



Asociatia
Better Business Bureau
 din
Romania



President William J. Clinton:

"Through hard work and dedication, the Better Business Bureaus settle conflicts for countless businesses and consumers, letting the wheels of our economy continue to run smoothly."

Consider the unauthorized letter on the following page – used to force the cancellation of the launch of BBB Romania, and the reality presented through the following exchange:

September 1st, 2005

From: US Gov-DOC1 **To:** CBBB former CEO
Cc: BBB Romania; US GOV-DOC2 ; US Embassy-Commercial; CBBB-VJD
Subject: RE: Romania

*****, we got an enthusiastic response from our Commercial Attache in Romania re: Commerce participation at the Oct. event. Please follow up w/her directly. Thanks, ****

September 14th, 2005

I will be happy to attend. Hope your trip is going well.
 Thanks!

Cindy
 Cindy *****
 Commercial Attaché

NOTE: Damaging information to specific individuals has been edited out. I have made this decision, in order to focus as much as possible on a constructive approach, and to refrain as much as possible from bringing any negative attention to those involved/responsible. I ask the reader to take for granted that the information edited out also supports the argument that BBB License Termination was invalid, as were the motives & decisions of the CBBB former CEO.



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Dear Board members,

We need your urgent attention with regards to the launch event.

As these elements have been received very close to the launch date and can affect the launch itself as well as the image of BBB members, your response is urgently requested.

During recent discussions with CBBB President Steven Cole, we were informed that several issues arose with regards to next week's launch by DOC (US Department of Commerce). Following discussions with the US Embassy in Bucharest, DOC expressed concern with regards to the BBB Romania launch, mainly arising from unconfirmed memberships in BBB and unconfirmed participation by the US Embassy in the launch. The phrase "unethical conduct" was used by DOC.

After we inquired locally, the US Embassy expressed reservation vis-a-vis the BBB Romania project due to:

- AmCham's reluctant position of BBB's intentions (rather focused on business and financial interest).
- BBB's lack of transparency about funding and membership.

US Embassy did not confirm participation in the panels of the launch event.

After discussing with AmCham, the following elements were also mentioned:

- an "aggressive and pushy" attitude by the BBB membership drive.
- a lack of transparency and "truthfulness" about commitments and support by some members for BBB in the eyes of other (potential) members
- a clear focus towards "business and commercial" activities (much discussion on the membership fees)

AmCham declined participation in the launch event.

While these elements are not grounds for changing the initial plans (launch), they need to be factored as they have raised concerns with regards to our future activities.

- After informing CBBB's leadership of this apparent lack of support from local US institutions for the launch (and possible fallout from this) and requesting a position for CBBB with regards to the "opportunity of launching under these conditions", CBBB asked that we - the founding members - take a decision with regards to launching as planned or having an in-house event (ie: meetings with BBB Romanian members, 1-2 interviews with the press, and meetings with representatives of authorities - including US Embassy for clarification).

Thanks for your understanding.



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October 7th, 2005

Cindy,
We just concluded our Board meeting. This are the main points:

[...]

Razz

October 7th, 2005

“The two Foreign Service Nationals from the US Embassy that will be attending Tuesday's launch are
*****, and *****”

Cindy

Cindy *****
Commercial Attaché

NOTE: *Official participation by an embassy is projected by the participation of two Embassy officials. At the time of the BBB RO launch event, the US Embassy is without an Ambassador, making final preparations for the new Ambassador. The names of the official UE Embassy representatives forwarded by Cindy ***** have been withheld by Razz for specific reasons.*

Furthermore, this reaffirmation of participation/support for the launch had been made the day before. However, the letter on the previous page persisted.