



Newsletter

July to September 2013

CONTENT

European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle paid an official visit to Georgia	3
10th International Conference "Georgia's European Way: EU's Eastern European Partners - Towards the Vilnius Summit" was held in Batumi	3
EU and Georgia concluded talks on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).	4
EUGBC took part in the policy dialogue "Heading towards Vilnius, a milestone for the Eastern Partnership" held in Brussels.	5
EUGBC Secretary General, Zviad Chumburidze participated in the Ambassadorial – the meeting of heads of Georgian diplomatic missions abroad	6
Public Hearing on the topic: Georgia on the pass to the EU - problems and challenges in the European Parliament was held in the European Parliament.	7
EUGBC Secretary General held meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Italy and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Ukraine.	7
Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, Vilnius, 7 September 2013.	8
EPC conference: European energy policy – Towards greater solidarity. Visions for Europe Briefing was held in Brussels	9
Tbilisi-based EUGBC Board Members and Network Committee Members held an informal meeting in EUGBC new office.	9
EUGBC Secretary General and Executive Director held a meeting with the Deputy State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Mariam Rakviashvili. . . .	10
Sweden-Georgia Business Forum in conjunction with Sweden Days was held in Tbilisi	11

An Official Presentation of the Georgian Co-Investment Fund (GCF) was held in Tbilisi.	12
EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the Adviser of the Director General of UKROBORONPROM, Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers	13
EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the President of Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association (GSMEA), Kakha Kokhreidze	13
Meeting of EUGBC Network Committee was held at EUGBC Office in Tbilisi	13
EUGBC Secretary General held a Meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Georgia, Dr. Ivan Velimir Starcevic	14
EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development.	14
EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador Zviad Chumburidze met with the General Director of "Barambo" confectionery factory Mr. Iago Chocheli	15

EUGBC Members' News:

EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with General Manager of BP Georgia, Neil Dunn	16
Gvinadze & Partners boosts its IP Law practice	16
EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the member, Chateau Mukhrani	17

European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy, Štefan Füle paid an official visit to Georgia



On 9-12 July 2013, **Štefan Füle**, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy paid an official visit to Georgia to discuss EU's relations and cooperation with the country and take stock of the progress made in the final phase of the negotiations for Association Agreements including DCFTA in view of their initializing at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November.

The meeting of Štefan Füle with the Prime Minister **Bidzina Ivanishvili**, Foreign Minister **Maya Panjikidze** and several ministers and members of the Parliament as well as civil society representatives took place on 11 and 12 July in Batumi, where the Commissioner participated in the 10th International Conference: Georgia's European Way, EU's Eastern European Partners - Towards the Vilnius Summit.

On July 9, Commissioner Füle met with President **Mikheil Saakashvili**.

On the eve of his visit Commissioner Štefan Füle said: "The run up to the Vilnius Summit is a crucial phase when our partners are expected to demonstrate their engagement to further deepening our cooperation based on our shared values and ensure the benefits of our closer cooperation are shared with the citizens. This is also an opportunity to emphasise the continued commitment and support of the European Union and its Member States to Georgia and its citizens."

10th International Conference "Georgia's European Way: EU's Eastern European Partners - Towards the Vilnius Summit" was held in Batumi



The 10th International Conference "Georgia's European Way: EU's Eastern European Partners - Towards the Vilnius Summit" was held in Batumi on 11- 12 July, 2013.



The event was organized by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, in partnership with the EU and the Republic of Lithuania.

The conference brought together high level representatives from Georgia, the EU and its Member States, the Partner Countries, non- governmental and business sectors to discuss the preparation for the Vilnius Summit and the progress achieved in the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The particular attention was paid to the new positive developments in terms of EU integration reforms and democracy building in Georgia.

The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Georgia **Bidzina Ivanishvili**. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic **Miroslav Lajčák**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia **Urmas Paet**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria **Kristian Vigenin** and Vice - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania **Andrius Krivas** addressed the participants. State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro- Atlantic Integration **Alex Petriashvili** moderated the opening ceremony of the Conference.

On behalf of EUGBC, Secretary General **Zviad Chumburidze** took part in the 10th International Conference. In the framework of the event, Mr. Chumburidze held meetings with the representatives of the government, diplomatic corps and civil society, with whom close cooperation in the scope of EUGBC's activities were discussed. Future working meetings and consultations were also envisioned with all the parties.

