



# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

**2019**





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**SLOVAK-GEORGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**KUTAISI FREE ZONE**  
**GEORGIAN-NORWEGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**FINLAND-GEORGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**TBILISI BILTMORE HOTEL**  
**CASPI GEO**  
**WINE FACTORY #1**  
**GURTIAD**  
**ELEXIR**  
**DIO**  
**BLB**



## EUGBC Member companies Meeting with H.E. Ambassador of Italy

**On January 24, by the initiative of EU-Georgia Business Council, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Georgia, H.E. Antonio Bartoli met representatives of EUGBC member companies at his residence.**

*During the meeting Ambassador discussed Sector possibilities of developing trade-economic cooperation between Georgia and Italy. They also talked about the specific directions and possible joint projects.*

MEDIA COVERAGE



➡ [Please click to see the video](#)



## Meeting with H.E. Ambassador of the federal Republic of Germany

ON February 14, by the initiative of EU-Georgia Business Council, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of German, H.E. Mr. Hubert Knirsch met with representatives of Georgian Business Sector



The Head of the Diplomatic Mission of the federal Republic of Germany and the representatives of the member companies of EUGBC discussed the possibilities of deepening trade and economic cooperation between Georgia and Germany. The sides talked about several specific directions that are promising to develop trade relations between two countries and attract German investments.





As the ambassador noted, many German companies have been working in Georgia for years, but intensifying of efforts is needed to attract more small and medium size German companies. Ambassador stressed out the importance of the events organized by EU-Georgia business Council in Berlin and the other EU member states' Capitals.





## EUGBC Annual Members' Meeting



On February 28, EUGBC held Annual Members' Meeting attended by The Head of Regional Representation for the South Caucasus European Investment Bank Mr. Maciej CZURA and Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Georgia, Mr. Carlo Natale.

At the meeting attendees discussed a number of important issues and future projects for the business sector, including the EU-Georgia Transmission Line project initiated by EUGBC and Gross Energy Group in the beginning of 2018, which will significantly enhance Georgia's role in strengthening Energy Security of the EU. Zviad Chumburidze, Secretary General of the Business Council presented the project, which implies establishment of a monitoring commission on business disputes, also initiated by EUGBC.





The meeting was followed by the presentations of new member companies of EUGBC. Chairmen of EUGBC board of directors, Mr. Chris Schlueter presented new business catalog, EUGBC Business Line 2019, which aims to promote Georgian business sectors and to discuss existing business environment in the country.



<https://www.interpressnews.ge/ka/article/534883-evrokavshiri-sakartvelos-biznes-sabchos-cevri-kompaniebis-cliuri-shexvedra-gaimarteba/>



Within the framework of the meeting, agreement was signed between the EU-Georgia Business Council and ARDI Insurance. According to the agreement, JSC “ARDI Insurance” will offer special terms to the members of the EUGBC.



[Press to see the link](#)





## **EU-Georgia Business Council organized the next in turn meeting between EU Commissioner for Trade, Ms. Cecilia Malmström with Businesses**



**On March 19, 2019 EU-Georgia Business Council organized the next in turn meeting between EU Commissioner for Trade, Ms. Cecilia Malmström with Businesses**





Attendees were addressed by the Secretary General of the EU-Georgia Business Council, Mr. Zviad Chumburidze, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia, H.E. Carl Hartzell and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia Giorgi Kobulia.



The meeting was attended by more than 130 participants representing Business sector, Business Support Organizations, as well as Diplomatic Corps accredited in Georgia. Founders of successful and export-oriented Georgian companies spoke about perspectives and challenges for entering the EU Market. The Head of the Regional Representation of the European Investment Bank in South Caucasus, Mr. Maciej Czura, presented technical tools supported by the European Bank for the purpose of strengthening the private sector through effective financing. After the presentations the meeting continued in Q&A mode. During the meeting EU-Georgia Business Council announced about launching of the a new project titled “Georgian Women Winemakers”.







< Press the picture to see the video >



Please click to see the video ↑





## EUGBC Organized Georgian - Polish Round Table in Tbilisi

On March 21, Georgian-Polish Round Table was held in Tbilisi, at Hotel “Holiday Inn”.

