

Online Meeting with COMESA Business Council (CBC)

Tuesday the 24 of January 2026

EBA has Held an online meeting with Mrs. Gallina Tembo Programs Manager COMESA Business Council and it was attended by Dr. Mohamed Youssef Executive Director of EBA and Mrs. Dalia Youssef, Division Director of International Relations & Membership Affairs of EBA to discuss priority areas for cooperation during the upcoming phase.

Main Points of Discussion:

The meeting between the Egyptian Businessmen's Association (EBA) and the COMESA Business Council (CBC) was held in a constructive and forward-looking spirit, with both parties reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening cooperation throughout 2026. CBC expressed its appreciation for EBA's continued engagement as the National Focal Point in Egypt and emphasized the importance of aligning priorities and enhancing coordination from the outset of the year. EBA, in turn, conveyed its readiness to play an active and supportive role in CBC's initiatives and requested further clarity regarding areas where it could most effectively contribute.

During the discussion, EBA sought updates on the participation of its nominated representatives, namely the Chairperson of the Tourism Work Group and the Vice Chairperson of the Circular Economy and Environment Work Group. CBC confirmed the active involvement of the Vice Chairperson in the Circular Economy and Environment Work Group and explained that all seven CBC sectoral work groups meet on a quarterly basis, producing reports and policy inputs. CBC further confirmed that EBA is welcome to expand its engagement by encouraging additional members from its sectoral committees to participate in relevant work groups, and agreed to share registration details, meeting agendas, and related documentation to facilitate broader involvement.

Particular attention was given to the Circular Economy and Environment Work Group, including the upcoming meeting scheduled for 26 February. CBC confirmed that draft policy papers are circulated within the work groups for member review and input prior to finalization, providing an opportunity for EBA and its members to contribute substantively to the development of regional policy positions. EBA welcomed this inclusive approach and reiterated its willingness to provide technical feedback and sectoral expertise.

The discussion also explored opportunities for enhanced collaboration, including the organization of joint webinars and sector-focused dialogues addressing

challenges faced by Egyptian businesses within the COMESA region. Both parties agreed on the importance of ensuring that private sector concerns are effectively articulated and elevated to relevant policymakers, particularly through coordinated policy papers and position statements.

CBC presented its planned activities for 2026, including sectoral meetings, regional value chain initiatives, and a series of capacity-building workshops covering areas such as COMESA Rules of Origin, advocacy training, SME development, and standards and quality management. CBC also confirmed that its E-Academy platform is fully operational and offers free online certified courses, which may be utilized and promoted by EBA among its membership.

Finally, CBC highlighted the upcoming Annual COMESA Business Forum to be held in October in Zimbabwe, in conjunction with the COMESA Summit. The Forum will include a business exhibition and the presentation of a private sector declaration to Heads of State. CBC encouraged strong participation from Egyptian companies, both as exhibitors and speakers. EBA expressed interest in mobilizing its members to participate actively and contribute to the success of the event.

The meeting concluded with both organizations reaffirming their mutual commitment to deepening collaboration, enhancing private sector engagement, and maximizing the benefits of COMESA membership in support of regional trade and investment.