This year, the four thematic sessions of the 10th International Conference focused on the Democracy and the Rule of Law - Key to the Family of European Nations, Security and Stability in the Eastern Europe, Economic Convergence - Prospects and Challenges, and Visa Liberalisation Dialogue - Prospects and Challenges.

EU and Georgia concluded talks on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA)

On 22 July 2013, the European Union (EU) and Georgia successfully concluded negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), as part of the Association Agreement between them.

The Association Agreement, together with the DCFTA, will provide for the close political association and economic integration of Georgia with the EU. The comprehensive FTA, negotiated in just 17 months and seven rounds, will see Georgia gaining better access to the EU market for its goods and services.



The FTA also sets a path for further reforms in trade - related policies, such as hygiene standards for agricultural products and the approximation of regulations for industrial products. This will boost access for Georgian goods to the EU market whilst also increasing consumer safety in Georgia. The Agreement is expected to boost the inflow of European direct investment to Georgia thanks to an open, stable and predictable policy - making environment.

Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment, a report carried out for the EU, forecasts that the DCFTA has a potential to increase Georgia's exports to the EU by 12% and imports from the EU by 7.5%. For more information on EU- Georgia DCFTA please see at EUGBC website www.eugbc.net (News) the European Commission Memo on EU -Georgia Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

The DCFTA will be included in the Association Agreement and signed as soon as internal EU and Georgia procedures are completed. As a step before the official signature – Georgia is to initial Association Agreement with the EU, which also includes DCFTA, by the time of the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius in late November 2013.

Foreign Minister of Lithuania, **Linas Linkevičius**, whose country holds EU's rotating presidency, stated: "I welcome conclusion of Georgia free trade talks. Important EaP phase completed. We should seek more beyond Vilnius".

Štefan Füle, European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, said that concluding of the DCFTA talks would now pave the way for initialing of the Association Agreement at the Vilnius summit.

EUGBC took part in the policy dialogue "Heading towards Vilnius, a milestone for the Eastern Partnership" held in Brussels



The EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting took place on 22 July 2013 in Brussels.

In the margins of Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council, Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with Brussels based European Policy Center organized a policy dialogue "Heading towards Vilnius, a milestone for the Eastern Partnership". On behalf of EUGBC, Executive Assistant **Valerian Gvalia** attended the meeting.



The discussion panel was represented by **Linas Vinkevicius**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, **Maya Panjikidze**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and **Natalia Gherman**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Moldova.

Introductory remarks were made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. He congratulated Georgia for the successful conclusion of negotiations on DCFTA, which was officially announced on July 22nd in Brussels. He underlined Lithuania's strong commitments toward upcoming Vilnius summit vis-à-vis advanced EaP countries, with consideration of political realities on the ground in partner states.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia compared the on-going developments in Georgia with the one in Moldova; stressing strong political will of the executive branch to implement EU led sectorial reforms. She expressed confidence to accomplish first phase (legislative part) of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan by the Vilnius summit. She also confirmed that DCFTA is expected to be initialized in autumn in Vilnius by the EU member states.

Maia Panjikidze also drew attention of the audience on the importance of Georgia's transit function vis-à-vis security of the European energy supply. She underlined Georgia's commitments to join European Energy Community. The Minister also highlighted crucial role of business community to promote EU - Georgia relations. In this context she admitted importance of Civil Society Forum, which will be held prior to Vilnius summit in Chisinau, Moldova. Minister stated that Association Agreement with the EU will be powerful signal internally and externally to guarantee Georgia's European future.

The discussion was followed by Q&A session.

EUGBC Secretary General, Zviad Chumburidze participated in the Ambassadorial – the meeting of heads of Georgian diplomatic missions abroad

EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** took part in the Ambassadorial – the meeting of heads of Georgian diplomatic missions abroad - organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Georgia in the Radisson Blu Iveria hotel on September 2-4, 2013.

The Ambassadorial is an important event organized by the MFA every year aimed at bringing together Georgian Ambassadors all over the world, exchanging views and discussing different issues of importance.