The event was organized by EUGBC in cooperation with Marshal Office of Lower Silesia and Polish-Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The meeting was attended by representatives of the local business sector along with the Polish businessmen.

The attendees discussed trade relations between countries and ways to deepen economic cooperation. Polish guests were informed about the investment environment in Georgia. Representatives of “Enterprise Georgia” and “Partnership Fund” participated in the meeting.







## Launching of initiative “Georgian Women Wine Makers”

EU-Georgia Business Council presented a new initiative aimed to promote Georgian products export, titled “Georgian Women Wine Makers”



*The presentation of the project was held in the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia on April 25, 2019. The event was opened by the EU Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Carl Hartzell, together with the Secretary General of “EU-Georgia Business Council”, Zviad Chumburidze.*



Besides the local business sector, representatives of diplomatic corps accredited to Georgia attended the presentation. Within the framework of the event, attendees had possibility to taste unique, high quality wines produced by Georgian Women.



Wine in Georgia remains the number one priority in terms of agricultural products' export. Thus, interest in wine production is growing and women's contribution and potential in this process is quite encouraging. The "Georgian Women Wine Makers" is the very first initiative of similar format in Georgia.







## EUGBC Member Companies took part in Georgian-Austrian Business Forum



**EUGBC Management and Member companies took part at the Georgian-Austrian Business Forum held on May 13 in Tbilisi. The Austrian Trade Commissioner for Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Mr Georg Karabaczek, the Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Georgia, H.E. Arad Benkö, and the president of Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ms Nino Chikovani, opened the Business Forum.**

**Representatives of the Austrian companies addressed the audience, communicating on the current activities of their companies and areas of interests on Georgian Market. Event was followed by B2B meetings, where the Austrian and Georgian companies, interested in possible cooperation had an opportunity to further discuss topics of interest with the companies from a various sectors.**



## EUGBC Member Companies took part in the AE Solar factory official opening



**We are proud the EUGBC Core Member – German solar module manufacturer AE SOLAR GmbH opened its new panel manufacturing facility in Hualing Kutaisi Free Industrial zone, Georgia.**

This is very good example for other European Companies to make investments and start production in Georgia taking into account benefits of Country's liberal trade regimes which provide Foreign Companies with a favorable opportunity to access not only the country's 3.7 m residents, but the wider regions' (2.3 bln.) market. So country should become production hub for the EU Companies, especially through using opportunities offered by Free Industrial Zones in Georgia.

Grand Opening ceremony was launched by the Prime-Minister of Georgia, Mamuka Bakhtadze. The event was attended by EUGBC Top Management and Member companies, Government Officials, representatives of Diplomatic corps, Business Support Organizations and Businessmen Sector The 16,000 square meter facility houses fully automated robotic lines, which generate an annual production capacity of 500 MW







## Meeting with senior representatives of IMPAQ International, LLC (IMPAQ)

EUGBC Top Management and Member companies met senior representatives of IMPAQ International, LLC (IMPAQ). The IMPAQ team is currently implementing the “Strengthening Government Labour Law Enforcement” project, funded by the U.S. Department of Labour (DOL) Bureau of International Labour Office Affairs (ILAB). Through this project, the IMPAQ team plans to support the following efforts:

- Adopting Laws, Regulations, and other legal instruments that are consistent with relevant labour standards;
- Improving the identification and remediation of labour law violations;
- Improving the prosecution of labour law violations;



To achieve these outcomes, the IMPAQ team will work with labour inspectorate authorities and inspectors, judges and other judicial labour authorities, and other appropriate government enforcement agencies to develop, enhance, and implement a comprehensive, open source, and end-to-end labour case management system (CMS). The CMS will be customized to the needs of each country and piloted in select sectors. Using the data generated from the CMS, along with existing data, the IMPAQ team will identify labour standards and procedures with high rates of violations along with the substantive and procedural legal gaps that facilitate these violations.



