

Press Release:

Monday, 30th September 2024

Meeting with Honourable Advisor to the Ministry of Planning and Education, Mr. Wahiduddin Mahmud : EBFCI Welcomes Partnership with NRB and Diaspora for a Better Bangladesh.

The European Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI) is pleased to announce a productive meeting with Honourable Advisor to the Ministry of Planning and Education, Mr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, aimed at fostering economic growth and development in Bangladesh through partnerships with Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) and the diaspora community.

During the meeting, the Honourable Advisor expressed his optimism about the future of Bangladesh, recognising the significant potential of collaboration with NRBs and international partners. He stated, “We are excited to engage with NRBs and the diaspora worldwide to create a stronger, more vibrant Bangladesh. Through trade, investment, and innovation, we can harness the global expertise and resources of our community to drive economic development and improve the livelihoods of all Bangladeshis.

Key Highlights of the Meeting

1. Trade and Investment Opportunities:

Mr. Mahmud highlighted the importance of expanding trade relations and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). He emphasized sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, IT, and renewable energy as high-priority areas for growth. Strengthening trade ties with Europe, the UK, and other global partners will provide Bangladesh with increased market access and support economic diversification.

2. Bilateral Engagement:

The Honourable Advisor reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing bilateral relationships, focusing on improving infrastructure, public-private partnerships, and sustainable development. These partnerships will play a crucial role in positioning Bangladesh as a key player in the global economy.

3. Import-Export and Cargo Facilities:

Addressing the challenges faced by NRBs in trade, Mr. Mahmud noted the need to improve import-export channels and cargo facilities. He discussed the expansion of cold storage facilities at airports, which would benefit perishable goods exports. Reducing air cargo costs and streamlining processes for NRBs will ensure greater efficiency and encourage trade.

4. Cold Storage and Air Cargo Costs:

The lack of adequate cold storage at airports, coupled with high air cargo costs, remains a challenge for exporters, especially NRBs sending goods to UK and Europe. Mr. Mahmud assured stakeholders that the government will be working with NRBs on solutions to address these issues, including NRB facing issues sending domestic cargos to Sylhet.

5. Digital Transformation and Infrastructure Development:

In addition to trade, Mr. Mahmud discussed the critical need for digital transformation and infrastructure development. The Honourable Advisor proposed collaborations in areas such as expanding internet access, promoting e-commerce, and developing smart city initiatives in major cities like Dhaka and Chittagong. These initiatives will drive economic growth and enhance public services.

Looking Forward:

EBFCI and the government of Bangladesh remain committed to ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the NRB community. The next steps include the formation of working groups to address the specific challenges of air cargo, investment opportunities, and trade partnerships.

The Honourable Advisor concluded by stating, “We are optimistic about the future of Bangladesh. Together with the NRB community, we can build a prosperous nation that benefits from the collective knowledge and resources of Bangladeshis at home and abroad.”

For more information, please contact:

Mohammad Ali Tinku

Executive Director EBFCI Bangladesh Region , Market Research, Press & Media.

Phone +88(0)1729282777

Email - mtinku@hotmail.com

About EBFCI:

The Europe Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI) is a platform dedicated to fostering partnerships and collaborations within Europe, United Kingdom and Bangladesh. EBFCI brings together governments, businesses, and institutions to advance mutual economic, healthcare, and social development goals across member countries.