2017 ANNUAL REPORT
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About Us
LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

Welcome — A note from Phil O’Reilly and Bernhard Welschke

“Do we benefit from globalization, or are we at risk of being left behind?” This and related questions took center stage in public debates this year all over the globe. Responding to an increasingly critical perception of international markets and trade the OECD convened governments and stakeholders at the annual meeting of OECD Ministers this year in June. Business at OECD (BIAC) expressed the views of its global membership on how to ensure the obvious benefits of international economic cooperation and development can be better shared and understood. We commend the leadership of the Danish government, and in particular our Danish members DI and DA for their stewardship in this debate.

Three takeaways emerge from our ongoing consultations with the OECD and governments throughout the year. First, and more than ever, sound and rigorous analysis based on facts and credible evidence remains critical for governments to make policy choices in the age of globalization. This is the call for the OECD, and also for private sector involvement through BIAC, based on our formal mandate and invitation of the OECD Council to share expertise from those who produce and compete in markets. Second, OECD work on the growth potential and the productivity of our economies is of great value for governments and businesses alike. We need to better understand how open economies go hand in hand with measures to prepare people for change. And third, communication on the benefits of globalization must be improved. OECD work can add great substance to the debate, including new and very pertinent work on the digital transformation of our economies. A good understanding what business needs to unfold its innovative potential for the benefit of people and our economies should be a priority in this process.

For Business at OECD, open economies, competitiveness, and participation are the guiding thoughts in the ongoing discourse on more inclusive economies. Measures to encourage growth, new jobs, and the participation of a skilled workforce are essential for productive societies and prosperity. In these efforts, a favorable environment for business and entrepreneurship is fundamental.

This report will give you an account of our consultations with governments throughout the year. We greatly appreciate the contribution of our members and their companies to inform OECD policymaking.
LEADERSHIP MESSAGES - CONTINUED

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The voice of Business at OECD (BIAC) is crucial in our efforts to make globalization work for all. The inputs and views of those who help create jobs and innovate is vital in developing policies that equip our people with better skills and opportunities for economic participation. This was particularly clear in our B20 and G20 collaboration, where we increased business-to-government dialogue to improve global governance. Going forward, we rely on BIAC’s expert advice on how policies affect entrepreneurs and companies of all sizes.

When Denmark as Chair of this year’s Ministerial Council Meeting chose "Making Globalization Work: Better Lives for All" as theme for the meeting it was clear that the view of international business played an important role. Through BIAC’s participation and interventions at the MCM, government participants received significant inputs regarding necessary domestic responses to the challenges of globalization - both economically and politically.
POLICY ACTIVITIES

ECONOMIC POLICY AND REGULATION

Economic Policy, Finance, and Entrepreneurship

The Policy Context:

The OECD, with its widely known annual Economic Outlook, remains an authoritative source of advice for governments and business on international economic matters. With global growth showing signs of modest improvement in 2017, the OECD has started new analysis on boosting the participation of individuals, regions, and small businesses in the global economy. Businesses have a significant opportunity to support this work through BIAC and share their expertise with OECD leadership and governments.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- The BIAC Economic Policy Committee released its annual Business Climate Survey in June 2017, providing business insights on the conditions for private investment. The survey results were reflected in the 2017 OECD Economic Outlook.

- The BIAC Finance Task Force published a paper on FinTech in June 2017 following engagement with the OECD Committee on Financial Markets. The paper calls for government actions to support innovation in financial services.

- On a regular basis, BIAC participates in the OECD Economic Policy Committee, providing business input on macroeconomic and structural policy analysis, and opportunities for discussion with top economic policymakers from OECD and observer countries.

- In March 2017, BIAC hosted a delegation of insurers who exchanged views with OECD on the challenges the sector faces and how the OECD can help.

- In April 2017, BIAC held a webinar with OECD Chief Economist Catherine Mann. This dialogue allowed businesses to contribute their perspectives on the global economy.

Outlook

- Through participation in OECD initiatives such as the upcoming Global Forum on Productivity in January 2018, BIAC will contribute business perspectives on key policy issues currently under scrutiny at the OECD and national levels.

- BIAC works with members to provide business insights on ‘inclusive growth’, a current key theme for the OECD, that promote competitive markets as a significant driver of prosperity.

- BIAC will contribute to the OECD Ministerial Meeting on SMEs in Mexico in February 2018.

