BIAC General Assembly elects New Zealander Phil O’Reilly as new Chair

Paris, 27 May 2013 – On the occasion of its 51st meeting, BIAC’s General Assembly elected Phil O’Reilly as its new Chair.

Phil O’Reilly is Chief Executive of BusinessNZ, New Zealand’s largest business advocacy group, and BIAC Vice Chair since 2010. He is New Zealand’s employer delegate to the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

“It’s an honour and a challenge to serve BIAC, whose advocacy was vital for growth and employment internationally”, Mr. O’Reilly said. “The global business community appreciates the growing role the OECD is playing and BIAC will continue to support the OECD in fulfilling its mission: to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living, and to contribute to sound economic expansion and to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis.”

During the BIAC General Assembly, OECD Deputy Secretary-General PierCarlo Padoan presented the OECD’s New Approaches to Economic Challenges, a milestone-setting project in the Organisation’s economic thinking.

“We are open for this discussion”, Phil O’Reilly said, “and we are confident that it can lead to a better grasp of what the private sector needs to come back to sustainable and inclusive growth”.

OECD Secretary-General Ángel Gurría seized this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of BIAC’s outgoing Chair Charles P. Heeter. “We look forward to strengthening our cooperation, Mr. Gurría said, and to working closely with the new leadership at BIAC to address the major challenges we are facing today and in the future.”

Mr. O’Reilly has been a member of the Board of BIAC for three years. He will continue in his role as Chief Executive of BusinessNZ in addition to serving as BIAC Chair.

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.