During the Ambassadorial the Secretary General updated Georgian diplomatic elite on the EUGBC activities, its present and future plans, ways to build better public image of the Council and most importantly the ways to promote Georgian companies and products in the EU market and vice-versa.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Maya Panjikidze**, Minister of Defense, **Irakli Alasania**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, **Michael Janelidze**, Deputy State Minister of European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, **David Dondua** and other high-ranking officials attended the meeting.



The presentation was followed by Q&A.

Public Hearing on the topic: Georgia on the pass to the EU - problems and challenges in the European Parliament was held in the European Parliament



On 3 September 2013, European Conservatives and Reformists Group organized public hearing in the European Parliament on the topic: [Georgia on the pass to the EU - problems and challenges](#). The event was attended by **Valerian Gvalia**, EUGBC Executive Assistant.

Two thematic (political and expert) panels were held in the framework of the hearing. Political panel addressed current political developments in Georgia in the run-up of presidential elections and Eastern Partnership Vilnius summit. Panel was represented by:

Anna Fotyga, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-President of the Board, Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists, **Victor Dolidze**, Chairman of the Committee on European Integration in the Parliament of Georgia, Georgian Dream, **David Darchiashvili**, Former Chairman of the Committee on European Integration in the Parliament of Georgia; UNM Party.

Expert panel provided politically independent assessment of the current internal and external trends. The Panel was represented by: **Dr. Przemysław Zurawski Vel Grajewski**, Łódź University, Poland, **Gia Nodia**, Director of the International School of Caucasus Studies at the Ilia State University, **Ketevan Khutsishvili**, Executive Director of the Open Society Georgia Foundation.

Panel discussions were followed by exchange of views with participation of: **Zurab Tchiaberashvili**, former Health Minister and Ambassador to the Council of Europe on behalf of Vano MERABISHVILI, Former Prime Minister of Georgia, **George Baramidze**, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia, **Tamar Chugoshvili**, Adviser on human rights to the Prime Minister of Georgia, **Gigi Ugulava**, Mayor of Tbilisi.

EUGBC Secretary General held meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Italy and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Ukraine

On 5 September 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held meetings with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Italy, **Kakha Sikharulidze** and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Ukraine, **Micheil Ukleba**.

Mr. Sikharulidze and the Secretary General discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the scope of the Milan Expo to take place in 2015. It was also envisaged to facilitate contacts of EUGBC members and Georgian business community with the potential business partners in Italy.

Secretary General and Mr. Ukleba spoke about the possibility to attract foreign investors and business companies operating in Ukraine to Georgian market.

The parties agreed to cooperate closely and plan joint projects.

Remarks by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton following the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, Vilnius, 7 September 2013



"Can I begin by thanking Linas, the Lithuanian government and people for their incredible hospitality. They hosted foreign ministers, defence ministers, and parliamentarians in the space of the last three days and have done it with enormous grace and of course made sure that the weather works for us too.

We began discussions at the Gymnich on our Common Security and Defence Policy in preparation for the report that I will submit to the summit in December. That was building on a very productive meeting of EU Ministers of Defence who met here on Thursday and Friday morning. There was a great deal of welcome for the interim report which I can now finalise and submit to EU leaders. We also had the opportunity to look at the Commission's communication on defence and to discuss our recent operations. I really hope we will get strong support from EU leaders as we move forward on our Common Security and Defence Policy, when they meet in December to discuss this.

We then moved on to the preparations for November's summit in Vilnius with the countries of the Eastern Partnership. There is obviously a lot of work to be done in the lead-up to the summit. We want to ensure that our partners show that they can deliver on their commitments to reform but we also have to recognize that they face huge pressure.

If we succeed, the Association Agreements, with the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, will give our partners the framework that they need for the transformation that they wish to see. In the rule of law, democracy, human rights, as well as much better access to the biggest market in the world. That will be of benefit to all of us.

You will know that this morning we were joined by Secretary of State John Kerry. It was a delight to welcome him here to Vilnius. We had a number of discussions but I wanted, following the conclusion of his discussions with us and then our own talks at the Gymnich, to read out to you a statement that I want to make, which reflects the agreed position of the European Union, reflects the position agreed by all Member States. It will be available to you shortly."