- As a priority, the BIAC Finance Task Force continues working on infrastructure investment, SME financing, and FinTech.
Competition

The Policy Context:

OECD work on competition policy provides senior regulators and business experts with advice on monopolization, cartels, mergers, and other issues of immediate relevance for business. The consultations on competition offer business representatives a platform to engage on best regulatory practices and the application of antitrust procedures.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

Through its collaboration with OECD governments, the BIAC Competition Committee participated in the OECD Global Forum on Competition in December 2016 in Paris, providing perspectives on the interplay of competition and human rights as well as sanctions in antitrust cases.

In June 2017, Business at OECD participated in a dialogue with national competition authorities to inform hearings on a number of relevant topics including radical innovation in the energy sector and enforcement tools in multi-sided markets. Business further contributed submissions on competition in aftermarkets, market studies and how to reduce the burden on market participants as well as on algorithms and collusion.

Outlook

The BIAC Competition Committee will be engaged in the forthcoming OECD Global Forum on Competition in December 2017.
Public Governance

The Policy Context:
Governments and business consult on a regular basis to develop guidance for sound regulatory practices in public policymaking. The biannual OECD flagship publication Regulatory Policy Outlook calls for appropriate stakeholder engagement and ex-post evaluations of policies across borders. BIAC advises work in this field to deliver guidance on the benefits of adopting evidence-based policy making and reducing red tape through more measured regulation and better regulatory coordination.

In June 2017, ministers and high-level government representatives from over 70 countries signed up to the new Multilateral Tax Instrument (MLI) at the OECD.

Following the OECD agenda on regulatory policy, BIAC contributed to the recent OECD Forum on Innovation Procurement to highlight the hurdles SMEs face when participating in public tendering, and recommendations to overcome these barriers.

In April 2017, the BIAC Governance Committee called for further OECD work on regulatory simplification and effectiveness through evidence-based policy making. As part of this agenda, business contributed input to the OECD Enforcement and Inspection Toolkit, the draft Questionnaire on Regulatory Oversight Bodies and Best Practice Principles on Stakeholder Engagement in Regulatory Policy.

In June 2017, our Portuguese member CIP participated in the OECD conference Measuring Regulatory Performance in Lisbon, highlighting the need for stakeholder engagement in evaluation processes.

Outlook

BIAC, in collaboration with the International Federation of Accountants, is conducting an international survey on the cost of regulatory fragmentation for businesses, and in particular for the financial services industry.
**Taxation**

**Tax**

The Policy Context:

Tax certainty and pro-growth tax policies are pillars for open and competitive markets. The G20-mandated OECD project on *Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)* advanced international tax rules to address emerging global business models, engaging over 100 countries through the *BEPS Inclusive Framework*. In June 2017, over 70 countries signed up to the new *Multilateral Tax Instrument (MLI)* at the OECD. Our engagement gives members access to all levels of consultation with the OECD Secretariat and Committee on Fiscal Affairs bodies, its member governments, and representation at OECD tax-related meetings worldwide, including the G20/B20.

**Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities**

- BIAC brokered private sector engagement in the *G20/OECD business survey on Tax Certainty*, which resulted in a recent OECD report showing the importance of predictable tax policy for investment.

- BIAC leads business delegations on the implementation of BEPS recommendations concerning country by country reporting, and provides input to OECD work on profit splits, the attribution of profits to permanent establishments, hard-to-value intangibles, and transfer pricing for financial transactions, among others.

- BIAC organized conferences on international tax with BIAC member USCIB in Washington, D.C. in May 2017, and with BusinessEurope and ICC in Munich in June 2017.

- In January 2017, as part of outreach efforts to non-OECD countries, BIAC Tax Committee leadership met with Chinese tax officials in Beijing on issues related to BEPS implementation.

- In April 2017, BIAC participated in the OECD Global Forum on Value Added Tax, addressing emerging issues relating to digital platforms.

- In June 2017, BIAC participated in the Third Meeting of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS in the Netherlands. We also participated in the Inclusive Framework regional meetings held in Montevideo, Manila, Georgia, and Benin.

**Outlook**

- The BIAC Tax Committee will exchange with OECD and governments on efforts to mitigate tax uncertainty, ensure effective implementation of the BEPS recommendations, and promote best practices for engaging with tax authorities in developing countries through OECD initiatives.

- The BIAC Tax Committee will lead discussions with OECD relating to new areas in taxation and the digital economy.
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- BIAC released *Trade as a Priority for All*, a policy publication that identifies the most relevant trade barriers and protectionist measures impacting the global business community, and sets priorities for OECD work that can help keep markets open.

