



Meeting of the Second Working Group

Date: December 12, 2016

Time: 16:00 – 18:00

Place of the Meeting: NATO and EU Information Centre office (former European House)

The Meeting was attended by:

1. Tengiz Svanidze - Coordinator of the 2nd Group, Association of Tea Producers Georgia “Georgian Tea”
2. Lia Todua – Coordinator of the 2nd Group, Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
3. Lela Berdzuli – Europe Foundation
4. Diana Kurashvili - "Women Enterprise" Fund Georgia
5. Irakli Kasrashvili - Mercy Corps Georgia
6. Nino Elizbarashvili - Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
7. Oleg Shatberashvili - Association European Studies for Innovative Development in Georgia
8. Givi Kochoradze - International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology & Innovation (ICARTI)
9. Tamaz Vashakidze - Enterprise Innovation Development Center
10. Nino Babunashvili - Caucasian University Women
11. Nana Firosmashvili - Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
12. Levan Silagava - Georgian Producers' Federation
13. Ketevan Kurtskhalia - Women's Political Resource Center
14. Lasha Tughushi – Liberal Academy Tbilisi

Matters to be discussed:

- ✚ Adoption of law on “Using the Anti-dumping Protection Measures”;
Necessity, its pros, and cons;
- ✚ Amendments to the Platform’s Charter and discussion of the Offer;
- ✚ Presentation of Mr. Zurab Uchumbegashvili, Head of Poultry Association, founder of “Kumisi” LLC;
- ✚ Other.

The coordinator of the group opened the working group meeting and the attenders were introduced to the agenda of the meeting.

Co-coordinator of the Group Mr. Tengiz Svanadze asked Mr. Levan Silagava, President of Entrepreneurs Federation to address issues on the necessity of adoption of law on “Using the Anti-dumping Protection Measures”, as the main goal of his Federation is to improve the existing legislation basis for the benefit of the entrepreneurs.

Mr. Levan overviewed condition of market competition and emphasized that the importing company, which enters the market through dumping means, limits the local business by unfair price regulation. Eventually, this causes the liquidation of the local enterprises. Accordingly, unemployment increases, the budget is not filled and all the production taxes to be paid here in Georgia outflows to the importer state. Additionally, quality of the product entering the market through dumping and subsidiaries are doubtful.

As mentioned by Mr. Levan, the prioritized direction of the government - to encourage the export - is indeed a correct strategy. However, considering that the local market is utilized by importer companies, more measures need to be taken. Additionally, within the scope of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) executed with EU, Georgia took the obligation to work in this very direction.

Mr. Zurab Uchumbegashvili, Head of Poultry Association, founder of “Kumisi” LLC, based on his enterprise’s example covered issue of obstacles existing in the sector of his activities. He also gave to the meeting participants Business Ombudsman Report with detailed description of the obstacles the poultry sector is facing.

Presenters, in addition, noted that the bill (draft law) on trade safeguard measures was already furnished and heard on the Parliament Committees. However, unfortunately, submission to Parliament for official discussion is impeded. Also, it shall be noted that producers did not have an opportunity to be involved in the process of drawing up the above bill.

Members of the Group expressed their opinion regarding the above issue, asked questions to the Entrepreneurial Federation and set forth the specific initiatives.

Mr. Oleg Shatberashvili, representative of organization “European Studies for the Innovative Development of Georgia” offered Georgian National Platform to declare its support to existence of the relevant legislation and also, demand involvement of the producers in the law-making process.

Director of organization “Liberal Academy Tbilisi” Mr. Lasha Tughushi set forth his initiative on encouraging Platform to use all measures at its disposal to ensure producers’ awareness on the

existing bill, to implement their opinions or ensure for the producers to draft new bill, which will be signed by them as one of the initiators and will be submitted to Parliament for consideration and review. As mentioned by Mr. Lasha, he, as well as other members of Platform, has huge experience in similar matters, therefore, for the advocating purposes taking immediate action will be more productive.

Representative of organization “Caucasian Women with University Education” Mrs. Nino Babunashvili expressed her opinion on raising the mentioned matter by Platform during Sectorial Meetings as one of the issues to be discussed.

Representative of association “Woman and Business” Mrs. Nino Elizbarashvili announced her offer to make temporary working group that will study the details related to this very specific legislation and will prepare policy document, which later will be submitted before the government for consideration.

Representative of organization “Female Entrepreneurs Fund” Mrs. Diana Kurashvili emphasized that it is important for this group to gather more intensively and discuss this particular issue.

Next issue discussed on the meeting was raised by Mr. Lasha Tughushi covering issues of possibility of strengthening the advocating process based on the policy document developed within the scope of Memoranda of Cooperation executed with the government. As he noted, the negotiations are underway with the government in order to develop an action plan, containing the detailed timetable for each meeting scheduled with the relevant Ministries based on each policy document and taking into consideration the related matters.

Mr. Lasha also focused his attention on processes of exercising the action plan prescribed by Memoranda of Cooperation executed with Georgian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration and noted that for the effective implementation of the Memoranda working meeting with Mrs. Tamar Khulordava, the Head of Committee, is planned.

Due to technical defect caused by suspension of the power supply, the Group was not at the capacity to discuss the matter of the Charter. This matter was postponed for the next meeting.

After one and half hour discussion the meeting of the Group was completed.

Secretary of the Meeting: Salome Sichinava.