



# Newsletter

**July – September 2008**

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**The EU-Georgia Business Council (EUGBC) Members Meet with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the EC Delegation to Georgia**  
*July 9, 2008 Tbilisi Georgia*

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, The EU-Georgia Business Council organized its members meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Georgia to discuss Georgia's ongoing relations with the European Union.

The issues discussed included: Implementation of European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan in Georgia; Trade relations referring to short statistical overview, GSP+, possible Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and EU, trade facilitation; EU-Georgia Agreement on Protection of Geographical Indications of Agricultural Products and Foodstuff; Direct Investments from the EU; Visa issues; Internal conflicts.

In addition, EUGBC presented to its members the printed version of the brochure: *Exporting to the European Union Market - Specific Issues*, published by EUGBC with support of the European Commission Delegation to Georgia.

According to the Vice-Chairman of EUGBC Board, Badri Japaridze, "the EU-Georgia trade relations as well as visa facilitation are very important issues for Georgian entrepreneurs. Receiving the first-hand information on these topics from the Ambassador Per Eklund was particularly interesting for the EUGBC members".

EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador Konstantin Zaldastanishvili stated: "Meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund was very informative and interesting for EUGBC members and guests. Therefore, it is important that such events are systematically organized for EUGBC members in the future".



**JSC TBC Bank contributes 5 million GEL to support the victims of the war**

*August 13, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

JSC TBC Bank made the contribution of 5 million GEL for humanitarian support to the victims of Russia's military aggression. This sum will be used as an aid to all refugees and children left without homes, regardless of their nationality and ethnicity, as well as for the children of soldiers who died in the war.

"In this time of crisis, we believe, that the businesses should stand next to their people as well as the state and use their best efforts for their support. For this particular objective, JSC TBC Bank has established an International Fund with the aim of providing an aid to the victims of war. Our first contribution is made in the amount of 5 million GEL"- stated Mr. Mamuka Khazaradze, Head of TBC Group and Chairman of JSC TBC Bank's Supervisory Board.

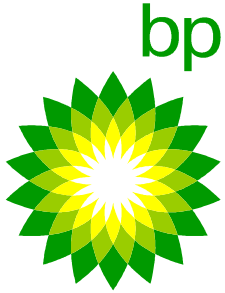
All Amounts allocated in the fund will be distributed together with JSC TBC Bank's partners, Non-Governmental Humanitarian Organizations, which will be selected in the nearest future.

JSC TBC Bank suggests businessmen and companies, operating both in Georgia and abroad, to join TBC Bank's initiative and add resources to 5 million GEL, provided by TBC Bank.

Those interested in contribution to the fund may execute the transfer to the following bank accounts:

TBC Bank, Code 220101850  
A/N 360808808 (GEL); 361808808 (USD)  
Beneficiary: Union 'Charity Association TBC'

For further information please contact Ms. Tamara Kirvalidze, Head of Media Communications of TBC Bank at e-mail: tkirvalidze@tbcbank.com.ge; Tel: + 995 77 403734.



**BP Georgia supports international and national organizations and governments in providing help to refugees**

*August 15, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

BP Georgia and its staff are currently engaged in number of initiatives in support of the efforts of international and national organizations and governments aimed at providing help to refugees.

These efforts involve voluntary donations of clothes, food and other items for refugees in coordination with the Save the Children Georgia office. In addition, BP cooperates with CARE International in Georgia, with the aim of providing coordinated support to the refugees in different locations throughout the country. Your donation, no matter how big or small, will help them deliver more help to those in need today.

To contribute online, visit the Save the Children dedicated webpage:  
<http://www.savethechildren.org/emergencies/georgia-children-in-crisis.html>

CARE International in Georgia webpage:  
<http://www.careinternational.org.uk/?lid=11587&bid=270>



**Bank of Georgia establishes a fund to support the internally displaced persons with initial contribution of GEL 1 million**

*August 15, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

Due to the crisis situation in Georgia one of the primary issues is providing aid to more than 30,000 (and their number is growing) internally displaced persons. Bank of Georgia was first to come up with the initiative to establish a fund to support these people and made an initial contribution of GEL 1 million. The bank has created a special monitoring group which will oversee and coordinate the spending of the finances from the fund.

