



Monthly News Bulletin

The Voice of OECD Business

May 2014

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A Word from Bernhard Welschke



Dear Colleagues and Friends of BIAC

We are looking back at a very successful BIAC General Assembly on 5 May and at the following OECD Ministerial Meeting, chaired by Japan. Phil O'Reilly, who was confirmed as BIAC Chair at the General Assembly, encouraged Ministers to pursue policies that would open markets, facilitate structural reforms, and strengthen the potential for private sector led growth.

With that encouragement, BIAC is moving fast to contribute our best knowledge to a great variety of OECD work, including the recent consultations on trade and the forthcoming Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct. The trade (and investment) agenda of the OECD is critical for a better understanding how we can all benefit from open markets for goods and services, and from cross border investment. The business community understands well that open and competitive markets call for good governance, including the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Corporate Governance Principles currently under review.

We are also looking forward to the Australian Business20 summit next month in Sidney. This will be another opportunity to present our priorities and engage in a constructive debate about ways to strengthen our economies.

Enjoy the reading.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bernhard Welschke".

Consultation with OECD National (MNE) Contact Points

On 25 June, BIAC will participate in the stakeholder consultation to share business experience with the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNE) and the National Contact Points (NCP) process in particular.

The OECD MNE Guidelines are recommendations on responsible business conduct addressed to multinational enterprises operating in or from countries that adhere to the Guidelines. National Contact Points (NCP) are set up in adhering countries with the aim to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries, and contributing to the resolution of issues that may arise in case of alleged non-observance of the guidelines in specific instances. BIAC has consistently underlined that a correct understanding of the NCP process is essential for the success of the MNE Guidelines. The NCP should be a forum for discussion and conciliation with a view to address issues in a constructive and forward-looking manner.

The consultation will be followed by a meeting of the BIAC Investment Committee, which will address issues both with regard to responsible business conduct and core investment issues.

For more information, or should you want to participate, please contact BIAC Senior Policy Manager [Hanni Rosenbaum](#).

OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct

The annual OECD [Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct](#) will take place in Paris on 26-27 June.

The Global Forum is intended to strengthen international dialogue on responsible business conduct and contribute to the effective implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs). This year's edition will take stock of the efforts in global responsible business conduct since the 2013 meeting, with a particular focus on developments in emerging economies and challenging investment environments. It will bring together high-level policy makers, business, trade unions, and civil society to discuss key challenges and opportunities regarding responsible business conduct.

Muhtar Kent, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of The Coca-Cola Company, will speak in the high-level opening panel, and will participate as a BIAC representative in the subsequent Ministerial luncheon. BIAC members will also be represented on expert panels during the Forum, including on the MNE Guidelines' grievance mechanism, and various sector-specific sessions related to the "proactive agenda" of the Guidelines.

For more information on the [Global Forum](#), please contact BIAC Senior Policy Manager [Hanni Rosenbaum](#).

BIAC and OECD Trade Committees

On 26 May, BIAC held its bi-annual trade committee meeting, where 15 participants from a wide range of countries contributed to shaping BIAC's strategic directions on trade. The meeting was followed by a strong BIAC delegation participating in a series of OECD Trade Committee meetings on 27-28 May. Members to the Committee discussed next steps for the recently released [Business Priorities on Trade](#) paper, and had an opportunity to present their work and views to the OECD Trade Committee. Among others, the Business Priorities on Trade Paper provides recommendations to OECD on trade in services, global value chains, localization barriers to trade, and the movement of business persons. BIAC will work closely with its members and OECD to explore these issues further throughout the 2014-2015 biennium.

*For more information,
please contact BIAC Policy Manager [Ali Karami-Ruiz](#)*

BIAC Workshop on Women's Entrepreneurship

BIAC is holding a workshop addressing gender equality and women's' entrepreneurship on 24 June at OECD. The workshop will address innovations supporting access to finance for women entrepreneurs, and highlight company and private sector initiatives to foster women's entrepreneurship. It will bring together business, government, women entrepreneurs and OECD to identify best practice and policy action needed to boost women as entrepreneurs also supporting gender equality more generally.

In advance of the workshop, BIAC will release a report based on its fall 2013 gender survey conducted with the support of Deloitte.