- On 21 August, a large-scale chemical attack was perpetrated in the outskirts of Damascus, killing hundreds of people, including many women and children. That attack constituted a blatant violation of international law, a war crime, and a crime against humanity. We were unanimous in condemning in the strongest terms this horrific attack.
- Information from a wide variety of sources confirms the existence of such an attack. It seems to indicate strong evidence that the Syrian regime is responsible for these attacks as it is the only one that possesses chemical weapons agents and means of their delivery in a sufficient quantity.
- In the face of this cynical use of chemical weapons, the international community cannot remain idle. A clear and strong response is crucial to make clear that such crimes are unacceptable and that there can be no impunity. We must prevent creating a dreadful precedent for the use of chemical weapons in Syria again, or elsewhere.
- The EU underscores at the same time the need to move forward with addressing the Syrian crisis through the UN process. We note the on-going UN investigation on the 21st of August attack and further investigations on other chemical weapons attacks carried out in this conflict. It hopes a preliminary report of this first investigation can be released as soon as possible and

welcomes President Hollande's statement to wait for this report before any further action. The EU urges the UN Security Council to unite in its efforts to prevent any further chemical attack. To that effect, it encourages the UNSC to fulfil its responsibilities and take all initiatives to achieve this goal. The EU and its member states intend to play a full and active part in that context. The EU recalls the individual responsibility of the perpetrators of attacks of this type, who must be held accountable, and the role of the ICC in investigating and judging such acts.

- Only a political solution that will result in a united, inclusive and democratic Syria can end the terrible bloodshed, grave violations of human rights and the far-reaching destruction of Syria. An encompassing diplomatic process leading to a political solution is now more urgent than ever. The initiative for a "Geneva II" peace conference must move ahead swiftly. The EU is ready to provide all support needed to achieve a political settlement and work with partners and international actors, particularly the United Nations.
- The EU will uphold its commitment, as the largest donor, to provide aid and assistance to those in need due to the Syrian conflict. It will maintain its readiness to help the recovery, rehabilitation and transition in Syria, in accordance with the needs of the Syrian people.

EPC conference: European energy policy – Towards greater solidarity. Visions for Europe Briefing was held in Brussels

On 12 September 2013, Brussels based European Policy Centre organized European energy policy briefing: "Towards greater solidarity, visions for Europe. On behalf of EUGBC, Executive Assistant **Valerian Gvalia** attended.

President of Lithuania **Dalia Grybauskaitė** took part in the conference. She delivered a speech on the challenges faced by the EU's energy policy and its prospects for the future.



She pointed out that energy issues were among the key priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council. President stressed that it was critical to the security of energy supply to maintain closer cooperation with the EU's neighbours. That is the reason why relations with Eastern partners matters to the EU and why the Vilnius Summit should be seen as a summit of opportunity for the EU to consolidate and enhance cooperation with these countries, president outlined.

The President also stressed that it was high time to address energy-related issues in the European Union to maintain its global competitiveness.

Tbilisi-based EUGBC Board Members and Network Committee Members held an informal meeting in EUGBC new office

On 18 September 2013, Tbilisi-based EUGBC Board Members and EUGBC Network Committee Members held an informal meeting in EUGBC new office in Tbilisi.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman of the Board, **Badri Japaridze** (TBC Bank); Second Vice-Chairman of the Board, **David Lee** (MagtiCom); Member of the Network Committee, **Christian Carmagnolle** (Bank Republic); Member of the Board, **David Loladze** (Qatar Airways); Member of the

Board; **Nick Gvinadze** (Gvinadze & Partners); Statoil’s business advisor, **Khatuna Murgulia**; Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze**; and Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria**.



EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador Zviad Chumburidze welcomed guests and briefed them on the works and activities carried out up to date since the office registration in July 2013. The Secretary General also presented and discussed with the Board members the action plan for the EUGBC activities in September-December 2013.

EUGBC Secretary General and Executive Director held a meeting with the Deputy State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Mariam Rakviashvili

On 24 September 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, **Zviad Chumburidze** and Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** held a meeting with the Deputy State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, **Mariam Rakviashvili**. The parties to the meeting discussed the ways of close cooperation of the Office of the State Minister and EUGBC.

