

UNION OF MANUFACTURERS AND BUSINESSMEN OF ARMENIA

The Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA) was founded in 1996.

UMBA is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization that unites businessmen which hold the leading position in economic entities.

The inherent feature of the UMBA activities, which has great authority in Armenia as well as in foreign countries, is the active participation in improving the economic legislation and protection of interests of local manufacturers, development of international business co-operation, creation of mutually beneficial relations for companies inside Armenia and abroad. UMBA performs its activities on the basis of self-management, transparency and democracy, with the principles of voluntariness and equality of membership. UMBA cooperates constructively with all power structures: the Administration of the President of the RA, the National Assembly and its committees, the Government of RA with its units.

UMBA cooperates with a number of Armenian state and non-governmental organizations.

UMBA has adopted a status of constructive opponent in connection with issues related to economic policy and legislation strategies.

The UMBA president is entitled to take part in the sessions of the RA government. The president of UMBA is a member of the Business Support Council headed by the RA prime-minister, as well as councils of a number of ministries and state institutions.

UMBA takes active participation in the works of trade and economic committees established between Armenia and a number of other countries.

Since 2016 UMBA is the member of Public Councils at the Ministers of following Ministries of Armenia: Ministry of Economic Development and Investments, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Healthcare, Ministry of Diaspora, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, and also State Revenue Committee.

Now, according data of 2016, UMBA has 192 members.

Since 2001 the president of UMBA is Mr. Arsen Ghazaryan.

UMBA ACTIVITIES:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Since 1997 the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA) is a member of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, constantly participates in the activities of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

On the grounds of signed agreements UMBA cooperates with foreign organizations: the Unions of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia; the Union of Armenians in Russia, the Georgian Tax-Payers Union; Chambers of Commerce of Greece, Poland, Romania, Argentina, Turkey; Federations and Associations of Entrepreneurs of Lebanon, Egypt, Bulgaria; the Iran-Armenia Chamber of Commerce, French Confederation of Small and Medium Businesses, Lithuanian Union of Businessmen, American Council of Scientists and Engineers of Armenia, Moscow Association of Businessmen.

Since 2009 UMBA is a member of Union of Black sea and Caspian Confederation of enterprises and Armenian Trade Network.

In order to support the cooperation between businessmen of Armenia and foreign countries, business forums have been organized, with the participation of Armenian businessmen on the one side and businessmen of Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Lebanon, Iran, Romania, France, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Argentine, Brazil, Portugal on the other.

The Union periodically organizes special discussions, explores the markets of different countries, considers the expediency of organizing exhibitions of Armenian production with the intention to form in perspective Armenian trade houses in the given countries. Simultaneously samples of Armenian goods and respective legal and other information on taxation, customs legislation, association and trade agreements are provided to interested parties.

The introduction of International Quality Management systems and certification according to ISO 9000 standards and recently also OSHAS 18001 Occupational Safety systems and HASSP Food Safety Regulation systems into their companies by many members of the Union has supported export.

Since 2015 UMBA is a member of Business Council of the Eurasian Economic Union.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

1.	24.03.2016	Greek-Eurasian Business Council
2.	28.09.2015	National Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Moldova
3.	23.03.2015	Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists
4.	27.11.2014	«Huahe International» company, China
5.	25.09.2014	Vosz Kvbsz Kereskedok Es Vallalkozok Budapesti Szervezete
6.	17.04.2014	Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan
7.	01.07.2013	Lewiatan Confederation of Poland
8.	25.04.2013	Eurochambres
9.	19.03.2013	AlmaLaurea Inter-University Consortium (Italy)
10.	28.02.2013	French University of Armenia
11.	30.01.2013	Association of small and medium business of Lazio, Italy
12.	2013	French Higher Institute of Engineering in Armenia
13.	11.01.2013	The Federation of Emilia-Romagna Industries (Italy)
14.	15.11.2012	Eurasia International University
15.	29.03.2012	The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (Sri Lanka)
16.	15.03.2012	Italian Nongovernmental Organization «InfoArmenia»
17.	29.02.2012	Representation of Russian Cooperation in Armenia
18.	2011	Diyarbakir Chamber of Commerce and Industry
19.	31.10.2011	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
20.	19.09.2011	Union Industrial Argentina
21.	28.07.2011	Employers of Poland
22.	01.07.2011	Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

