



U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Update 2007

January 2007:

- **EximBank Briefing:** The Chamber briefed Exim Bank on the EBP program to explore ways to connect potential trade transactions with EXIM funding opportunities.
- **USTR Meeting with Shawn Donnelly:** The Chamber discussed the outlook for bilateral trade and investment treaties in Central Asia as well as the progress of WTO talks with those countries pending in the accession process.
- **AmCham Regional Conference Call:** Coordinated through our Athens office, the second regional AmCham conference call was held to brief them on an upcoming USG trip to the region and explore ways to increase regional advocacy positions.
- **Senator Chuck Hagel Briefing:** Senator Hagel having spent significant time in the region on energy security matters was briefed on the progress of the EBP initiative.
- **Department of Commerce Roundtable on Moldova:** Michael Considine with the Chamber, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce Paul Dyke, Ambassador Nicolae Chirtoaca of Moldova, and Millennium Challenge Corporation Vice President Maureen Harrington discussed market opportunities in Moldova. The Chamber presented Moldova as part of the greater Eurasian economic space as envisioned by the Eurasia Business Platform.
- **World Economic Forum:** The Chamber, led by President Tom Donohue and VP Gary Litman, held a series of private meetings on the fringes of the World Economic Forum in Davos to discuss the Chamber's strategy on Eurasia with EU officials and businessmen.
- **Corporate Briefings:** The Chamber held several individual corporate briefings for the US oil majors and food product industries interested in Eurasia activities.
- **German Marshall Fund:** Chamber VP Gary Litman and the Europe team met with the Fund to apprise them of EBP activities and seek potential areas of collaboration.
- **Regional U.S. Embassies:** The Chamber's Athens office updated the U.S. Ambassador's, Economic Officers, and Commercial Service Officers in the region on the EBP.



February 2007:

- **National Security Council:** Briefed Deputy NSC and Deputy Assistant to the President David McCormick on the EBP program.
- **Department of Treasury:** Briefed Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Clay Lowery on the EBP program.
- **House International Relations Committee Briefing:** Briefed professional staff on the House International Affairs Committee on the EBP program and learned more about the House focus on the region.
- **USG Government Central Asia Delegation:** The Chamber welcomed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matt Bryza and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce Paul Dyke to discuss an upcoming USG delegation to Central Asia and the Caucasus. The event attracted more than 35 members of the Eurasia Business Platform.
- **Guest Speaker Anatoliy Kinakh of the Ukrainian Parliament:** MP Kinakh was invited to the Chamber to speak about Ukraine and its economy as part of the greater Eurasia economic space.
- **Hill Briefings:** Briefed Senator Gordon Smith, Senator Wayne Allard and Congressman Steve Chabot's legislative assistants on the EBP program.
- **U.S. Turkish Economic Commercial Partnership Talks:** U.S. Chamber was the sole observer from the private sector at these important government to government meetings in Ankara. The meeting was led by Assistant Secretary of State Dan Sullivan. As a result, the joint Turkish-U.S. declaration specifically references U.S. and Turkish support for the U.S. Chamber's EBP.
- **Corporate Briefings:** The Chamber held several individual corporate briefings for companies from the pharmaceutical, financial and aerospace industries interested in Eurasia activities.
- **Eurasia Foundation:** Briefed the Chair of the Eurasia Foundation on the EBP program and solidified our interest in working together.
- **European Government and Industry Meetings:** The Chamber's European office held a series of meetings with German Trade officials and representatives of the BDI to discuss the Eurasia Business Platform and the Chamber's strategic focus on Central Asia. This timely discussion came as Germany takes the lead on developing an EU strategy on Central Asia. Of note is the launch by the European business umbrella organization headquartered in Brussels, *BusinessEurope*, of a new initiative called the "Union of Black Sea & Caspian Enterprises".
- **International Road Union Forum:** The IRU held a forum in Moscow to discuss operational plans for their Silk Road Initiative. The Chamber's Moscow representative presented an overview of the EBP initiative at the event.



March 2007:

- **AmCham Regional Conference Call:** The Chamber held another regional conference call with the AmCham network throughout Central Asia and the Caucasus. The agenda included our continued outreach to the AmChams on trans-regional issues such as customs, transportation and intellectual property rights.
- **International Road Union:** Met with the IRU to review a recent survey done by IRU on the border regions between Kazakhstan, Russia, and China. The survey looked at regional issues affecting the road transport sector including customs clearance and infrastructure.

April 2007:

- **UNDP Regional Directors Conference:** Participated in UNDP meetings in Sofia, Bulgaria to introduce UNDP country directors to the EBP program. Additional meetings were held with AmCham Bulgaria and the U.S. Ambassador in Sofia to bring everyone in the region up to speed on the EBP program.

May 2007:

- **Regional AmCham Roundtable:** The Chamber held 2nd regional AmCham roundtable in Moscow involving Senior Chamber management from Washington, DC. AmChams from Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, all participated in this forum to strategize on EBP activities across the region and how best to engage member companies on IPR/anti-counterfeiting issues, transportation development and regional customs cooperation.

June 2007:

- **4th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference:** Present an overview of the EBP and the results of the Ramboll Road Transport Commercial Feasibility Report in Warsaw, Poland.
- **Congressional Briefing:** Held a roundtable with Congressman Chabot.

July 2007:

- **Roundtable on Transportation and Energy Infrastructure:** U.S. Chamber organized a business roundtable on the margins of the Central Asian Trade and Investment Framework (TIFA) talks with ministers from the 5 Central Asian republics.

September 2007:

- **UNECE Meetings:** U.S. Chamber coordinated a meeting with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials Belle Vanderhoof and the IRU during her visit to Geneva for UNECE meetings.



October 2007:

- **OSCE Conference on Transport and Trade Facilitation in Central Asia:** Presented the EBP and activities related to the importance of secure trade facilitation at this conference held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Also briefed U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan, WCO, UNECE and other officials.
- **BusinessEurope Meeting:** A meeting between the US Chamber and BusinessEurope was held in Brussels. EC and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials took part in these discussions as well.
- **Meeting with Congressman Chabot:** Met with Congressman Chabot of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He is very interested in the Eurasia region and the business community's interest in finding sensible solutions to secure trade facilitation.

November 2007:

- **Launched AmCham Investors Survey:** This survey addresses regional investors' perceptions of the investment climate and secure trade facilitation issues in Eurasia.
- **Ankara Forum:** U.S. Chamber invited to attend exclusive "Ankara Forum" meetings held in Ankara, Turkey. Met with Turkish President Gul, Palestinian Authority President Abbas, and Israeli President Peres.
- **NSC Meetings:** The U.S. Chamber briefed the National Security Council (NSC) Director for Central Asia at the White House on the Chamber priorities in the region. Our strategy to focus on secure trade facilitation very much mirrored what the USG would like to see transpire in this region.

December 2007:

- **Eurasia Conference on "Growth Imperatives and Regional Responsibilities":** Organized the first annual EBP conference which featured key speakers including Tom Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Turkish and Kazakhstani officials, and a number of leading experts from the business and think tank community. The network of Chamber affiliated American Chambers of Commerce from the region sent a delegation of 19 private sector members from Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. In addition, the International Road Union's (IRU) Moscow delegate participated in the Eurasia Conference.
- **EBP AmCham Doorknock:** A delegation of 19 private sector members from Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine met with the National Economic Council, the Departments of Commerce and State, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and members of Congress.

To become part of developing tomorrow's strategic solutions for this important part of the world, join the *EURASIA BUSINESS PLATFORM*.

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