Numerous companies in Georgia and abroad, as well as individuals have already made donations to the fund. It is also noteworthy, that several organizations in Georgia have followed our initiative and have set up similar funds. Herewith we ask you too to make any contribution you can to the fund. Provided below is the account information:

**For transfers in USD:**

**Beneficiary Bank**

Citibank N.A., New York, US  
Swift: CITIUS33

**Beneficiary**

Bank of Georgia, SWIFT: BAGAGE22  
3 Pushkin Street, 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Corr. Account: 36204072

**Details of Payment**

Account: 45118404300400000030

For the Fund to Support the Victims of South Ossetia

**For transfers in EUR:**

**Beneficiary Bank**

Commerzbank, Frankfurt, Germany  
Swift: COBADEFF

**Beneficiary**

Bank of Georgia, SWIFT: BAGAGE22  
3 Pushkin Street, 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia  
Corr. Account: 400 88 81 054 01EUR

**Details of Payment**

Account: 45119784300400000005

For the Fund to Support the Victims of South Ossetia

**For transfers in GBP:**

**Beneficiary Bank**

JP Morgan Chase Bank, London, UK  
SWIFT: CHASGB2L

**Beneficiary**

Bank of Georgia, SWIFT: BAGAGE22  
3 Pushkin Street, 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia

**Details of Payment**

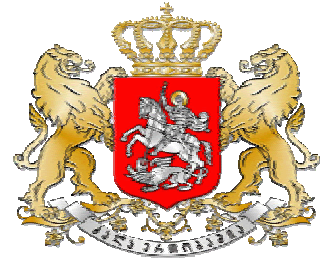
Account: 45118264300400000006

For the Fund to Support the Victims of South Ossetia

For further details please contact Ms. Ketii Dolidze, Business Development Manager, Corporate & Investment Banking at JSC Bank of Georgia: Tel: (+995 32) 444 282, Fax: (+995 32) 444 278, 3, Pushkin St. 0105 Tbilisi, Georgia, E\_mail: kdolidze@bog.ge

## **EUGBC Brussels Based Members' Meeting with PM Lado Gurgenzidze**

*August 31, 2008 Brussels, Belgium*

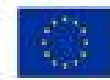


On August 31st, in the framework of his official visit to Brussels, Prime Minister of Georgia Mr. Lado Gurgenzidze met with EUGBC Brussels-based Members: **Arve Thorvik** (StatoilHydro EU Affairs Office, Vice President - EU Affairs, Member of the EUGBC Board), **Geir Westgaard** (Successor of Arve Thorvik on his position at StatoilHydro from 1 October 2008), **Howard Chase** (BP Europe, Director European Government Affairs), **Begnt Westergren** (AIG Companies Corporate & Government Affairs Europe & CIS, Senior Vice President) and **Konstantin Zaldastanishvili** (EUGBC, Secretary General).

At the meeting, PM Gurgenzidze provided the EUGBC Members with detailed information about the damage incurred to the country's economy as a result of Russian military aggression as well as discussed the government's plans to overcome the created problems. PM put emphasis on the financial needs for reconstruction as the immediate priority, which should be followed by a deeper integration in the EU. A discussion was also held with respect to EUGBC's role and importance in sustaining a credible investment environment in the country (lobbying and organizing business event in Brussels and other major cities of the EU Member States).

