

Speech

Olivier Van Parys, Board Chairman of European Business Organization Ghana (EBO-Ghana)

31st May 2017

Your Excellency Mr. Mahamudu Bawumia, the Vice President of Ghana,

Mr. William Hanna, Ambassador of the European Union in Ghana;

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors of the EU Member States in Ghana;

Honorable Ministers of State: Minister of Trade and Industry (Hon. Alan Kyerematen); Minister for Business Development (Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal); Minister for Aviation (Hon. Cecilia Dapaah); Minister for Tourism(Hon. Catherine Afeku)

Distinguished Guests of Honor

The MediaLadies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to welcome you to the joint business cocktail of the European Union and the European Business Organization Ghana (EBO- Ghana). It is a privilege for me to give you this welcome address and I would like to particularly thank Mr. William Hanna, the EU Ambassador for warmly hosting us at his residence.

The European Business Organization (EBO-Ghana) is an association which was established 2 years ago through the initiative of the European Union in Ghana and the National Chambers of Commerce of Germany, France, The Netherlands and Denmark.

The EBO Network can be found in more than 26 countries worldwide with the aim of providing a lobbying and networking platform for European businesses worldwide. EBO Ghana is the first EBO in Africa.

As an organization, EBO-Ghana serves as the umbrella of National Business Chambers and recognizable groups of European Union Member States in Ghana to advocate its business interest and to promote and increase two-way investments between European and Ghanaian businesses through a facilitated trade flow between Ghana, ECOWAS and the European Union.

Our position is to work closely with the National Chambers on memberships or activities to ensure that we are able to provide services and carry out advocacy actions for and on behalf of the different National Chambers on subjects which are common to them.

Throughout our activities, we seek to provide our members, investors and European companies operating in Ghana with knowledge that leads to business and industrial development in the country, and to contribute to job creation and the economic boost of Ghana.

Our role is also to promote partnerships and as such we are dedicated to helping Ghanaian companies who want to develop their businesses towards the EU.

The EBO –Ghana wishes that there will be a strengthened partnership between the European businesses in Ghana and the Ghanaian Governmental departments to foster trade relations which have been in existence for years. We are committed to maintain a positive approach on the different subjects even the delicate ones such as local content and so on. We trust that the outcome of the discussions can be of benefit to all parties: European businesses and Ghana as our host Country.

We are convinced that the business environment in Ghana will continue to be stable and conducive to promote investments from European Companies and deepen trade and business ties between Europe and Ghana.