The Deputy Minister stated that the partnership of the Office of the State Minister and EUGBC has been successfully going since the Council’s inception. She also pointed out that the Executive Director actively participates in the works of the Public Advisory Council under the Office of the State Minister.



Ms. Rakviashvili noted that the activities of the Council are extremely important as they promote regular dialogue of business community with the government and the EU, as well as help raise awareness of Georgian business community on the issues related to the EU approximation.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister informed that the government of Georgia has worked out a strategy on wider public outreach on the issues related to European integration. Ms. Rakviashvili proposed that EUGBC, as a European business association, takes a lead and coordinates the involvement of all business associations and chambers in the implementation of the strategy. EUGBC Executive Director commented that EUGBC’s DCFTA Working Group is the best format to support the proposed plan.

EUGBC Secretary General briefed the Deputy Minister on the planned activities of EUGBC. Mr. Chumburidze stressed that among many other projects the Council aims at organizing EUGBC Expo in Tbilisi and also in major European cities. In addition, EUGBC plans a business conference in Tbilisi next year. The Secretary General noted that the involvement of the Office of the State Minister in these important projects will be vital.

The parties agreed to plan a wider format meeting with the Office of the State Minister, involving Board and Members, sometime during next month.

Sweden-Georgia Business Forum in conjunction with Sweden Days was held in Tbilisi



On 26-27 September 2013, the Embassy of Sweden in Georgia and Business Sweden arranged Sweden Days in Tbilisi.

The overall idea of the Sweden Days was to facilitate business creation or expansion between Sweden and Georgia, by promoting Sweden as an attractive country to do business with and to facilitate networking between decision makers in Swedish and Georgian organizations. Business program was complemented by cultural events.

The participants of the event were world-known Swedish companies such as Geocell (Telia Sonera), ABB, Alfa Laval, Lantmännen AXA, Volvo and others presenting advanced technological solutions for a vast range of industries.

The forum started with dinner at Funicular Restaurant on the 26th of September followed by more networking and business debates with top panelists from the business, financial and political elite during the 27th of September. The main topics for discussion covered business opportunities in Georgia, current trends and political situation. The Forum served as the venue for both private and public sector executives from both Georgia and Sweden to develop business contacts and to exchange ideas and solutions for making Georgian market more attractive.

On behalf of EUGBC, Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** and Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** attended the event. Invitation was also extended to EUGBC members.

An Official Presentation of the Georgian Co-Investment Fund (GCF) was held in Tbilisi



On 30 September 2013, an Official Presentation of the Georgian Co-Investment Fund was delivered by its Executive and Managing Directors on Monday at Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel, Tbilisi. The event was followed by a Reception.

The meeting was opened by **Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili**, Prime Minister of Georgia and **Mr. George Bachiasvili**, Chief Executive Officer, GCF.

Presentations were delivered by **Mr. Tsotne Ebralidze**, Managing Director, Tourism and Hospitality Sectors, GCF, **Mr. Giorgi Kikvadze**, Managing Director, Agriculture and Logistics Sectors, GCF, **Mr. Irakli Menabde**, Managing Director, Energy, Infrastructure and Manufacturing Sectors, GCF, **Mr. Giorgi Pertaia**, Director of the Georgian National Investment Agency, **Mr. George Chirakadze**, Head of Supervisory Board, President of Business Association of Georgia.

The event was attended by the representatives of the Georgian Government, International Organizations, Diplomatic Corps accredited to Georgia, Financial Institutions, Major Companies, Economic Experts, partnering and potential Investors, Entrepreneurs and Media.

On behalf of EUGBC, Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** and Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** took part in the meeting.

Georgian Co-Investment Fund - a private equity fund created based on Georgian Prime-Minister's, Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili's initiative and with strong support of Georgian and Foreign Investors. Fund's primary mission is to invest raised capital in the following major sectors of Georgian economy: Energy, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Hospitality and Logistics.

The management team of the fund is in the process of closing the USD 6bn commitment pool and plans to make its first investment before the end of 2013.

Georgian Co-Investment Fund is a privately owned investment vehicle and its investor base includes: Dhabi Group, RAK Investment Authority, State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Batumi Industrial Holdings Limited, Calik Holdings A.S, Milestone International Holdings Group Limited, Mr. Bidzina Ivanishvili, Mr. Alexander Mashkevich, Estate of Mr. Badri Patarkatsishvili and other investors.

