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Press Release

EU-Bangladesh Business Climate Dialogue

The first EU-Bangladesh Business Climate Dialogue between the EU Business Council (EUBC) and the Ministry of Commerce took place in Dhaka on 12 May 2016. The purpose of the EU Business Climate Dialogue is to jointly address major impediments towards better EU trade and investment with a view to expanding economic relation.

The Hon' Commerce Minister, HE Tofail Ahmed MP, and senior officials from various ministries and agencies attended from the Government of Bangladesh side. On the EU side, the EU Ambassador and the Heads of the Diplomatic Missions of the EU Member States and representatives from the EU private sector in Bangladesh participated in the Dialogue.

The discussion took place in a constructive atmosphere recalling the longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the European Union. EU stressed the need for expanding European exports and investment. In that context, 5 important areas were discussed to improve business climate in Bangladesh, including import duties/custom/trade facilitation, licenses and investment in services sector, financial flows, tax regime and pharmaceuticals. The discussion also focused on the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) that Bangladesh offers as new avenue for foreign investment.

Both sides agreed to continue discussions and to reconvene before the end of the year in order to monitor progresses.

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