

PARTNERS

1. Hellenic Clothing Industry Association



The Hellenic Clothing Industry Association (HCIA) is a non profit industrial association established in Athens in 1962. It represents Greek companies from all sub-sectors of the clothing industry (men, women and children's clothing, underwear, swimwear, shirts and fashion accessories).

HCIA provides a wide range of services and activities including:

- the representation of the sector's companies vis-à-vis International, European and National authorities;
- the participation in the negotiation of sectoral and regional collective agreements;
- the provision of information and consulting relating the commercial, industrial and social policy matters including training and education consulting and support; and
- the dissemination of information on technical issues (product specifications, information systems, and telecommunications), on technology transfer, quality management, market and economic research.

Moreover the Association represents the industry in International and European sectoral organisations (IAF and Euratex), co-operates in the framework of horizontal infrastructures of the textile and clothing sector in Greece through its participation in the Clothing Textile & Fibre Technology Development Company (CLOTEFI) and ELKEDE technology and designer SA, maintains a databank with companies and financial data and has established two research organisations: The Greek E-Commerce Center and The Bodymetrics Institute.

2. International Apparel Federation



IAF is a politically neutral global association, open to entrepreneurs and executives from the apparel chain worldwide. Its membership includes national clothing associations and companies whose core business is sourcing, designing, development, manufacturing, distribution, and retailing of apparel products. In addition IAF has, as associate members, educational institutions and companies that supply textiles, accessories, equipment, technology, and services to the apparel industry. The IAF is a worldwide knowledge network that collects and disseminates information, statistical, benchmarking and otherwise, on developments in apparel design, manufacturing, distribution, sourcing, trade and technology. IAF is organising promotional events worldwide.

3. Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) is established in 1895 and is the leading employers' association in Bulgaria – comprising over 52000 members. It is an independent, non-profit NGO that supports, promotes and represents the interests of its members and contributes to the development of international economic cooperation. BCCI is based on principles of voluntary membership, autonomy and self-financing and seeks to establish ethical and socially responsible relationships in business.

BCCI contributes to the creation of a more favourable business environment and dedicates many efforts for the promotion and support of entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives. The BCCI participates with its representatives in the work of over 200 committees, working and expert groups in various fields of the economy.

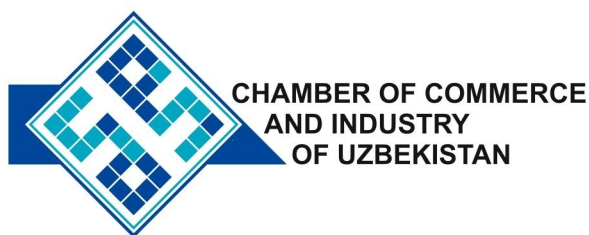
In terms of international cooperation, it is a part of the integrated international network of chambers of commerce throughout the world and a member of various international organizations, joint-chambers and councils. Through BCCI Bulgarian companies become part of the largest business organizations in the world.

Main activities and services of the BCCI:

- Maintains a voluntary unified Trade Register of over 52 000 Bulgarian merchants, associations, unions and other legal entities, and over 100 branch organizations. Registers representative offices of foreign persons. Issues and validates foreign-trade documents, ATA carnets, force majeure certificates;
- Organizes business meetings, delegations, company exchanges, presentations and provides information about tenders;
- Publication of information bulletins and brochures;
- Development and management of projects under EU programmes and organization of seminars and trainings for SMEs;
- Performs analyses of the financial-and-economic status of companies, branches and markets;

- Provides consultations on legal, financial and customs matters; conducts marketing researches; offers translation in over 20 languages, attestation and legalization of documents;
- Issues universal electronic signature;
- Organizes specialized international and national exhibitions;
- Represents the GS1 system of standards, including the GS1 BarCodes, for the more efficient functioning of Bulgarian industry and trade;
- The Arbitration court with the BCCI examines and resolves in short time international and domestic arbitration cases.

4. Tashkent Regional Department of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan



According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from July, 7, 2004 "On creation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan", the Chamber of commodity producers and entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan has stopped its activity and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan (CCIU) became its assignee. The main purposes of creation of CCIU were the provision of favorable conditions for further development of private business, legal protection of business, assistance in establishing of business links of businessmen of Uzbekistan with foreign partners, promotion of domestic goods and services to foreign markets, active attraction of foreign investments.

CCI of Uzbekistan is non-state, non-commercial organization joining domestic subjects of entrepreneurship, including micro-firms, small, private and state enterprises, individual entrepreneurs. The structure of CCIU consists of 14 regional branches including in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent city. The number of staff comes to 126 persons. Also, there are 171 divisions in the town and district which are in CCIU's subordination. The number of staff comes to 433 persons.