## **The Extraordinary European Council on the Situation in Georgia**

*September 1, 2008 Brussels, Belgium*



Meeting in an extraordinary session on 1 September following the conflict that broke out in Georgia, the European Council unanimously expressed its concern at the consequences, particularly in human terms, of this situation and its condemnation of Russia's unilateral decision to recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

**COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

It reiterated the unacceptable nature of this decision and called on other States not to recognize this proclaimed independence, emphasizing once more that a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict in Georgia must be based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Heads of State and Government are pleased that the agreement achieved on the basis of the French Presidency's mediation efforts on behalf of the European Union has led to a ceasefire, improved delivery of humanitarian aid to the victims, and a substantial withdrawal of Russian military forces. The 27 Member States reiterate that the implementation of that plan has to be complete and call on the parties to continue the full implementation in good faith of the agreement they have signed. They emphasized the urgency of finalizing the international monitoring mechanism, in which the EU is prepared to participate, and which is provided for in point 5 of the agreement, and to begin the international talks concerning the security and stability arrangements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia provided for in point 6. The EU is ready to commit itself, including through a presence on the ground, and has decided in particular to send a fact-finding mission charged with defining the modalities for an increased commitment.

In addition to the emergency aid it is supplying, the EU is prepared to supply aid for reconstruction in Georgia, including in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and to examine the enhancement of its relations with Georgia. It is more necessary than ever to support regional cooperation and the EU's relations with its neighbors. The European Council called for the intensification of efforts to ensure the security of energy supplies and the diversification of energy sources and supply routes.

The European Council has decided to appoint a European Union Special Representative for the crisis in Georgia. It considers that this crisis has placed the relationship between the EU and Russia at a crossroads and that it is in Russia's own interest not to isolate itself from Europe. For its part, the EU has shown itself willing to engage in partnership and cooperation, in keeping with the values on which it is based, and

expects Russia to behave in a reasonable manner, honoring all its international commitments. The EU will remain vigilant and examine the various aspects of its relations with Russia, in particular in the run-up to the next summit scheduled to take place on 14 November in Nice.

The European Council has given a mandate to the President of the European Council, Nicolas Sarkozy to continue discussions with a view to the full application of the six-point agreement.

Until troops have withdrawn to the positions held prior to 7 August, meetings on the negotiation of the Partnership Agreement will be postponed.

Full text of the Presidency Conclusions of the Extraordinary European Council can be found at EUGBC website [www.eugbc.net](http://www.eugbc.net) under the section *Facts and Figures*.



**Summary of remarks by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), after the meeting with Lado Gurggenidze, Prime Minister of Georgia.**

*September 1, 2008 Brussels, Belgium*

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), met on Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 with Prime Minister of Georgia, Lado GURGENIDZE. After the meeting Mr. SOLANA made the following remarks to the convened journalists:

"The situation today is clear. Georgia is a country whose territorial integrity has been breached and there is tremendous damage on the ground as concerns people, property, etc and it is our obligation to help. We want to help the people in Georgia. We have also already made very clear statements on the recognition issue - we are against.

On the relations with Georgia, I think that three things are important; the political support, the economic support - as you know we are trying to do the utmost - and then our presence on the ground. As you know, we already have an exploratory mission deployed in Georgia with around 40 people on the ground.

We would like to have an ESDP mission deployed soon and I think that by the next Council, on the 15 September, we will have the decisions finalized. That is what I am looking for and this is what I am seeking at this point in time.

We prepare for an observer mission, a verification mission, in order to see how the plans that have already been approved and signed by the parties are implemented. This is very important. There is a lot to do and the EU is ready, in coordination with the OSCE, to verify that the 6-point agreement is complied with".

**Leaders debate Georgian War and Russian Relations**

*September 1, 2008 Brussels, Belgium*

On Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008, the German Marshall Fund held a debate entitled "The War in Georgia and Relations with Russia: What happened and What Now?" in Brussels, Belgium just before an emergency European Summit began. This debate was intended to give the European audience an opportunity to ask questions of leading people on the issue.



The five panelists were: **Radoslaw Sikorski**, Polish Foreign Minister, **Matthew Bryza**; US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, **Temuri Yakobashvili**; Georgian Minister for Reintegration, **Vladimir Chizov**; Russian Ambassador to the European Union, and **Eckart Von Klaeden**; Foreign Policy Spokesman of the CDU/CSU in the German Bundestag. The debate was moderated by **Ronald Asmus**; Executive Director of the Transatlantic Center and Strategic Planning of GMF.