*To register,
or for more information on BIAC's gender equality projects,
please contact BIAC Senior Policy Manager [Nicole Primmer](#).*

OECD Global Forum on Extended Producer Responsibility

The OECD is organizing a Global Forum in Japan on 17-19 June to take stock of recent “extended producer responsibility” (EPR) implementation experiences and to provide a multi-stakeholder arena to discuss future draft guidance.

In many OECD countries, the concept of EPR has been an established principle of environmental policy since the middle of the 1990s. EPR is an environmental policy approach in which the responsibility of producers for their products is extended to include the social costs of waste management, including the environmental impact of waste disposal of their products. A key expected outcome of the 17-19 June discussions is a set of guiding principles for the use and design of EPRs.

Bearing in mind the number of different actors involved, including producers, retailers, distributors, producer responsibility organizations and the recycling industry, a number of challenges have to be addressed, which vary depending on the actor and different product lines. One size clearly does not fit all. BIAC will participate in the Japan meeting and will remain actively involved as future OECD guidance is being prepared.

*For more information on the Global Forum,
please visit the Forum’s [website](#)
or contact BIAC Senior Policy Manager [Hanni Rosenbaum](#).*

G20 OECD BEPS Project – Update on BIAC Engagement

OECD consultations with business on the BEPS Action Plan covered a number of key issues in May including to address hybrid mismatch arrangements, country by country reporting and transfer pricing documentation. Global outreach also continues.

In May, BIAC Tax Leadership addressed the G20 International Tax Symposium in Tokyo and a BEPS conference in Australia with the Business Council of Australia (BCA) and the Australian Tax Office (ATO). On June 2-3 June the USCIB BIAC OECD International Tax Conference in Washington, DC will address the BEPS Action Plan as well as developments related to G20 Common Reporting Standard for Automatic Exchange of Information.

*For more information,
please contact BIAC Senior Policy Manager [Nicole Primmer](#).*

China's deepening relations with the OECD

As China experiences a slowdown in growth and attempts to avert a potential credit crunch, it has become increasingly clear that a number of fundamental reforms are urgently needed to build stronger and more sustainable growth in China. In parallel, and perhaps in response to the current economic circumstances, the Chinese leadership has expressed determination to step-up economic reforms and engage more closely with the [OECD](#).

Participants at the next annual BIAC China Task Force meeting on 23-24 June in Paris will have an opportunity to discuss the OECD's contribution to the 13th Five Year Plan, the next OECD Economic Survey of China, and several other OECD-China activities in the pipeline.

*For more information,
please contact BIAC Policy Manager [Jonny Greenhill](#).*

The OECD's role in the Post-2015 development agenda

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are set to expire in 2015, the United Nations is leading intergovernmental discussions on the "Post-2015" development agenda and targets. The OECD, a [pioneer](#) in shaping the original MDGs, is contributing its expertise to the [Post-2015 discussions](#) – for example, through its renowned analysis of aid effectiveness, structural reforms for sustainable and inclusive growth, statistics and measurement, as well as multi-stakeholder dialogue in the [Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation](#).

Participants at the next BIAC Development Task Force meeting on 27 June in Paris will learn more about the unique contributions of the OECD to the Post-2015 development agenda and opportunities to provide business inputs.

*For more information,
please contact BIAC Policy Manager [Jonny Greenhill](#).*

June Spotlight Dates

2-3 June	9 th Global Tax Conference (Washington, D.C.)
17-18 June	<i>Measuring Regulatory Performance</i> Stakeholder Meeting
18 June	BIAC Food & Agriculture Committee (Paris)
18 June	OECD CERI Symposium “Teachers as Learning Specialists – Implications for Teachers’ Pedagogical Knowledge and Professionalism” (Brussels)
17-19 June	OECD Global Forum on Extended Producer Responsibility (Tokyo)
23 June	BIAC Consultation with OECD Health Committee (Paris)
23-24 June	BIAC China Task Force and Consultation with OECD Reflection Group on China (Paris)
24 June	BIAC Women Entrepreneurship Workshop (Paris)
25-26 June	OECD/Japan Seminar “How to Best Shape Teacher Policies? Policy lessons from international comparisons and guidance for education and schools in the future” (Tokyo)
26-27 June	Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct (Paris)
27 June	BIAC Development Task Force (Paris)

More information on BIAC meetings and events is available on the [BIAC website](#).

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 in a number of associated countries.