

BIAC on the Launch of the OECD Economic Outlook: We need Private Sector-led Growth, consistent Policies and Open Markets

Paris, 29 May 2013 – BIAC made an urgent call for a more business-enabling environment at the **OECD Ministerial Council Meeting** today.

The **OECD Economic Outlook for 2013** points to an uneven recovery of the global economy and the challenges for governments to implement appropriate policies for more growth and employment.

During the **Ministers' panel discussion on "Growth and Jobs"** which followed the launch of the Economic Outlook, BIAC's newly elected Chair Phil O'Reilly urged governments to be more proactive in implementing business-enabling environments and assuring continuity in those policies to restore confidence to invest and to support a return to growth.

"The answer for a lasting return to growth evidently lies in the private sector", Phil O'Reilly said. **"There is simply no substitute for a confident, healthy, investing, innovating and growing private sector to foster the growth that underpins the stability and advancement of our societies. Governments must be more proactive in implementing business enabling policy environments."**

Drawing from the key messages identified in the **BIAC position paper: *The Case for Private Sector-led Growth and Job Creation***, senior BIAC representatives called for building an enabling business environment for investment and implementing structural reforms for longer-term growth. They reminded the OECD finance ministers that, while the OECD countries are looking for new approaches to growth and employment, important fundamentals still apply.

"We need balanced macro-economic policies and a sound financial sector for growth, supported by good governance with less, but smart and consistent regulation", Mr. O'Reilly said.

"OECD's work on Global Value Chains brings to light the costs of any protectionist measures taken by governments", former BIAC Chair Charles P. Heeter added. "We need open and competitive markets and resistance to protectionism in all its forms".

BIAC Taxation Committee Chair Will Morris emphasised the need for non-distortive taxation at levels that encourage enterprise and investment and welcomed the OECD project on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) for its potential to restore public trust in, and stability to, the international tax system.

BIAC also points to the urgency of structural reforms on labour markets and in particular against youth unemployment. “We need labour market flexibility and a skilled workforce, and a policy framework that promotes innovation to foster growth and sustainable development”, BIAC Vice Chair [Randolf Rodenstock](#) concluded at the OECD Ministerial Meeting.

Founded in 1962 as an independent organisation, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognised representative of the OECD business community. BIAC’s members are the major business organisations in the OECD member countries and a number of OECD observer countries.

For more information, contact [Maud Garnier](#), BIAC Communications Manager.