## **Regional Business Forum was held in Bratislava with the participation of Georgian Business Sector**



*On June 14, 2019 EU-Georgian Business Council Organized Regional forum in Bratislava, titled "Doing Business in Georgia". General Partners of the event were companies "Gino Holding" and "Polimeri 1" and Partner was "Hualing Kutaisi Free Industrial Zone".*





Representatives of more than 80 Slovak, Polish, Czech and Georgian companies participated in the business forum, mainly from the following sectors – Free Industrial Zone, Bank, Transport Transportation and Logistic, Construction, Energy, Tourism, Agriculture and Business Consulting.







**EUGBC** organized the following Business Forum in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Georgian Embassy in Slovakia and Austria, Slovak Chamber of Commerce, Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and with the Agency “Enterprise in Georgia”.



The forum was followed by the economic photo exhibition and B2B meetings, in order to discuss future cooperation between the interested companies.







## EUGBC participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> EaP Business Forum hosted by Bucharest

Executive Director of “EU-Georgia Business Council”, Giorgi Kacharava took part in the 6<sup>th</sup> EaP Business Forum held in Bucharest on June 25, 2019.

The Business Forum addressed contemporary challenges facing the business world with special focus on SME’s and marketing marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eap by:

- Stimulating trade and economic cooperation among partner countries and between them and the EU, at governmental and business level;
- Evaluating the results achieved so far in the implementation of the 20 deliverables for 2020 with focus on trade perspective for EU-EaP partners;
- Contributing to the objective related to the improvement of the investment and business environment and unlocking SME’s growth potential in Eap region.





#### **EUGBC Top Management and Member Companies Took part in Georgia-Italy Business Forum**

Business Forum was organized by the Embassy of Italy and Italian Trade Agency, in close cooperation with ANCE(National Association of Building Constructors), OICE (Engineering and Architectural Italian Association) and ANIE National Federation of Electronic and Electric Companies).

Business forum Focused on the fields of strategic importance for Georgia's development, such as infrastructure, construction and engineering fields, as well as energy and urban development. The forum was followed by B2B meetings.





## A RECEPTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP



On September 18, 2019, EU-Georgian Business Council in close cooperation with the ministry of foreign affairs of Finland (EU Presidency) organized a reception on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eastern Partnership in Chateau Mukhrani.

EUGBC Secretary General, Zviad Chumburidze and H.E. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to Georgia, Arja Makkonen hosted representatives of the diplomatic corps, Business sector and massmedia.



**MEDIA  
COVERAGE**





## Georgian-Hungarian Business Round Table

on October 16, 2019, EU-Georgia Business Council organized the Georgian-Hungarian Business Round Table on the occasion of the Business Delegation of The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Nograd County.







## Site Visit to Wine Factory #1



WINE FACTORY #1

On October 17, EU-Georgia Business Council organized a site visit at the Wine Factory #1, attended by diplomats accredited in Georgia, representatives of the media and business circles.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform guests about the history of Wine Factory #1 as one of the unique cultural monuments of Tbilisi city. The programme was aimed to tour the plant area, delivering speeches, presentation and wine tasting.

Zviad Chumburidze, Secretary General of EUGBC and Marketing and Communications Director of Wine Factory #1, Alexandre Kakulia addressed the public.

The presentation, given by Alexandre Kkulia covered the history of the plant and its future projects.





## EUGBC Member Companies took part in Tbilisi Silk Road Forum

**EUGBC top management and member companies took part in Tbilisi Silk Road Forum, held on October 22-23, 2019**



Tbilisi hosted 2000 government and business sector representatives from around 60 countries to discuss the opportunities of strengthening political, economic and cultural relations between Asia and Europe.

The forum was organized by the government of Georgia.

The event was attended by the local and foreign businessmen, representatives of international organisations and Diplomatic Corps, as well as international experts and journalists.





**EUGBC top management  
and the Member companies  
took part at the  
Georgian-Austrian Business  
Forum held on November 5,  
2019**



Within the framework of the visit of 9 Austrian Foreign Trade Representation (Advantage Austria) and supported by the Georgian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Austrian Ambassador to Georgia H.E. Arad Benco, Austrian Council for Trade in Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Georg Karabaczek and president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia, George Pertaia opened the Business Forum.

