



18th of April, 2019

**EBA TOURISM COUNCIL MEETING WAS HELD IN THE SCOPE OF THE ASSOCIATION'S #EBAMEMBERHOSTS INITIATIVE LAUNCH**

EBA Tourism Council Meeting has been conducted with the agenda, which was developed based on the issues raised by EBA Members and partners from Hospitality and Tourism sector. During the meeting issues regarding the spheres covered by the State Tourism Committee of RA, Civil Aviation, Yerevan Municipality and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia have been discussed. Today's EBA Tourism Council Meeting was held as the launching event within new EBA Member Hosts Initiative and was hosted by EBA Member Best Western Plus Congress Hotel. EBA Tourism Council is another Public-Private Dialogue platform, created by EBA in order to voice and direct the problems of operation and needs of business development of the companies operating in Tourism and Hospitality sector. As always, EBA will do a follow on solutions, which are to be provided by Public sector representatives, taking into account the suggestions, presented by invited sector representatives.

READ THE MEETING PROTOCOL



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**INTRODUCING #EBAMEMBERHOSTS INITIATIVE**

*"EBA Member Hosts" is the new initiative of EBA Armenia, which was designed exclusively for EBA Members to provide them with opportunities to present new services or products, introduce new headquarters, branches or raise awareness on a newly launched campaign, celebrate a special milestone of an EBA Member company, conduct a tour (in a hotel, plant), introduce the innovative approaches applied by the company etc. At the same time, within the #EBAMemberHosts initiative EBA Members can host any other type of EBA Event, taking advantage of EBA Event Sponsorship - another promotional opportunity, provided for the members of association. In this issue you will learn about the launch of the initiative as well.*





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20th of March, 2019

## **EBA PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MET WITH THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE RA NA STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS HOVHANNES IGITYAN**

European Business Association Armenia's President Mr. Levon Israelyan and Executive Director Ms. Diana Sarumova conducted meetings at the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs and Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

During the meeting with Mr. Hayk Gevorgyan and Mr. Hovhannes Igityan issues of business environment improvement and EU-Armenia bilateral business integration opportunities have been discussed. The importance of EU-Armenia CEPA implementation activities and the establishment of the Foreign Investment Protection and Promotion Council (FIC) has been emphasized.



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2nd of April, 2019

**EBA ARMENIA AND ITS PARTNER CHAMBERS AND ASSOCIATIONS HAD A MEETING WITH THE CHAIR AND THE MEMBERS OF THE RA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

European Business Association Armenia together with AmCham Armenia, Armenian-Italian Association of Commerce and Industry (AIACI), Deutscher Wirtschaftsverband - DWV Armenien, Armenian British Business Chamber - ABBC, BACC Belgian Armenian Chamber of Commerce and CCI France Arménie met with the Chair and the members of the RA National Assembly Standing Committee on Economic Affairs. EBA Armenia and its partner chambers and associations reflected on the economic developments, the issues concerning the investments and presented their vision of the sphere.

Committee Chair Mr. Babken Tunyan highlighted the importance of a dialogue and mentioned that the similar meetings will be organised on a regular basis.

During the discussion thoughts were exchanged on tax legislation, the SME's, pharmaceutical market and the IT sphere in Armenia.



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12th of March, 2019

## **EBA ARMENIA MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE ARMENIAN-BULGARIAN BUSINESS FORUM WITHIN THE 8TH SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION**

“Armenia-Bulgaria” business forum organized by the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia and Business Armenia Foundation took place in Yerevan, within the framework of the Armenian-Bulgarian intergovernmental commission session. EBA Members were invited to attend the forum, which aimed to help deepening the already existing business relations between two countries.

*“Armenia can become quite attractive for Bulgarian partners. Bulgarian importers and distributors might be interested in the fact that Armenia has the GSP+ agreement with the European Union and that most Armenian commodities can be imported into the European Union through a zero or reduced customs duty,”* Armenia’s Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Mr. Tigran Khachatryan stated in his speech. Investor Relations Manager of Business Armenia Foundation, Mr. Aram Vardanyan presented Armenia’s investment opportunities, while Director of the Marketing Board of the Invest Bulgaria Agency Ms. Teodora Stavreva presented the investment climate in Bulgaria. The forum has gathered nearly 150 businessmen from Armenia and Bulgaria and features B2B meetings that will provide Armenian and Bulgarian businessmen with the opportunity to discuss joint business projects and the perspectives for mutually beneficial cooperation.





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19th of March, 2019

## EUROPEAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ARMENIA AND EBA MEMBERS HAVE MET WITH THE GREEK BUSINESS DELEGATION.