The debate began with each panellist being asked a question by the moderator. Minister Yakobashvili, asked about the origins of the conflict, said he had seen the conflict coming for a long time, but that Georgia only intervened when the situation on the ground had become intolerable and they were informed that Russian forces and armor were moving into Georgia through the Roki tunnel. "All indications including a military buildup show that this war was very well prepared," he said.

Sikorski and Bryza both acknowledged the rising tension but insisted that Georgia had made a mistake in responding militarily. "I personally told Georgian officials: 'You are being provoked. Be careful, because if you do allow yourselves to be provoked, you'll not find much real support,'" said Sikorski. Bryza said the U.S. cautioned against getting into a war with Russia. "There is no military solution to this conflict, this is an unwinnable battle," he said. Chizhov denied that Russia had been planning this conflict, and instead said they had tried to resolve it diplomatically following all international rules. "The use of force was minimal in the circumstances," said Chizhov.

Looking forward Sikorski raised that another Cold War was not out of the realm of possible scenarios "This has implications that go far beyond the caucuses. We have reached a cusp of history. If we do enter a new cold war, I have no doubt who will win," he said. Chizhov challenged the assertion of a new cold war saying the ideological differences which were the base of that time in history were no longer there. "The debate over a Second Cold War is misplaced," he said. "With the original Cold War, there was a clash of ideologies more than anything else.

Von Klaeden emphasized that Russia's occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia had broken international law and that such actions need to have "consequences" or else "law had no meaning anymore." Sikorski and von Klaeden both stressed that if Europe does not take a united action against Russia, it will not work. Sikorski went further to say that credibility of the European Union is at stake here.

## **European Parliament Resolution on the situation in Georgia - EU Parliament says Russia must honor its commitments**

*September 3, 2008 Brussels, Belgium*

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) call on Russia to honor its commitments and withdraw its troops from Georgia, in a resolution adopted by the European Parliament. MEPs are in favor of a European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) monitoring mission to Georgia and ask the European Commission to propose visa facilitation and readmission agreements. They also call for a boost to the EU's neighborhood policy and reaffirm the importance of Georgia in improving EU energy security.



The resolution was adopted with 549 votes in favor, 68 against and 61 abstentions. MEPs call on Russia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and to honor all its commitments under the ceasefire agreement, beginning with the complete and immediate withdrawal of its troops. They strongly condemn the recognition by the Russian Federation of the independence of the breakaway Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Otherwise, MEPs call on the Council and Commission to review their policy towards Russia. They back the European Council's decision to postpone the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement negotiations until the withdrawal of the Russian troops to their positions prior to 7 August.

In order to facilitate de-mining operations, MEPs call on the Russian and Georgian authorities to provide full information concerning the areas where their armies dropped cluster bombs.

**Visa facilitation and international investigation:** MEPs call on the Commission to propose visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Georgia at least equivalent to those for Russia. MEPs demand that an independent international investigation be carried in order to establish the facts and bring greater clarity to certain allegations. The House urges Georgia, which ratified the Rome Statute of the ICC, and the Russian authorities to lend support to and fully cooperate with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

**European Security and Defense Policy monitoring mission:** MEPs ask the Council to consider the deployment of an ESDP (European Security and Defense Policy) monitoring mission to complement the UN and OSCE missions. MEPs welcome in particular the decision to appoint an EU Special Representative for the crisis in Georgia.

**Neighborhood policy and energy dependence:** The European Neighborhood Policy should be developed and more adapted to "the needs of our eastern partners", including a strengthening of EU involvement in the Black Sea region, according to MEPs. They back the proposal to speed up the establishment of a free trade zone with Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. The House stresses the importance of Georgia in improving EU energy security by providing an alternative to the Russian energy transit route. MEPs expect a strong EU commitment in pursuing the Nabucco pipeline project which would cross Georgia's territory. The need to diversify sources of supply is also underlined by MEPs.

**Socialist group would have preferred mention of Saakashvili "inappropriate" initial action:** Martin Schulz (PES, DE) speaking in the plenary in the vote said that the PES group would have preferred that a mention of Georgia's "inappropriate initial behavior" at the start of the conflict be included in the joint resolution. In the negotiations with the other groups on the joint resolution this mention was not included.