Austrian companies represented following economic sectors: Mechanical Engineering, Energy, Logistics, Infrastructure, Agriculture and etc. The main goal of the companies were to make connections with Georgia, seek competent partners and offer them Austrian experience and quality.

The official Georgia-Austrian Business Forum was followed by intensive B2B -Meeting of the 12 participating Austrian companies with interested Georgian authorities and companies.



<https://www.advantageaustria.org/ge/Oesterreich-in-Georgien.en.html>  
<https://bm.ge/ka/article/gcci-is--mxardacherit-avstria-saqartvelos-biznesforumi-gaimarta/43051>





## On November 14th, a Business round table with the participation of the Economic Attaches



On November 14, 2019, Business Round Table was organized by **EUGeorgian Business Council** with the participation of the Foreign Embassies' Economic Attaches/Counselors, bilateral business associations and representatives of the business sector. The purpose of the Round Table meeting was to discuss opportunities and ways for Georgia to develop bilateral economic cooperation with foreign countries.

**SPECIFIC INVESTMENT** Projects of the EUGBC member companies were presented during the meeting.





## **“Black Sea – Georgia’s Opportunities & Challenges”**

Conference “Black Sea – Georgia’s Opportunities & Challenges” was organized by “EU-Georgia Business Council”, on December 6, 2019

Facing the existing political challenges nowadays (meaning Georgian-Russian tense political relations) Black Sea is considered to be the guarantee of countries’ independence and economic development.



It should be noted that this kind of conference is first ever held in Tbilisi recently and carries an informative character. It aimed to discuss Georgia’s perspectives and challenges to become a regional logistical and transport corridor under the current competitive circumstances.



Among the participants of the conference were representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, EBRD Country Manager, Experts and Top Management of the seaports of Georgia.





*To see the media coverage please click here*







## Generals partners

<p>PRIME MARINE</p> 	<p>APM TERMINALS</p> 	<p>PACE GROUP</p> 	<p>ANAKLIA dev.con</p> 
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## Partners

<p>BDO</p> 	<p>TURKON LINE</p> 
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## Meeting with the Minister of Finance regarding the VAT reform



On December 9, 2019, EUGBC Top Management and Member Companies attended the event organized by the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The minister Mr. Ivane Matchavariani delivered an annual report on activities held during 2019 and present information of VAT reform.





## Meeting with the Ambassador of Czech Republic, H.E. Petr Mykiska



On December 12, “EU-Georgia Business Council” organized a meeting with the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Petr Mykiska. The meeting was held at the Embassy of The Czech Republic and attended by the representatives of member companies of the Council, from various business sectors. The abovementioned meeting was of an introductory character and aimed to discuss the development of Georgian-Czech future business perspectives.







## **New Members of EU-Georgia Business Council January-December 2019**

**AQUA GEO  
ARDI  
BEST ELECTRIC  
GEOSILKROAD  
POLISH HR  
ANDRYTZ HYDRO  
POLISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
EUROINS  
BRITISH-GEORGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DE-GEORGIO  
SLOVAK-GEORGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
KUTAISI FREE ZONE  
GEORGIAN-NORWEGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
FINLAND-GEORGIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
TBILISI BILTMORE HOTEL  
CASPI GEO  
WINE FACTORY #1  
GURTIAD  
ELEXIR  
DIO  
BLB  
RUSTAVI STEEL CORPORATION ltd**



**DE GEORGIO** GROUP  
challenge the reality



**BGCC** **CASPIGEO**  
British Georgian Chamber Of Commerce

**GeoSilkRoad**  
way of constant development



**polskihr**  
GEORGIA



**ANDRITZ**  
Hydro



WINE FACTORY #1

**KUTAISI**  
FREE ZONE

**EUROINS**  
MEMBER OF EUROHOLD

**Finland-Georgia**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



**THE BILTMORE**  
TBILISI



**Polish-Georgian**  
Chamber of Industry and Commerce



საქს ბ ბი  
საერთაშორისო  
სააღმართი

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LEGAL  
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ELIXIR