23.	24.11.2010	Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan
24.	03.11.2010	Al Riyadh Investment (UAE)
25.	30.04.2010	Confederation of Industry of Czech Republic
26.	12.04.2010	Eurasia Partnership Foundation
27.	09.11.2009	Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (BusinessHungary, member of BusinessEurope)
28.	28.05.2009	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Rostov Region of RF
29.	11.12.2008	Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
30.	29.10.2008	Informational-business center of Saint-Petersburg Government
31.	27.06.2008	Italian-Spanish trade consortium “Kossex”
32.	16.02.2008	Union of Czech and Moravian Production Co-operatives
33.	27.06.2007	Exporters Association of Northern Greece (SEVE)
34.	15.04.2007	Egyptian Businessmen’s Association
35.	15.11.2006	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
36.	29.03.2006	Federation of Greek Industries (SEV)
37.	22.11.2004	Technical Cooperation with International Labour Organization
38.	18.09.2004	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Rostov Region (Russia)
39.	27.02.2004	Moscow Association of Entrepreneurs
40.	17.11.2003	The General Union of Romania’s Industrialists
41.	15.09.2003	Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists
42.	08.09.2003	Bulgarian Industrial Association
43.	23.05.2003	Federation of Indian of Commerce and Industry
44.	21.09.2002	Belarusian Scientific-Industrial Association
45.	20.09.2002	Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
46.	20.04.2002	Moscow Entrepreneurs’ Association
47.	01.11.2001	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania

SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC REFORMS

UMBA members, using their intellectual and financial potential, expand their companies, scope of activities, create new workplaces. In particular, the essential part (about 70%) of financial arrivals into State budget with regard to tax proceeds is provided by the members of the Union and this also tends to grow from year to year.

The Union is frequently involved in state economic and social programs implemented in Armenia, the most important of which today are “The Strategic Program of Poverty Reduction” and “The Anticorruption Strategic Program”.

Many economic projects of the Union are supported by international organizations such as: the Eurasia Foundation, the European Union, the World Bank, UNDP, USAID and others. Besides the Union has implemented and takes part in the implementation of the following projects:

- The Eurasia Foundation – Monitoring and Support to Liberalization of Economic Legislation
- VET – a program which supports the development of an integrated and unified vocational education training system in Armenia directed to training experts in accordance with the needs of businesses, also aimed at increasing the employment in RA.
- AEPLAC – Armenian European Policy and Legal Advice Center, aimed at improving the RA legislation in accordance with EU criteria, particularly in tax and customs fields.
- Together with “Armenian Merchants” NGO, establishment of the “Armenian Foundation of Independent Analyses” in April 2004., the mission of which is to support the creation of favorable environment for businesses and formation of dialogue between the state and the society through independent analyses and researches.
- Together with OSCE, implementation of the “Assessment of Corruption Risks in Customs Services of the Republic of Armenia” program In November 2004.
- The EU BAS program, which supports provision of business consultation.
- Cooperation with the French University of Armenia in training experts capable to found their own businesses and to manage companies.
- Cooperation with the International Labour Organization in the sphere of social welfare, creation of safe and secure work conditions.

The Union plays the lead role in organizing of discussions of draft laws and legislative changes and coordination of the participation of the interested parties – governmental and non-governmental organizations, representatives of private businesses. In these regards the participation of UMBA in the following discussions may be mentioned: the discussion of the draft of “The RA Law on Tax Inspections”, discussion of “The RA Law on Social Cards”, discussion of the draft of the Labour Legislation, discussion of “The RA Law on Social Security of the Population in case of employment and unemployment”.

UMBA supports the implementation of some social and cultural programs. Particularly, notable financial assistance has been rendered to the “Golden Apricot” First International Film Festival, to the construction of “North-South” highway in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, “Chess” Academy etc.

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The main function of UMBA’s informational service is to provide information to the managing bodies and the members of the Union using contemporary communication systems. By using global and local computer networks the information is timely brought to the attention of the Union members.

UMBA actively cooperates with mass media, scientists, R&D groups.

The members of the Union attach high importance to contacts with mass media. They regularly appear in press with economic and political reviews, conceptual suggestions, opinions concerning the situation of the country’s economy, about perspectives and problems of local manufacturers.

The informational field includes analysis of publications in mass media, TV programs, issues on cooperation with Armenian and foreign organizations, advertisements and announcements.

The informational activities of the Union are aimed to promote the establishment and lobbying of the interests of entrepreneurship in the country.