Full text of the EP Resolution on the situation on Georgia can be found at EUGBC website [www.eugbc.net](http://www.eugbc.net) under the section *Facts and Figures*.



**EUGBC Management's Meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the EC Delegation to Georgia**

*September 11, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

EUGBC has organized the EUGBC Board Member's and Secretary General's meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of the EC Delegation to Georgia.

The theme of the meeting was the crisis situation created in Georgia as a result of Russian military aggression. The meeting, which lasted almost two hours, was attended by the following representatives of EUGBC: Badri Japaridze, Deputy Chairman of the Board; George Chirakadze, Member of the Board; Esben Emborg, Member of the Board; Konstantinte Zaldastanishvili, Secretary General; and Tamar Khuntsaria, Assistant to the SG.

At the meeting with Ambassador, the Board Members reviewed the existing political-economic situation and discuss the role of EUGBC in supporting the rebuilding process in the country. The Ambassador stressed the importance of business sector's participation in the rehabilitation process and supported the Board's initiative to actively engage EUGBC and its members in the talks with Georgian government as well as European Institutions in Brussels and EU Members States governments throughout Europe. It was also agreed that the EC Delegation to Georgia will facilitate meetings of EUGBC Board Members with the EC missions visiting Georgia to study the present situation.

The Ambassador also briefed the Board Members about the upcoming International Donors' Conference at the Foreign Ministers level, in which the European Commission plays a valuable coordination role. The conference will take place sometime in October (specific date has not been set up yet) in Tbilisi (initiative of Georgian Government), in Prague (as a capital of upcoming EU Presidency Country) or in Brussels. An International Summit in Tbilisi at the level of Heads of States (initiative of Georgian President) is also being planned for later stage, but concrete date has not been set up yet.

The Ambassador emphasized that there is a strong EU support to Georgia, targeting at the first stage IDP's with humanitarian assistance as well as the promise of free trade agreement and visa facilitation. According to the Ambassador, negotiations on free trade agreement and visa facilitation will proceed in the line with meeting respective conditions from the Georgian side.

Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero Waldner will visit Georgia on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will announce the EU assistance to the country.

The Ambassador also highlighted the significance of GSP+ for Georgia and noted that there is a risk of not meeting required conditions (labor code) from the Georgian side, which will have a negative impact on prolonging GSP+ for Georgia, as well as on free trade agreement between EU and Georgia.

EUGBC Members raised the idea of meeting the EU high officials in Brussels. Ambassador Eklund supported this idea and underlined that he would convey this message to Brussels.

### **EUGBC Management's Meeting with Economic and Commercial Attachés of the EU Embassies accredited in Georgia**

*September 11, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

EUGBC organized the EUGBC Board Members and Secretary General's meeting with Economic and Commercial Attachés and relevant representatives of the EU Embassies accredited in Georgia. The meeting referred to the crisis situation created in Georgia as a result of Russian military aggression. EUGBC Board Members together with the relevant envoys reviewed the current political-economic situation and discuss EUGBC's role in supporting the rehabilitation process in the country.



The meeting was hosted by EUGBC Member TBC Bank. Following Embassies participated: British Embassy represented by Mr. David Gale, Political Officer, Netherlands Embassy represented by Ms. Maia Todria, Trade and Economic Officer and French Embassy represented by Mr. Hubert Duhot, Attaché of Cooperation.

The Board Members stated their positions with respect to the existing situation and expressed readiness to engage in the rehabilitation process. The Board emphasized that along with the government's official position, it is extremely important to voice an independent view of the Georgian business community to EU Institution and governments. Therefore, cooperation of EUGBC and EU Embassies in Georgia is crucial. The participants agreed on the need for information exchange and collaboration in order to ensure EUGBC's engagement in the activities and events planned in the scope of European assistance on multilateral and bilateral level.

