions and other special and exclusive rights, "tailor-made" legislation and tender procedures, etc.).

Business representatives discussed concrete cases related to their activities. The seminar facilitated interaction between the experts and members, and involved them in a fruitful discussion regarding the EU project activities and goals. Members were able to gain a deeper perception of business burdens, and increased their trust in the enforcement institutions that support proper competition in the business field.



On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 EBA participated in the second round table organized by the Competition Agency for the business community in Georgia.



#### **Tbilisi Belt & Road Forum, 28-29 November, 2017**

EBA Chairman of the Board, Mr. John Braeckveldt and CEO Mr. David Lee participated in Tbilisi Belt & Road Forum.

#### **Site Visit to AMC, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

EBA Georgia organized a site visit hosted by American Medical Centers yesterday. Dr. Richard Styles talked about healthcare situation in Georgia and answered members questions on the development of the healthcare sector in Georgia and lessons learned in other countries regarding health insurance and reliance on technology.

Afterwards AMC hosted a cocktail party and introduced the staff to the participants.

American Medical Centers is a regional health services organization that owns and manages healthcare provider centers in Eastern Europe, including Tbilisi and Batumi and employs more than 250 healthcare professionals.



EBA has members involved in the medical sector including European medical equipment supply, laboratory services, primary healthcare and insurance.



### **Briefing EU Commercial Counsellors at the EU Delegation, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

EBA Georgia Chair and CEO briefed the EU Commercial Counsellors at the EU Delegation on future plans and factors affecting businesses in Georgia.

The meeting was hosted by Mr. Carlo Natale, the Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Georgia.

### **Meeting with Tea Tsulukiani, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Minister of Justice of Georgia, Tea Tsulukiani met with the CEO and Deputy CEO of the European Business Association to discuss the business environment and ongoing reforms.



### **Site Visit to Qissa, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

EBA Georgia members were hosted to a cocktail party by Qissa to celebrate Christmas and promote their business.

The event was also attended by the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Georgia, GIZ representatives working on the Tbilisi Furniture Cluster and our newest member

ProCredit Bank.

Qissa sells gifts manufactured in Georgia by over 100 local SME producers, 95% of whom are owned by Georgian business women. Their main customers are European tourists. Qissa operate in Tbilisi and Batumi and are expanding to Kakheti and the international airports.

EBA Georgia is 100% focused on developing businesses in Georgia and wishes to thank all our members for their support and entrepreneurship.

### **Breakfast with Belgian Ambassador, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The European Business Association Chair and Board met with the Belgian Ambassador to discuss the Georgian market at breakfast today at the Mercure Tbilisi Old Town hotel.





### **Prospero's Meeting with Government Officials, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Deputy Minister Giorgi Cherkezishvili and Enterprise Georgia Deputy Director Zviad Kvlividze met today with Prospero's Books CEO Tako Johnson and European Business Association Georgia CEO David Lee at the Ministry to

discuss the first Georgian franchise into Europe.

### **Batumi Build 2017, 8-9 December, 2017**

EBA Georgia participated in the 7th International Exhibition of Building Materials and Technologies of Batumi "Batumi Build 2017". EBA CEO and communications coordinator briefed Ramaz Bolqvadze - Minister of finance and Economy of Ajara Autonomous Republic and agreed on next steps to cooperate in terms of supporting European businesses in Ajara region.



### **EU project - Food and Agriculture SMEs Support Initiative**



EBA Georgia is a beneficiary of the EU project - Food and Agriculture SMEs Support Initiative implemented by the Georgian Farmers Association in partnership with ISET, Atinati, CiDA and Export Development Agency. Within this project EBA Members will be able to receive full support in EU export and DCFTA related issues in Agricultural field.

Authorized by John Braeckveldt Chair