- The BIAC Trade Committee convened twice in Paris and exchanged with OECD and governments expert input on policy issues that affect business operations in markets, including the movement of business persons, services trade, and cross-border data flow restrictions, among others.

- In the context of accession to the OECD, BIAC conveys global business concerns to OECD and governments on trade openness issues our global membership faces including recent discussions in Colombia on market access. BIAC provides recommendations on ways to address these hurdles as a way to promote market predictability and to ensure adherence to international standards.

- Following its engagement with governments, BIAC members participated in the annual OECD Global Forum on Trade, which brought together over 130 trade policymakers and discussed ways to keep trade rules in pace with new business models.

- In April 2017, BIAC national member federations, including MEDEF, ibec, and the BDI spoke at the OECD Trade Communications Conference, highlighting the need for OECD to develop materials that communicate the role of trade and open markets more effectively to both governments and public audiences.

- The BIAC Export Credits Task Force participated in the annual OECD consultation with civil society organizations, providing governments with expert input on sustainable lending, local costs and content, and other business perspectives related to implementation of export credit agreements and sector understanding projects carried out by the OECD.

- In April 2017, the BIAC Raw Materials Task Force met in Paris to discuss latest policy issues affecting raw materials, including steel excess capacity, and exchanged business views with OECD experts.

- At the B20 Summit in May 2017, BIAC Chair Phil O’Reilly stressed the need to better communicate on trade in a high-level panel with WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo and global business leaders.

- At the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on June 7, BIAC Chair Phil O’Reilly called on Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs to support economic openness while implementing domestic policies to prepare people for change with better skills. BIAC Secretary General Bernhard Welschke encouraged Ministers of Trade to not focus exclusively on protecting jobs but focusing instead on measures that enable workers to move in more flexible labor markets.

Trade

The Policy Context:

For years now, OECD work has produced cutting-edge facts and evidence on trade policy for business and governments. At a time where protectionist rhetoric and policies increasingly challenge global trade, business works to better inform and disseminate OECD research on global value chains, trade in value-added, and the flow of services. As a forum where governments come together to develop best practice for trade policy, the OECD is in a unique position to give guidance to policymakers to keep markets open, and can also help inform the public in this critical debate.
Outlook

- BIAC will work closely with the OECD and governments to advance work on trade priorities defined in the publication Trade as a Priority for All, including on digital and digitally-enabled trade, goods and services trade, policy coherence and non-tariff barriers.

- The BIAC Trade Committee will deepen discussions on business priorities for open markets and trade with OECD and governments, including practices in accession countries.

- The BIAC engagement with the OECD Steel Committee and other cross-disciplinary work affecting raw materials industries will continue.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contribution and activities

- Already in 2016, BIAC participated in OECD discussions on good practices in investment promotion and facilitation. Business emphasized the importance of making it easier for investors to establish, operate, and expand their existing investments and maximize their contribution to development.

- In March 2017, at the OECD Global Forum on International Investment, BIAC leadership called for an open and predictable investment environment, effective implementation of the Policy Framework for Investment and fact-based analysis as a basis for making a strong case for open markets.

- BIAC members spoke at the March 2017 OECD Conference on International Investment Treaties, underlining the importance of investment protection as part of bilateral and regional investment agreements, including efficient enforcement mechanisms for investors. BIAC also submitted comments on the OECD report concerning societal benefits and costs of investor protection in international investment agreements.

- As state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are increasingly investing globally, experts from the BIAC Investment Committee contributed to discussions at the OECD on SOEs, and urged governments to address distortions and ensure a level playing field for foreign direct investments.

Investment

The Policy Context:

The OECD Freedom of Investment Roundtable provides governments and businesses with an opportunity to monitor and address investment barriers. The updated OECD Policy Framework for Investment offers a comprehensive set of tools to improve investment conditions in both OECD and non-OECD countries that businesses can use with governments. These important instruments are major benchmarks to keep markets open and to better understand the costs of protectionism.
Corporate governance

The Policy Context:

Good corporate governance is fundamental for effective risk management, compliance, and the success of business. The OECD/G20 Corporate Governance Principles are widely recognized as a key international reference and form the basis of countless codes of corporate governance around the world. They are also one of the key standards of the Financial Stability Board. OECD work on the governance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) offers important guidance in the fight against unfair competition.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- BIAC provided recommendations aimed to contribute to the Financial Stability Board’s peer review of financial institutions and inform future OECD work. BIAC also participated in a special roundtable on corporate control and contributed to discussions on the new landscape of corporate ownership, characterized by the increasing importance of institutional investors.

