



Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD

Comité Consultatif Economique et Industriel Auprès de l' OCDE

## PRESS RELEASE

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### OECD ANTI-BRIBERY CONVENTION:

#### **IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION BUSINESS CALLS ON GOVERNMENTS TO TACKLE BRIBE SOLICITATION**

Paris – Five years after the OECD inaugurated its Convention against Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, which criminalises bribe payments to foreign government officials, business assesses the Convention's achievements so far as positive, but only the first step.

Problems with foreign public officials soliciting payments are still widespread, especially in non-OECD countries. "Now we expect governments to get more serious and establish effective mechanisms assisting companies confronted with bribe solicitation requests," said Thomas Pletscher, Chair of the Task Force on Bribery of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC).

Today the BIAC was invited to civil society consultations conducted by the OECD to examine the effects of the Convention on business in their international operations. "The OECD business community regards corrupt business practices as detrimental to its interests and has continuously supported the OECD Convention and other anti-corruption efforts in OECD and non-OECD countries", he added.

National laws and regulations implementing the OECD Convention have significantly raised the awareness of companies, especially where they conduct business in areas of the world where corruption is still endemic. "Many businesses have stepped up their anti-corruption efforts through the development of codes of conduct and internal compliance programs", said Pletscher.

According to Mr. Pletscher, the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention has played a major role in supporting business to evolve internal codes of conduct and compliance programs targeting bribery and corruption.

*Founded in 1962, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) represents the major industry and employers' organisations in the 30 OECD member countries.*

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