







## PRESS RELEASE

## In the closure of the 3rd Eastern Partnership Business Forum employers' organisations from four countries sign a memorandum of understanding

Riga, 21 May 2015. Concluding the Eastern Partnership Business Forum that took place on 21 May in Riga, leaders of employers' organisations from four European Eastern partner countries signed a memorandum of understanding, announcing their interest in creating the Business Cooperation Council for coordination of the employers' activities in priority areas with the European Union within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, and have invited the EU to support this initiative.

The document was signed by the President of the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia, Gagik Makaryan, the President of the Georgian Employers' Association, Elgua Meladze, the President of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Anatoliy Kinakh, the Vice-President of the Federation of Employers of Ukraine, Oleksii Miroshnychenko, and the President of the National Confederation of Employers of the Republic of Moldova, Leonid Cerescu.

The President of the Employers' Confederation of Latvia, Vitālijs Gavrilovs said: "The memorandum signed this afternoon proves what we have discussed throughout the day – in order for the Eastern Partnership to achieve its objectives and facilitate economic development, an active public-private dialogue should be in place. The agreement signed by four leading employers' organisations is a significant step towards further strengthening of trade, economic growth and overall development of the region."

The 3rd Eastern Partnership Business Forum "Cooperation Across Borders: Eastern partnership and Beyond" organised in Riga has brought together over 600 business leaders from 41 countries of the European Union, the Eastern Partnership and other parts of the world. The forum is organised by the Latvian Presidency of the EU Council, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia and BUSINESSEUROPE; the strategic partners of the event are the Employers' Group at the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Investment Bank, and the partners – the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), Lattelecom, Latvenergo and EastInvest.

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