- As part of the OECD work program on SOEs, the BIAC Corporate Governance Committee participated in OECD roundtables related to the OECD project on SOEs as global competitors and called for effective implementation of the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of SOEs.

- In March 2017, BIAC provided recommendations aimed to contribute to the Financial Stability Board’s peer review of financial institutions and inform future OECD work. BIAC also participated in a special roundtable on corporate control and contributed to discussions on the new landscape of corporate ownership, characterized by the increasing importance of institutional investors.

Outlook

- BIAC supports the effective implementation of the OECD/G20 Corporate Governance Principles and will contribute to the thematic peer reviews.

- BIAC will contribute to future work on a transparency checklist for SOEs operating abroad, and support further outreach for the OECD Guidelines for the Corporate Governance of SOEs.
Responsible Business Conduct

The Policy Context:

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are the only multilaterally agreed responsible business conduct (RBC) instrument that adhering governments have committed to promoting globally. The Guidelines directly impact business as they include a unique grievance mechanism to resolve disagreements that may arise in specific cases over their implementation. Business currently engages in the development of an OECD due diligence guidance to ensure that this work will lead to practical results.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- Marking the 40th anniversary of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, BIAC spoke at a series of conferences, including in Budapest and in Paris. Business representatives outlined the requirements for an effective implementation of the Guidelines, in light of increasingly complex global supply chains.

- Delivering on its RBC action plans, BIAC contributed extensive comments on the forthcoming OECD due diligence guidance, which is expected to become an important reference document for policy makers globally. Business stressed that the aim must be to provide practical and realistic guidance, taking into account the need for some room to develop individual due diligence approaches on the company level.

- In February 2017, business experts participated in a high-level OECD roundtable on due diligence in the garment and footwear sector. The meeting marked the launch of the OECD due diligence guidance for responsible supply chains in the garments and footwear sector.

- In June 2017, Business at OECD organized a high-level roundtable bringing together leading experts from close to 40 companies to exchange their experience with the NCP system. On the basis of the discussions, a paper was developed including concrete recommendations for the conditions that need to be in place to facilitate the involvement of business in the system.

- In June 2017, Business at OECD featured a number of senior business speakers at the annual OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct. Business also participated in the high-level roundtable for policy makers, calling for policy coherence in the context of National Action Plans and offered comments on the link between economic diplomacy and responsible business conduct.

Outlook

- BIAC will actively contribute to the ongoing discussions on the development of the OECD due diligence guidance to ensure that it reflects key business considerations and challenges in the context of increasingly complex global supply chains.

- BIAC will work towards a shared and better understanding of the grievance mechanisms of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which should be understood as a platform for mediation and not as a place to launch campaigns against individual companies. Improvements in the quality of NCP work are therefore a priority for BIAC.
Anti-corruption

The Policy Context:
Corruption is a major threat to economic and social development around the world. The OECD Anti-Corruption Convention is a valuable and binding instrument for governments and business to fight corruption in domestic and foreign markets. Business supports its effective implementation and additional adherence, and provides OECD and governments with tangible recommendations on further action and public-private cooperation to create a corruption-free environment.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities
- Following the mandates of the OECD Anti-Bribery Meeting of Ministers, the BIAC Anti-Corruption Task Force contributed concrete proposals at the OECD Working Group on Bribery in the areas of voluntary self-disclosure, collective action, and addressing the demand side of bribery.
- As part of its agenda on anti-corruption, BIAC contributed to an OECD consultation on corporate liability for foreign bribery, the results of which were presented during a special roundtable on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December.
- In January 2017, Business at OECD joined the G20/OECD High-Level Anti-Corruption Conference in Berlin to provide the business perspective on the G20 anti-corruption agenda. The event took place back-to-back with the B20 conference addressing responsible business conduct and anti-corruption in infrastructure development.
- BIAC was appointed Network Partner to the B20 working group on anti-corruption and responsible business conduct. Business actively contributed to the development of the B20 report and helped shape the recommendations in the areas of beneficial ownership transparency, recognizing compliance efforts, and responsible business conduct in infrastructure projects.
- In March 2017, BIAC was represented with speakers and participants at the annual OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum to share views on how business and governments can work together to promote integrity, enhance trust, and create a level playing field for business.

