

# **Flash Report**

The European Business Association Georgia held its 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at *Tegeta Motors* on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2020



# The meeting will be attended by the members of the Board of the EBA:

- John Hugo Freddy Braeckeveldt (Chair);
  - Irina Sak (Deputy Chair);
    - Paul Clark (treasurer);
    - Manuel Villa Franca;
      - Vusal Verdiyev;
      - Zurab Eristavi;
  - Torsten Weller (via skype);
    - Paata Lomadze

**In addition:** Representative of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia; Knut Gerber- EBA Advisory Board Member; Catarina Bjorlin Hansen, Regional Director, Caucasus (EBRD); Aurelio La Torre - EU legal expert; Kartlos Koranashvili - ARDI; Tornike Tokhadze - Skyhi; Avtandil Tsereteli - TEGETA MOTORS; Mariam Chagelishvili - GIZ; Tamar Karbelashvili - Project Manager; Mr. David Lee - CEO of the EBA; Mrs. Mariam Kuchuloria - Deputy CEO of the EBA; Ms. Nino Ushikishvili - Lawyer of the EBA; Ms. Tea Chkonia - Office Manager of the EBA.



### Agenda:

- 1. Small Tour at the Tegeta Motors Head office;
- 2. Opening remarks;
- 3. Review and approval of the 13th EBA board meeting; John Braeckeveldt;
- 4. EBA Recent Activities;
- 5. EBA strategy plan;
- 6. EBA's role in developing skilled labor force for businesses;
- 7. Green Economy;
- 8. Discussion;
- 9. Introduction of new EBA members;
- 10. ARDI's presentation

#### **Short Summary of the Meeting:**

- Small tour of the Tegeta Motors Head office was arranged for the attendees of the meeting;
- 13<sup>th</sup> EBA board meeting was reviewed and approved by John Braeckeveldt (Chair);
- David Lee (CEO) and Mariam Kuchuloria (Deputy CEO) delivered a report on the EBA's recent activities and the EBA's strategic plan for the attendees of the meeting;
- Green Economy Initiatives and EBA's role in developing the skilled labor force for businesses were discussed at the meeting.
- ARDI Group made a small presentation regarding their Insurance Company.
- New members of the EBA (since the 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting) was introduced to the board;
- The Certificate of EBA's Proud Member was awarded to the Tegeta Motors.







## **Agreed next steps:**

The EBA will focus on the brand association with European Standards, Business Ethics and Quality. The EBA will increase its involvement in the Green Economy Initiatives. Moreover, the Association will continue working on the strengthening its role in developing the skilled labor force for businesses.



### **Highlights from Past Months:**



- ☐ EBA was delighted to attend the first **EBRD Investment Conference in London** together with Amcham, members of the Georgian Government and the Georgian Ambassador to the United Kingdom.
- □ EBA Guest Speaker at the <u>EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly</u>, Committee on Economic Integration, Legal Approximation and Convergence with EU Policies.
- Presented main challenges and expectations of the business community on the promotion of circular economy. Members of the European Parliament and the Eastern Partnership countries participated in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly.







- □ EBA participated in the discussion of the **draft amendments to the Law of Georgia on Competition**, organized within the EU Project "Support to the Georgian Competition Agency".
- In the framework of the meeting important issues were introduced and discussed including: competition policy in regulated sectors of the economy, procedural norms, effective methods for concentration control, structural arrangement of the Agency. Members of the Parliament and Government of Georgia, international and local experts participated in the discussion.





□ In December, 2019 the **extended producer responsibility** defined by the Waste Management Code of Georgia becomes effective, under which the producer of a product that becomes specific waste and a person placing this product on the market shall ensure the separate collection, transport, recovery (including recycling) and environmentally safe disposal of waste generated from such product. The EBA attended the meeting held by Business Ombudsman to discuss abovementioned issues.









- □ EBA organized Public Private Dialogue "Difficulties Faced by Georgian Companies Exporting to the EU Market" on February 11th, 2020. Over 100 people attended the event including experts and representatives of businesses, the EU Delegation, Diplomatic Corps, Government and Parliament of Georgia.
- The meeting was supported by the "Program for the Support of Implementation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement of the German International Cooperation (GIZ) in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia (IMPACT) ".



Report Ends.

Authorized by John Braeckeveldt Chair

24th of February, 2020