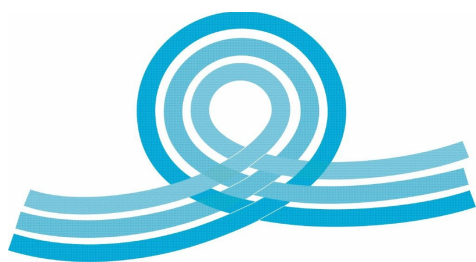
The primary tasks of CCIU are the following:

- Assistance to the development of entrepreneurship, first of all small and private business;
- Assistance to entrepreneurs in expansion of business contacts with the foreign partners and investors, in promotion of export production made by domestic entrepreneurs, on foreign markets, and also in attraction of direct foreign investments into the Republic for creation of joint ventures, technical equipment and re-equipment, first of all, small and private enterprises;
- Adjustment and development of cooperation with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and public associations of entrepreneurs of other states, the organization of business visits of delegations of entrepreneurs of Uzbekistan and the invitation into the Republic of foreign entrepreneurs, carrying out international business-forums, commercial and industrial exhibitions and fairs of production of entrepreneurs both in the Republic and abroad;

- Providing entrepreneurs with wide spectrum of services, including information and consultation support, organization of business-catalogues publications, covering the information on domestic manufacturers, production made by them and investment opportunities, and also data on potential partners and opportunities of modern technologies purchase;
- Implementation of measures on further formation of the favorable business environment for development of business, inculcation of the international-accepted norms and practice of business activity in the Republic, preparation of offers on perfection of the legislation, on improvement of the legal and economic conditions for carrying out the entrepreneurs activity;
- Representation and protection of the rights and legitimate interests of entrepreneurs, including in relations with state bodies and an economic board concerning their registration, certification of production, licensing and to other questions, and also at disposal of legal proceeding in courts;
- Support on development of the education system and professional training for entrepreneurs, the organization of training and improvement of professional skill of entrepreneurs;
- Participation in development of the concept of entrepreneurship development and in implementation of mechanisms of public control over activity of enterprises;
- Keeping the database of the entrepreneurs on the basis of the state register of the enterprises and the organizations;
- Participation in creation of system tripartite (the union of hired workers, the union of employers and the government) cooperation, elaboration and carrying out national economic and social policy;
- Assistance to settlement of disputes between enterprises;
- The organization of work on practical implementation of the decisions of Republican coordination council on stimulation of development of small and private entrepreneurship;
- Coordination of the events on support of entrepreneurship, conducting by the insurance agency "Madad" and Bank "Uztadbirkorbank";
- The organization of rewarding for the contribution for business development in Uzbekistan;
- reducing the interference of state bodies into development of economic activity of enterprises;
- rendering of assistance in organizing of business visits of businessmen of Uzbekistan and invitation of foreign businessmen;

- realization of international business forums, commercial and industrial exhibitions and fairs of products of businessmen inside and outside the republic;
- Other tasks in view of World practice of Chambers' activity and the international contracts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, according to the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

5. Union of Textile Enterprises



Association "Soyuztextile"

Association "Soyuztextile" represents the interests of **30 enterprises and individual entrepreneurs of garment industry, which employ about 2.500 people.** "Soyuztextile" **is a non-profit** organization that unites enterprises of light industry in order to create favourable conditions for development of the sector in the Kyrgyz market and entering international markets, was established at the initiative of local entrepreneurs and the German Organisation for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in the year 2000.

Mission of Association "Soyuztextile" are:

- 1) Effectively promote development and sustainable growth of business association members.
- 2) Support for the textile industry in matters of lobbying and working smoothly with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Activities carried out by "Soyuztextile" aimed at:

- Provision of methodological and practical assistance and guidance to members of the Association in production matters and of export issues;
- Providing information about new trends in fashion, design and technology of textile products;
- Policy guidance and practical help in the members for the preparation and participation in national and international exhibitions;
- Support members for placing their products in foreign markets;
- Assist the members for the purchase of raw materials and auxiliary materials;
- Provide members information about market insights, updates and prices;
- Promotion of members at national and international exhibitions, and advertisement in local and international media (television, radio, in print) as in the Kyrgyz Republic and abroad;

- Organize exhibitions of individual collections of fashion designers and manufactures - members of the Association.

Finally, in order to enhance the skills of the workforce, "Soyuztextile" was one of the co-founders for the establishment of a training centre "Shvei profi".

6. Association of Light Industry Enterprises of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Association of Light Industry Enterprises of the Republic of Kazakhstan is of interest of enterprises of light industry which produce different kind of consumer goods : fabric, clothes, knit work, shoes, and fur.

Association of Light Industry Enterprises of the Republic of Kazakhstan providing technical assistance services for the benefit of its members in the next areas:

1. Linking and networking with national and international organizations and institutions with reference to development of light industry in Kazakhstan;
2. Seeking partners, and market match making (buyers – sellers) both on national and international level;
3. Establishment of open joint ventures
4. Training delivery;
5. Organisation of exhibitions;
6. Information about market insights, technological developments, market trends and other issues;
7. Policy advice for sectoral development.

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