Outlook
- BIAC works towards the effective implementation of the OECD Convention and encourage additional adherence to create a level playing field.
- BIAC calls for the OECD to work on the demand side of bribery, and create new opportunities for responsible business conduct, including business efforts in the areas of compliance and self-disclosure.

BIAC Anti-Corruption Task Force Chair Klaus Moosmayer (center) and Vice Chair Corinne Lagache (right) speaking on a panel with Ana Novik, Head of the Investment Division, OECD.
INNOVATION AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Business at OECD (BIAC) contribution and activities

- The OECD Council Recommendation on Health Data Governance was published in 2017, reflecting business input from the BIAC Digital Economy Policy Committee and the BIAC Health Committee.

- In March 2017, BIAC held a joint conference with our United States member USCIB and the OECD addressing the role of international cooperation in fostering the digital transformation.

- BIAC was appointed Network Partner to the German B20 Task Force on Digitalization, and led a joint workshop with the OECD and B20 in March 2017 addressing digital transformation in the G20 and key issues related to measurement.

- In June 2017, BIAC actively contributed to a workshop and meetings of the ‘Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy’ to elaborate how digital technologies impact business models and its implications for innovation policy. Earlier, our members participated in the OECD Global Science Forum, discussing the research infrastructure and digitalization of science.

Biotechnology


Nanotechnology

- In May 2017, the BIAC Nanotechnology Expert Group provided industry views to the Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials. Our expert group contributed extensive comments on Test Guidelines related to nanomaterials.

Outlook

- BIAC will work with its members through the newly established BIAC Steering Group on Digital to coordinate cross-committee engagement into OECD work in this field. This group will leverage business expertise to address relevant issues such as taxation, competition, trade, finance, employment and education.

- As key priorities, BIAC will engage business experts on upcoming OECD conferences addressing digital and technology issues including artificial intelligence, data governance, and measurement of the digital economy.

Innovation and the Digital Economy

The Policy Context:

The OECD has started an ambitious project, Going Digital, to establish more robust data and policy coordination to maximize the benefits coming from the digital transformation of our economies. OECD invites both the BIAC Committee on Digital Policy (CDEP) and the Innovation and Technology Committee to contribute expertise on cutting-edge technologies and necessary policy frameworks, with the view to ensure that governments implement pro-innovation policies. Business is further involved in substantive, project-based dialogue on Nanotechnology and Biotechnology through its own expert groups.
The Policy Context:
Following a meeting of OECD Agriculture Ministers in 2016, the OECD is conducting new work on innovation and productivity, sustainability, and nutrition. As governments seek to implement the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the OECD is an increasingly influential source of policy advice to support the private sector’s role in delivering food and water security. Businesses have a major opportunity to work with the OECD and governments in identifying positive policy solutions to improve nutritional outcomes.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contribution and activities
- Following the OECD's work on water policy, BIAC members participated in an OECD workshop hosted in the Netherlands on the Future Water Risk Hotspots for Agriculture.
- In May 2017, BIAC members spoke at the inaugural OECD Roundtable on Financing Water.
- In May 2017, the BIAC Food and Agriculture Committee exchanged views with the OECD Deputy Secretary General Mari Kiviniemi on the need to support innovation and productivity growth in the food and agriculture sectors and to have a balanced approach to nutrition issues. Committee members also participated in the OECD Global Forum on Agriculture which focused on managing food risk in South East Asia.
- The BIAC Expert Group on Water contributed to the development of an OECD Council Recommendation on Water and to new work on managing the human impact of the nitrogen cycle.

Outlook
- The BIAC Food and Agriculture Committee will produce a new paper on agriculture policy priorities, in collaboration with the BIAC Trade Committee. It will also contribute expert input on productivity and innovation across the agri-food chain and set out new policy advice on supporting good nutritional outcomes.
- Building and sustaining BIAC input into the OECD Fisheries Committee will be taken forward in partnership with BIAC’s Chilean member, the Confederation for Production and Commerce of Chile (CPC).
Environment, Energy, and Chemicals

The Policy Context:

In light of global environmental challenges, the OECD helps identify policies that are both economically efficient and environmentally effective. It provides fact-based input to global climate discussions and the G20. Its work on chemicals helps avoid duplicative data requirements and saves costs for business and governments.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities:

- Following up on the Paris Climate Agreement, BIAC, in cooperation with the Major Economies Business Forum, organized a conference at the OECD to share best practice on how to enhance business engagement in the national pledges and the Paris climate agreement. This was a first contribution from business following the OECD Environment Ministerial held that month.

