

## **International Day for Baltic Countries**

EBA has held an international day for Baltic countries (Latvia – Estonia – Lithuania) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2019 at EBA premises. The event was headed by **Eng. Hassan El Shafei** – EBA board member, **H.E. Amb. Iveta Šulca** – Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to Egypt, **H.E. Amb. Sander Soone** – Ambassador of Estonia to Egypt, **H.E. Amb. Arvydas Daunoravičius** – Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to Egypt, **Mr. Ahmed Mounir Ezz El Dine** – EBA Member, **Dr. Rimvydas Kriukelis** – Deputy Head of Mission/Minister Counsellor Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania.

**Eng. Hassan El Shafei** started by thanking the 3 ambassadors and all the attendees for attending the event and said that there is great interest from the Egyptian private sector in cooperation with the Baltic countries in various fields, especially in the transfer of expertise and joint manufacturing in the field of fish processing. He also added that a number of Egyptian companies held bilateral meetings with Baltic investors and ambassadors from Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania on the sidelines of the International Day of the Baltic States, which was organized by the association today in the presence of ambassadors of countries in Egypt. He mentioned that encouraging joint industrialization and transfer of expertise in various fields with the Baltic countries is one of the top priorities of cooperation in addition to attracting foreign investments through the establishment of projects in partnership with the Egyptian private sector, pointing out that Egypt is one of the largest exporters of citrus and oranges, to increase the volume of Egyptian exports by encouraging exports to the Baltic States.

**Amb. Arvydas Daunoravičius** expressed his aspiration to enhance trade cooperation and joint investment with Egypt, especially in light of the historical relations and the potential between Egypt and Lithuania. Both countries Egypt and Lithuania enjoy political and diplomatic relations with various countries of the world which encourages investment and trade opportunities in the two countries, hoping for a strong boost in trade exchange

to reach trade and investment figures to the historical level of relations between the two countries.

**H.E. Amb. Sander Soone** mentioned that there are promising areas for joint cooperation with Egypt, especially in the fields of information technology, trade, food processing and wood industry. He said that anyone can establish a company in Estonia via Internet in 15 minutes, along with the use of technology to vote electronically in elections “E-vote”. Estonia is launching a railway line with Latvia with a speed of 240 km/h and it will be completed in 2024, which will encourage export growth, ease of transport of goods, individuals, and access to commercial markets. He stated that the volume of exports from food industry amounted to 191 billion euros it accounts for 16 % of total number of exports, with 683 company employing more than 14,826 workers. The dairy sector accounts for 21% of food industry's exports and 17% of the exports. Meat and 13% drinks, adding that Estonia is the largest wood exporter in Europe with an estimated export of 2.12 billion euros.

**H.E. Amb. Iveta Šulca** said that there are challenging and demanding issues. She stressed her country's desire to cooperate with Egypt in the field of fish industry and packaging as Latvia has 14,000 rivers and lakes, with exports accounting for 50% of total export in the co-operation in the manufacture and export of canned fish as Egypt is known as fish farms. Latvia is the third largest country in the fields of innovation tank and technology as well as the manufacture of cancer drugs. The volume of trade reached 85.9% of the European Union as Latvia is the largest country in EU. Latvia reached the top technology in 5G. Latvia is the gateway between East and West.

**Mr. Ahmed Mounir Ezz El Dine** mentioned that there are lots of opportunities that can be explored between Egypt and Baltic countries.