The Secretary General gave a brief overview of the EUGBC activities, including the trade facilitation project currently being carried out by EUGBC in collaboration with the EC Delegation to Georgia.



## 8<sup>th</sup> EU-Georgia Cooperation Committee to be held in Brussels

September 26, 2008 Brussels, Belgium

On Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 2008, the 8<sup>th</sup> EU-Georgia Cooperation Committee held in Brussels. The Georgian delegation was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Nino Kalandadze and the European Delegation – by Gunnar Wiegand, director for Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia, in the Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations.



Participants of the meeting discussed a broad spectrum of cooperation between Georgia and the European Union with a special focus on the consequences of Russian aggression against Georgia in August, simplification of visa regime between Georgia and the European Union, conclusion of free trade agreements and conduction of Donors' Conference on rehabilitation of Georgia.

The Georgian side acquainted the European colleagues in detail with the situation resulting from Russian aggression against Georgia. According to the European side, a special civilian observer mission in the frames of European Security and Defense Policy will be launched in Georgia on 1 October 2008.

With a view to eliminating the damage caused by Russian aggression and carrying out rehabilitation measures in Georgia, Donors' Conference will be held in Brussels in October co-chaired by the European Commission and the World Bank. Final details on this conference will be released in the days to come.

The Cooperation Committee also referred to the State of Implementation of the EU-Georgia European Neighborhood Policy Action Plan (ENP AP), trade issues and EC assistance programs to Georgia as well as the issues related to the Rule of Law, Democracy & Governance, and Human Rights.

At the end of the meeting the Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister underlined the priority importance Georgia attaches to integration with the European Union.



## Presentation of the BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2008

September 30, 2008 Brussels, Belgium

On September 30, 2008 BP Europe organized the presentation of the **BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2008** delivered by **Dr. Christof Rühl**, BP Chief Economist in Brussels.



The annual BP Statistical Review provides a wide range of data on global markets for primary energies, a term that encompasses the most commonly used fuels and energy sources: oil, gas, coal, nuclear and hydro and is considered one of the authoritative points of reference in the energy world. Given the current interest in energy and climate change policy, Dr. Rühl's presentation and analysis was of particular interest and relevance.

Discussion was moderated by **Howard Chase**, Director of European Government Affairs, BP Europe and followed by a networking lunch.

Representatives of diplomatic Corps, EU institutions and Business Community as well as EUGBC Secretary General Konstantin Zaldastanishvili attended the event.

The BP Statistical review of World Energy 2008 and the speech of Dr. Christof Rühl can be found at the EUGBC website [www.eugbc.net](http://www.eugbc.net) under the events as well as facts and figures section.



**Georgian IT Innovation Conference 2008 & Georgian IT Innovation Award 2008. Building e-Society for Socio-Economic Development – a dynamic, two days of not-to-be-missed Information Technology (IT) experiences.**

*October 29-30, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

The State Commission of E-Governance Development of Georgia is organizing the first annual Information Technology Conference "*Building e-Society for socio-economic development*" October 29-30, 2008 in Tbilisi.

The purpose of this conference is to describe the significance of information technology in terms of creating an engine of growth for socio-economic development of Georgia; network with stakeholders and build awareness regarding IT importance among high-level governmental officials, private sector representatives and the society at large. Our distinguished panel of keynote speakers will bring a diverse set of insights on different advancements on IT initiatives around the world.

The purpose of the award ceremony is to credit governmental and private entities for good work and best practices and encourage them and others to invest their time and energy in further development of the IT field.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Powerful conference agenda to keep you up to date with the latest on the IT and its applications

A few directional keynotes by famous visionaries and pioneers of the IT industry

Sessions addressing a wide spectrum of technology, business and application issues

Panel discussions providing a Georgian and international perspectives on best practices and how further innovations can create a better foundation for FDI.