*B2B SESSIONS WERE ORGANISED FOR ARMENIAN AND GREEK COMPANIES*



European Business Association Armenia and EBA Members have met with the Greek Business Delegation. Ms. Elina Markaryan, Public Affairs and Communication Director of an EBA Member Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Armenia conducted a presentation on the success story of Greek investing in Armenia. In the scope of Armenian-Greek Business Forum B2B sessions with Greek companies have been organised.

The visit was organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Athens with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Yerevan and is aimed to have Business to Business (B2B) meetings between the representatives of Greek and Armenian companies of various business sectors.



#EBAM2MWORKSHOP\*

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21st of March, 2019

**EBA WITH ITS MEMBER SOFTLINE  
INTERNATIONAL ARMENIA  
ORGANISED A WORKSHOP FOR  
TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY  
SECTOR BUSINESSES**

EBA together with its member Softline International Armenia organised a "Cloud Transformation for Businesses" workshop for EBA Members and partners representing Tourism and Hospitality Sector. During the four-hour workshop participants were presented the innovative solutions for daily operation. The presentation was followed by the Q&A session and business networking.

The workshop was attended by representatives of 8 hotels and resorts, 4 tour agencies, hospitality management magazine and software developing company.

\*The workshop is one of "M2M Workshop" events, which EBA is initiating together with its members, in order to ensure the professional experience exchange and networking among its members and potential partners.



27th of March, 2019

**EBA ARMENIA PARTICIPATED IN THE SECOND WORKSHOP ON SUPPORTING ARMENIA'S SME DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ORGANISED BY OECD**

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The workshop focused on the monitoring system as a key aspect for an effective implementation of the SME Strategy. It presented good practice tools to monitor and report progress in the implementation of SME strategies and action plans, including key performance indicators to better assess the impact of implemented policies. The public-private framework of the workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the draft SME strategy, its main policy priorities and actions, and get feedback and recommendations from private sector representatives and the OECD.

28th of March, 2019

**IN THE CENTER OF YEREVAN OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 'EUROPEAN SQUARE' TOOK PLACE**

This event was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Council of Europe occurred on the Northern Avenue of Yerevan, Armenia. The occasion of inaugurating the Europe Square took place with participation of Ms. Lilian Maury Pasquier, the President of Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.

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28th of March, 2019

**EBA ARMENIA ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE ON 'LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS'**

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An international conference on "Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations" was held in Yerevan attended by Gonzalo Serrano, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Armenia. The conference was also attended by representatives of European Commission, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), members of CORLEAP and representatives of Armenian partner organisations. The Conference included two thematic sessions: "Creating an open, enabling environment for citizen participation and civil society and LRAs' actions" and "Strengthening the ability to interact, generate synergies, and produce concrete results at local level". The conference was organised in the scope of the EU-funded Commitment of Constructive Dialogue" project.



5th of April, 2019

**EBA ARMENIA TOOK PART IN THE  
THE FIRST GOVERNMENT-CIVIL  
SOCIETY DISCUSSION ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ROADMAP  
OF ARMENIA-EU CEPA  
AGREEMENT'S 6TH PART**



On 5th of April EBA Armenia participated in the first discussion of government-civil society which was a 6th part of Armenia-EU CEPA. The discussion focused on more sensitive chapters, in particular, intellectual property, public procurement, competition, transparency, dispute resolution, and the steps taken to implement the provisions set forth by the government, the coordinating members. In their turn, civil society representatives voiced their concerns.

At the end of the session, the two sides reaffirmed their readiness to continue discussions in this format.







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16th of April, 2019

**EBA ATTENDED THE DISCUSSION ON PROCUREMENT LEGISLATION REFORMS**

EBA attended the discussions on "Participation of Business and Civil Society in Implementing Procurement Legislation Reforms", which were held to diagnose the gaps of public procurement legislation and discuss the changes in it. The discussions were attended by the civil society organisations and the representatives of the RA Ministry of Finance, headed by First Deputy Minister Mr. Karen Brutyan. The meeting served as another opportunity for EBA to represent the interest of its members and underline the needs of the field



19th of April, 2019  
**EBA ATTENDED THE DISCUSSION ON SME ENTERPRISES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EU-FUNDED "CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE COMMITMENT" PROGRAM**



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EBA participated in a meeting of the working group of SME enterprises. The vice president of "SME Cooperation Association" Hakob Avagyan presented the program, the SME Sector Survey in Armenia 2018, developed by the Armenian Business Coalition in the scope of the program, which was submitted to the Ministry of Economic Development and Investments last fall. Avag Avanesyan, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, mentioned that SME strategy is now under an active discussions and that the position of civil society is very important and the opinions of partners' about what should be priorities, events, and other. "The implemented analysis has already had its impact on the strategy. Thus, we decided to define which directions the state would support for SME Development in Armenia and what SME priorities there are," mentioned the Deputy Minister.



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