

Round table with Mr. Shaan Padayachy

Tuesday 5th September 2023,EBA Premises

EBA has held a round table with Mr. Shaan Padayachy, Director of Investment - Midlands Region at the Department of Business and Trade DBT, UK Government, headed by Eng. Ali Eissa, EBA Chairman and in the presence of Eng. Magd Eldin El Manzalawi, EBA Secretary General and Chairman of Industry & Scientific Research Committee and also was attended by a number of board members, Chairmen and vice chairmen of committees and a representative from the British Embassy

❖ Mr. Shaan Padayachy

- British companies are interested in investing in Egypt for export.
- The aim of the visit is to strengthen investment relations with businessmen in Egypt, pointing to the desire of British companies in the Midlands region to find partners for production and export to third countries, especially African markets.
- Egypt is an important gateway to increase exports and trade exchange, especially with African markets. It also has high capabilities in manufacturing and an abundance of clean energy, which represents many investment opportunities for British companies in establishing manufacturing and export bases and cooperating in a large number of sectors of common interest, including agriculture, industry, and small Medium projects, transportation, infrastructure, consulting, education and information technology
- He pointed out that entering the British and European markets requires huge investments in the areas of clean energy and production that is compatible with environmental and sustainability standards
- He pointed out that the Midlands region includes 40,000 companies operating in various fields, including 400 small and medium companies operating in the railway sectors.
- He has invited EBA and companies specialized in the fields of agriculture and food to participate in the British agricultural exhibition scheduled to be held in January next year.

❖ **Eng. Ali Eissa**

- Welcomed cooperation with the British Embassy in Cairo to enhance business development opportunities between the private sector and businessmen from both countries in all economic sectors, stressing that Egypt has become an investment front for British and foreign companies and an important center for trade and export to Africa, Latin America and Europe.
- Egypt has a good share of agricultural exports within England and European markets, especially in pomegranate and cucumber crops, pointing to the desire of Egyptian companies for more of their agricultural products to enter England's markets, especially horticultural exports such as grapes, citrus fruits, and strawberries.

❖ **Eng. Magd Eldin El Manzalawi**

- The members of EBA are interested in entering the British market and finding trading partners, as it has great experience and capabilities in exporting and implementing major projects, pointing out that among the most important cooperation projects are in the sectors of industry and agriculture, clean, new and renewable energy projects, transportation, infrastructure, engineering consultations, education and technology, and the export of vegetables, fruits and agricultural crops.

❖ **Mr. Ahmed Farouk**

- Explained that the volume of British companies' investments in Egypt amounted to about 20 US billion dollars, representing 1,500 companies, pointing out that Egyptian exports to Great Britain in 2022 amounted to 2.3 billion sterling pounds, compared to 2.5 billion sterling pounds for British exports to Egypt.

❖ **Dr. Sherif El-Gabaly**

- Pointed to the development of the chemical and fertilizer industry in Egypt, as its exports occupy a large position in Europe.
- Stressed that Egypt has strong engineering industries, building materials industries, metal industries, and recycling projects, in addition to enjoying many agreements such as free trade agreements with Africa, Mercosur, and others. It also aims to expand the production of new and renewable energy to more than 40% of total energy production by 2030.

❖ **Eng. Mohamed Ayman Korra**

- Added that Egypt is first in the world in producing and exporting frozen strawberries and sixth in producing fresh strawberries, and it also aims to increase its exports of agricultural production in general.

❖ **Eng. Hassan Al-Shafei**

- Pointed out the possibility of cooperation in advancing the small and medium enterprises sector by providing financing, training, and marketing of products, in addition to transferring British expertise in the fields of reverse engineering.

❖ **Mr. Adel Al-Lamai**

- Pointed out that the investment climate in Egypt has become ripe for British and foreign companies to transfer their investments, especially those targeting export, as the government has spent during the past ten years about 2 trillion pounds on road and infrastructure projects, and 7 thousands of square kilometers of roads have been developed, in addition to its interest in investing in green energy and developing ports.

❖ **Eng. Mostafa Al-Naggari**

- Confirmed that there are great opportunities for Egyptian-British cooperation in increasing agricultural production, especially in projects to improve fertilizer efficiency, increase productivity and reduce the cost of unit production, such as projects to rationalize water consumption, noting that Egypt annually produces 30 million tons of vegetables, fruits and crops.
- He has also pointed out the possibility of cooperation in establishing wood production projects, fish and poultry farms, and dairy collection centers.

- At the end of the meeting all the attendees also stressed the importance of Egyptian-British cooperation in the infrastructure sector, water and sewage treatment projects, and in the communications and information technology sector, especially in digital transformation projects, and in education quality projects and curriculum development for the purpose of linking education to the actual needs of the labor market, in addition to investing in the establishment of international schools and universities.