



## European Business Organization EBO WWN in Brussels to attend AGM 2017

EABC is now official representative of Thailand within the EBO WWN organization. Therefore the visit to Brussels was very important to attend the AGM of the EBO WWN to review last year's performance and elect a new Board. It also allowed to visit various Organizations in Brussels. This was a good opportunity to learn about new EU Projects as well as inform the EU about the current situation from the member countries of EBO. See also their Website: [www.ebowwn.com](http://www.ebowwn.com)

The host of our meeting was the DG Grow which sponsors EBO WWN. This provides us to have direct contacts in Brussels with EU authorities. During the meeting we were welcomed by Mr. Eric Mamer, Director DG GROW. We also met with representatives of DG Trade, Devco and FPI. Discussion were comprehensive and covered various issues such as FTA utilization and implementation, Best practices, Globalization backlash, World political and economic situation, Rise of protectionism, Industrialization and poverty reduction in developing countries, in particular Africa. The latest initiative of the EU is the so-called EU Economic Diplomacy to focus on Third Market Internationalized EU Business perspective. There were also some sharing of experiences on social media policies.

I had the chance to give detailed information on the current situation in Thailand and the positive developments the European Business Community can view from various project of the Thai Government. We are still working to improve the current business environment that still prohibits many industries from full operational liberty as well as the restrictive handling of work permits

and visas. We also touched on the suspended FTA negotiations between Thailand and the EU which is still on hold but there might be some developments that are encouraging.

We had the chance to meet the INTA Committee at the European Parliament and discuss common issues related to EU Foreign Policies. Afterwards we discussed how to better get engaged with Euro Chambers in the internationalization of European SME's and join forces in the various countries EBO is present. Finally, we held a meeting with Business Europe which was very constructive and various joint action plans have been proposed. Business Europe is hosting our office in Brussels, which makes EBO WVN a Brussel based organization. With the establishment of regional working groups, FTA exchange of experiences and the establishment of a social media platform our internal meetings came to a close.

With DG Grow a wrap up session was held to discuss extended cooperation and support with DG Grow to exchange detailed country market reports to feed the EU Commission and the EU Parliament with updated information on markets and the economic situation in the various EBO WVN Members states. We had very intensive meetings over 3 days and had the chance to give our input to the various EU organizations. This exchange of ideas and information will continue to make the EU Policy better coordinated and more relevant for the European Business abroad.

