

## **IBCL joins hands with WTC Mumbai for webinar on EU India Trade Potential**

The Indian Business Chamber of Luxembourg (IBCL) organized a webinar on 'EU India Trade Potential – Measures to Unlock & Harness'. IBCL partnered with MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and Partner Chambers in Poland, the Netherlands and Luxembourg to organize this session. H.E. Mr. Santosh K. Jha, Ambassador of India to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg addressed the session. The event was also addressed by Mr. Mukesh Dave, General Manager, Exports, Amul India and Mr. Sanjay Sharma, Vice President, Arcelor Mittal.

In his remarks, H.E. Mr. Jha informed that India's Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi will hold a historic meeting at Portugal in May 2021, with the heads of states of member countries of the European Union to discuss roadmap for bilateral relations. He further added, "Discussion on India-EU free trade agreement, which was stalled in 2013 after 16 rounds of negotiations, was revived when both the sides agreed to deepen relations at the 1st High Level Dialogue (HLD) on February 5, 2021. Apart from trade & investment, there is huge scope for bilateral cooperation in infrastructure, science & technology, climate change mitigation, Industry 4.0 etc. India and EU will jointly hold Digital Investment Forum in September 2021 to support small and medium firms and start-up enterprises of both the countries."

Speaking about India's growing relations with Luxembourg, H.E. Mr. Jha informed, "State Bank of India has recently signed agreement with Luxembourg Stock Exchange for listing and trading of India's green bonds. Similarly, Invest India and Luxinnovation signed an agreement to promote and facilitate bilateral investment. To support innovation and incubation, both the countries are also planning to organize Hackathon for technology start-ups in the coming months."

In his remarks, Mr. Dave informed about the dairy sector in India and the challenges hampering EU-India trade in dairy products. He said, "Indian dairy products are not allowed in the European market because of non tariff barriers such as veterinary standards and strict regulations on maximum permissible pesticide limit. Even though India's dairy sector follows CODEX quality standards, it is unable to get market access in EU because of these quality standards. European veterinary standards require every Indian dairy farm unit to hire a veterinary professional, which is not economically feasible by small scale dairy units in the country."

Speaking about India's position in the world dairy industry, Mr. Dave said, "India is the largest producer of milk in the world, with a share of 20% in world production, which is higher than 14% share India had in the year 2000. By 2033, India aims to enhance its share in world milk output to 30% and Amul India will play a major role in attaining this milestone. India is the world's fastest growing dairy market as the country's milk production has been growing at an average annual growth of 4.5% in recent years, compared to the global average growth of 2%. India's milk sector provides livelihood to 160 million dairy farmers and the country exports value added dairy products to USA, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, UAE and several other countries."

Mr. Sharma outlined how Arcelor Mittal was instrumental in the largest foreign direct investment from EU to India when the company bought Essar Steel's steel manufacturing facility in Hazira, Gujarat in December 2019. He said, "Besides acquiring Essar Steel, Arcelor Mittal has also invested in ancillary

facilities such as slurry pipeline, captive power plants and iron ore mines in India to support its steel manufacturing operation in India. Arcelor Mittal has also committed to play a key role in India's mission to increase its annual steel manufacturing capacity from 100 million tonne today to 300 million tonne in the years to come. The company has committed to invest Rs. 50,000 crore in Odisha and Gujarat to strengthen its steel manufacturing capacity in India."

Mr. Aditya Sharma, Co-President, IBCL delivered vote of thanks for the event. The webinar was attended by members of trade & industry, academia and consular corps.