



Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the **OECD**

Comité Consultatif Economique et Industriel Auprès de l' **OCDE**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

19 April 2004

### **Business Advises OECD Environment Ministers to Focus on Innovation, Cost-Effectiveness and Getting Policy Frameworks Right**

In an effort to better evaluate where governments stand in meeting objectives set down in the OECD Environmental Strategy they adopted three years ago, OECD Environment Ministers invited business representatives to join them in an array of meetings scheduled during their Ministerial summit held on April 19-20.

"Forging an active partnership with the private sector is essential to achieving sustainable development, as an engaged business community is key to making real progress," said Mr. Thierry Chambolle, Chair of the Environment Committee of the BIAC, the organisation representing business views at the OECD.

The OECD business community has pointed to three major areas where Environment Ministers should focus their efforts. First, governments must work to promote policies that foster innovation, as upgraded technology leads to a more effective use of resources and improves environmental performance. A second prerequisite is cost effectiveness to reach environmental goals, taking into account the functioning of markets. Finally, in order for business to successfully partner with governments to address environmental challenges, it is key that transparent, predictable and science-based policy frameworks be in place.

"Comprehensive, well-designed policies should allow economic growth, permit markets to allocate resources efficiently and reduce compliance costs necessary to implement them," said Mr. Chambolle. "Policies should also facilitate the spread of current and emerging technologies and broaden international co-operation. Where appropriate, systems need to be simplified to allow society to meet environmental objectives at least cost."

The business group fully outlines its views on how business and governments can work together with both OECD and non-OECD countries to meet today's environmental challenges in a paper submitted to Environment Ministers (available upon request).

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