The Fund is run by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. George Bachiasvili and three Managing Directors: Mr. George Kikvadze, Mr. Irakli Menabde and Mr. Tsotne Ebralidze. The managers were selected based on their broad experience, unique management styles and exposure to multiple international companies worldwide.

EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the Adviser of the Director General of UKROBORONPROM, Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers

On 22 September 2013 EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the Adviser of the Director General of UKROBORONPROM, Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, **Ihor Krol**. The meeting took place at EUGBC Office in Tbilisi.

The parties to the meeting discussed the possibilities of cooperation with EUGBC as well as prospect of the membership of UKROBORONPROM in the Council. Continuation of active dialogue and cooperation was agreed at the meeting.



EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the President of Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association (GSMEA), Kakha Kokhreidze

On 23 September 2013 EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the President of Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association (GSMEA), **Kakha Kokhreidze**. The meeting was held at EUGBC Tbilisi office. EUGBC Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** participated in the meeting.

The parties to the meeting discussed the ways of EUGBC and GSMEA cooperation. It was highlighted that EUGBC as a founding association of GSMEA will continue to participate in the decision making of the organization's Board of Directors.

Kakha Kokhreidze stressed GSMEA's interest in EUGBC activities and willingness to engage in the joint projects in the future.

Meeting of EUGBC Network Committee was held at EUGBC Office in Tbilisi



On 26 September 2013, the meeting of EUGBC Network Committee was held at EUGBC Tbilisi Office. The meeting was attended by: Second Vice-Chairman of the Board, **David Lee** (MagtiCom); Member of the Network Committee, **Christian Carmagnolle** (Bank Republic); Member of the Board, **Gia Gvaladze** (BP Georgia); Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze**; Advisor, **Zurab Bregvadze**.

The main issues discussed during the meeting were: EUGBC membership structure and membership fee; and ways to make membership and fee structure comparative; and ways to attract new members.

EUGBC Secretary General held a Meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Georgia, Dr. Ivan Velimir Starcevic

On 30 September 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Georgia, **Dr. Ivan Velimir Starcevic** and Executive Director of "Sarajishvili", Honorary Counsel of Croatia to Georgia, **Zurab Bubuteishvili**. EUGBC Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** participated in the meeting.



EUGBC Secretary General informed the Ambassador on the activities and future plans of EUGBC. Mr. Chumburidze noted that EUGBC plans to organize small Expos in the major cities of Europe to promote Georgian production and potential export to the EU market.

The Secretary General suggested that with the help of the Croatian Embassy, Georgian representation in Croatia and with the involvement of "Sarajishvili" one of the destinations of the Expo can be Zagreb.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Georgia accepted the proposal with pleasure and stressed the importance of deepening and intensifying the relations with Georgia and Croatia. Mr. Starcevic also emphasized the importance of the current process of Association Agreement and DCFTA between the EU and Georgia and stressed Croatia's support to Georgia in its efforts to come closer to the EU.

The meeting participants agreed to continue active dialogue and partnership in the future. EUGBC proposed to arrange a wider format meeting of EUGBC members with the Ambassador in the near future.

EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development



On 30 September 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, **Mikhael Janelidze**. EUGBC Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** took part in the meeting.

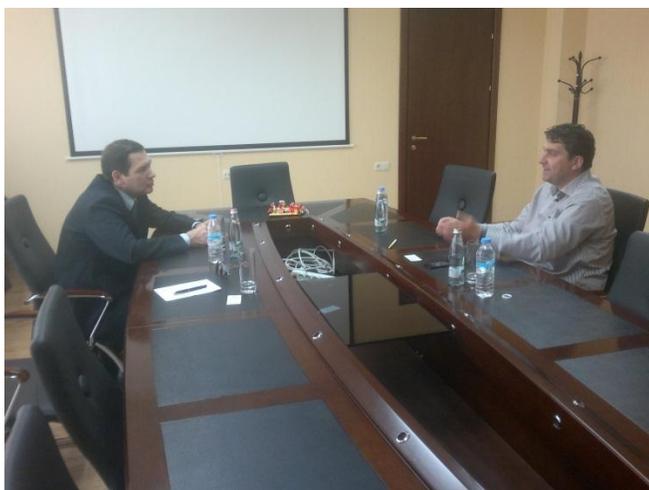
The meeting was of a courtesy character and aimed at introducing new Secretary General and EUGBC plans to the Deputy Minister.

