

21 November 2011

Briefing note
Meeting with EBO Network (22/11/2011)

What is the EBO Network?

The EBO network is the network of European Chambers of Commerce or Business Councils based in third countries. Since 2008 the network has organized every year an informal meeting with the INTA committee Chair to give insight on a European business perspective on matters pertaining to European trade and investment in third countries. This usually takes place when they gather for their yearly congress in Brussels.

After 10 years of such congresses, the network was officially registered in Brussels enabling the European Parliament and other institutions to gain first hand information or access to information from European Business on trade and investment climate in third countries. The network's objective is to ensure that it is an effective tool to the EP INTA Committee and such institutions in Brussels.

Who will be there from their side?

The meeting was requested by Mr. Jason Collins (Chairman of the EBO global network and CEO of the European Australian Business Council) in the attached letter to the INTA Chairman. Members of their delegation to the meeting will include EBOs (probably at Chair level) from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Ukraine, USA and Vietnam.

What do they expect from this meeting?

First, they will expect an overview presentation of INTA's activities and objectives to understand the forward plan for the years 2012/2013 of the committee.

Second, they will try to identify how the EBO network could add value through its own resource base of 18 key third markets. With that regards, these EBO look for funding from the Commission via DG Enterprise and will certainly be interested in getting INTA's support to their joint initiatives with the Commission, especially on a budgetary level. This has been the case in the past, in particular with the backing of the EPP.

Third, they may suggest that they would like to organize initiatives that add value to EUs policy on international trade, with added focus on SME Internationalization. There, it is worth mentioning the recent EC Communication on that topic to which Parliament and INTA will react as it should be a very important part of the EU trade and investment policy.