**LEADING TRACKS OF THE CONFERENCE:**

1. Information Technology Infrastructure development
2. Capacity Building
3. Socio-economic implications of ITs
4. Connectivity
5. Policy
6. E-Governance
7. Security

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:**

Policy makers, CEOs/CIOs/COOs, Professionals, Investors, Entrepreneurs, Economic Professionals, Associations, NGOs and Users

**REGISTRATION/FEES:**

- Participation in the conference is **free of charge**;

- Only registered participants will have access to the conference hall and award ceremony, coffee breaks and refreshments; receive a conference kit and an invitation to visit opening/closing receptions/dinners.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT:**

Giga Shubitidze at [giti@economy.ge](mailto:giti@economy.ge) or +995 77 750 115

Giorgi Dapkviashvili at [giti@economy.ge](mailto:giti@economy.ge) or +995 95 155 225

**EUGBC to participate in the 2nd Georgia Business & Investment Summit, Invest in Georgia 2008**

*November 19-20, 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*

The 2nd Georgia Business & Investment Summit is at an advanced stage of preparation. It will be a follow-up of a very successful 1st event in November 2005 which attracted many investors and was greatly praised by all concerned, especially for the networking value and new business.



The forthcoming Summit will take place in Tbilisi at the Courtyard Marriott on 19 and 20 November 2008. Senior Representatives of the Government and business circles will discuss current and planned reforms, infrastructure development and investment opportunities in several regions of Georgia. There will be presentations and sessions on the new Financial Sector Service Act, the free industrial zone plan, "cheap credit" projects, tourism development, road rehabilitation, water supply, etc. not to forget Georgia's increasing demand for quality commercial and residential real estate infrastructure in urban areas.

The EU-Georgia Business Council participates in the summit as a "supporting organization", which includes the following benefits: EUGBC logo hyper linked to our corporate website appears on the official summit website and program. Besides, EUGBC has a stand space in the main exhibition area – opportunity for EUGBC as well as its members to distribute relevant promotional information and literature.

Supporting organizations can not offer free entry to its members and potential sponsors. Euroconvention sees the role of EUGBC to actively promote this event to members so that they support it rather than request free promotional platforms. Particularly at this time, promotion for Georgia in general and all those who are prime players in the country's economy are indispensable and they should partner them to achieve this objective.

The summit is indeed a great opportunity for business promotion and network building. In particular, given the crisis situation in the country, such an event will significantly help to foster credibility towards business and investment environment. EUGBC considers that its role in this rehabilitation process as crucial. Therefore, we strongly encourage our members to take advantage of the summit and participate. We are also ready to use our stand space at the conference and locate the members' promotional materials, such as flyers, leaflets, brochures, etc.

Information about the summit with links to preliminary program, application and registration is available on EUGBC website: [www.eugbc.net](http://www.eugbc.net) and it has also been conveyed to our members.

### **Digest of the press covering EUGBC activities during the third quarter**

*July – September 2008 Tbilisi, Georgia*



In the third quarter, the EU-Georgia Business Council has carried out number of activities that were extensively covered by media and press.

EUGBC with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission (EC) to Georgia has issued the first of three publications aimed at raising business sector's awareness of internationally recognized trade practices, rules and conditions for access to the European Union (EU) market. The brochure has been circulated among the EUGBC members and partner organizations and has received a significant interests and positive feedback. The release of the brochure was covered by Georgian, Russian and English language news papers, journals and news agencies, such as: Prime News Agency, Caucasus Press, BS Press, Georgian Daily, the Financial, Nezavisimaya Gazeta, TV show Business Courier, etc.

EUGBC has also provided press coverage for the Council Members' meeting with Ambassador Per Eklund, Head of EC Delegation to Georgia to discuss the Georgia's ongoing relations with the European Union. The meeting, which took place on July 9, was followed by press coverage in the Business Journal and Business Week.

In addition, on July 21, the newspaper Financial has published the English language article - *a Guide to Georgian Entrepreneurs Oriented towards Export to the European Union (EU) Market* - by Konstantin Zaldastanishvili, EUGBC Secretary General. Another article by Secretary General *introducing EU market principles to Georgian exporters* was published in Georgian language in the newspaper 24 hours on July 11.

Full texts to these articles can be found at the EUGBC website [www.eugbc.net](http://www.eugbc.net) under publications section.

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