At the meeting the Deputy Minister pointed out that EUGBC has long been established as a credible and viable business association. Mr. Janelidze noted that the Ministry has been closely cooperating with the Council in the previous years. He emphasized that collaboration with EUGBC and its members will continue in the future. Particular attention was paid to the activities of EUGBC DCFTA Working Group, which has held number of interesting and informative meetings of business community with the Deputy Minister, who is Georgia's Chief Negotiator with the EU on DCFTA.

EUGBC Secretary General informed the Deputy Minister on the opening of EUGBC Office in Georgia and on the goals of EUGBC to increase its activities in the country. Specific projects, such as EUGBC Expo, business conference, operation of Working Groups on DCFTA, etc. were highlighted as priorities of the Council's operation in order to facilitate the better involvement of business in the on-going process of Georgia's EU approximation.

The parties to the meeting agreed on regular exchange of information and cooperation on joint projects in the future.

EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador Zviad Chumburidze met with the General Director of "Barambo" confectionery factory Mr. Iago Chocheli



On October 2, 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** and advisor **Zurab Bregvadze** met with the "Barambo" General Director **Iago Chocheli** at confectionery factory premises in Natakhtari, Georgia.

The meeting was of a courtesy nature aimed at getting to know both sides better and identifying common grounds for possible future cooperation.

Mr. Zviad Chumburidze discussed the role of EUGBC since its establishment in Brussels in 2006. He also discussed EUGBC short and long-term plans including plans to organize an "Expo 2014" in three European capitals Brussels, Vienna, and Riga in 2014 which will be aimed at raising the awareness of Georgian companies and products in European countries.

Mr. Zviad Chumburidze offered "Barambo" confectionery factory to participate in "Expo 2014". Mr. Iago Chocheli welcomed the idea and expressed readiness to cooperate and participate.

Mr. Zviad Chumburidze during the meeting also addressed EUGBC membership issues, the benefits members may avail and fees they have to pay for. Mr. Chumburidze requested the "Barambo" management to consider the possibility of joining EUGBC provided they find it appropriate and mutually beneficial to become a member of EUGBC expanding family.

Mr. Iago Chocheli on his part reviewed Barambo success story in Georgian market and the challenges the company has gone through. Mr. Chocheli also discussed prospects for future development and plans to expand in terms of operations and production lines in order to reach out markets of different countries including the European ones.

The parties agreed to continue cooperation for the benefit of both institutions.

EUGBC Members' News

EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with General Manager of BP Georgia, Neil Dunn

On 27 September 2013 EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the General Manager of BP Georgia, **Neil Dunn**. BP Georgia External Affairs Director, **Gia Gvaladze** participated in the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was introduction of EUGBC's new Secretary General to the General Manager of BP Georgia. At the meeting Zviad Chumburidze and Neil Dunn discussed the activities and future plans of EUGBC.

The Secretary General thanked BP Georgia for allowing office space to EUGBC in Tbilisi in the previous years. Mr. Chumburidze also emphasized the importance of BP's support to EUGBC.



Gvinadze & Partners boosts its IP Law practice



Gvinadze & Partners pleased to announce recent qualification of its senior corporate associate **Sophie Panjikidze** as licensed Patent and Trademark Attorney, building on almost twenty years of the firm's expertise in registration and enforcement of intellectual property rights on the territory of Georgia.

Please visit gvinadzeandpartners.ge for more on **Sophie Panjikidze**.

EUGBC Secretary General held a meeting with the member, Chateau Mukhrani

On 30 September 2013, EUGBC Secretary General, Ambassador **Zviad Chumburidze** held a meeting with the Director of EUGBC member, Chateau Mukhrani, **Petter Svaetichin** at EUGBC Tbilisi office. EUGBC Executive Director, **Tamar Khuntsaria** participated in the meeting.

The meeting was of a courtesy character and aimed at presenting the EUGBC office to the member and discussing current activities and future plans of the Council.

The parties to the meeting agreed on an active cooperation and development of effective services to the EUGBC members.



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Core Members