- On the occasion of COP 22, BIAC joined other business organizations in endorsing the Marrakech Declaration, underlining the private sector’s commitments to assist governments in the implementation of their commitments provided for in the Paris Agreement.

- BIAC contributed to the OECD/G20 project on growth, investment and the low-carbon transition, and joined the high-level conference in Berlin in May 2017.

- The BIAC Environment and Energy Committee contributed to the bi-annual OECD Global Forum on Climate Change, enhancing the understanding of politically important technical issues in the international climate change negotiations.

- In the area of resource productivity, BIAC contributed to work on the circular economy, extended producer responsibility, and waste management policies in specific countries.

- The BIAC Chemicals Committee contributed its expertise to avoid duplicative data requirements and harmonize testing and assessment approaches. Business also contributed to the discussions on the revision of several OECD Council instruments, which form the basis of the OECD environment, health and safety program.

Outlook:

- BIAC will continue to offer its support for addressing climate change and other global environmental challenges, seeking for an active role of business in the discussions and supporting sound economic analysis and policy coherence.

- BIAC will continue to offer technical expertise and strategic guidance to the development of policies and instruments for chemical testing and assessment to provide a framework for sharing the burden and enhance consistency.
Health and Well-Being

The Policy Context:

OECD work on health identifies policy options to improve health systems in OECD countries and to reduce risk factors for chronic diseases given their economic and social costs. Early this year, OECD Health Ministers met in Paris and tasked the organization to develop the new Patient-Reported Indicators Survey (PaRIS) initiative, establish and implement a national health data governance framework, and assess the impact of new technologies on health spending and waste reduction. Our work on health encourages OECD and governments to consider health policies as an investment for productive economies rather than focusing only on cost-containment efforts, and to encourage multi-stakeholder approaches to address major health challenges such as obesity.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- Addressing Ministers at the OECD Health Ministerial in January 2017, BIAC released its Vision and Priorities for the Future of Health, a policy publication that identifies actionable recommendations for OECD that recognize the links between health and productivity policies.

- As part of the OECD public health agenda, BIAC participated in the OECD expert group on the Economics of Prevention, presenting business views on product reformulation as part of a wider set of industry initiatives to address obesity and improve nutrition.

- BIAC contributed to the biannual meetings of the OECD Health Committee, stressing its role as a solutions partner and addressing governments on expert topics including mental health, anti-microbial resistance, the health workforce, obesity, nutrition, and physical activity.

- BIAC engaged in a series of consultations with OECD on a project on the sustainability of pharmaceutical spending, and highlighted the need for robust evidence, involvement of trade, science, and innovation experts in this work, and an evaluation of the economic benefits of pharmaceutical innovation to society.

- In January 2017, BIAC participated in the high-level OECD Policy Forum on the Future of Health - People at the Centre, and discussed actionable ways to integrate a people-centered approach into health systems.

- In February 2017, BIAC spoke at an OECD Workshop on Measuring the Business Contribution to Improve Well-being, taking stock of what is needed to scale up business initiatives on workplace wellness and evaluate ways to increase public-private collaboration.

- In March 2017, BIAC co-hosted a workshop of the B20 Health Initiative as network partner at the OECD at the OECD Conference Center in Paris.

- In May 2017, BIAC, acting as network partner to the B20 Health Initiative, moderated a high-level
In October 2017, BIAC hosted its 2nd Forum on Health, Growth and Productivity, bringing together business executives, governments, OECD leadership and Ambassadors, to discuss how the private sector can promote and contribute to a healthier society and sustained economic growth.

Outlook

- BIAC will engage with the OECD on its public health agenda focusing on the industry and multi-stakeholder contributions to improve people-based approaches to prevention and reduction of risk factors for chronic diseases.

- BIAC will provide feedback to the OECD project on Sustainable Access to Innovative Therapies, to ensure pro-innovation policies can contribute to better access and the sustainability of healthcare systems.
The Policy Context:
The revision of the OECD Jobs Strategy provides governments with analysis to develop policy recommendations for employment and social policies that support job creation, labor market participation and growth enabling the participation of people. BIAC members are at the OECD table to voice their experience on how employers are investing in their workforce and applying new technologies to extend training, enhance productivity, and employability.

Education

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- As part of its work on gender, BIAC organized its third workshop on Gender Equality addressing education and skills with a focus on STEM and the Information Technology sector.

- Following up our partnership with the Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN), BIAC Secretary General Bernhard Welschke attended a high-level meeting of the GAN together with the US Secretary of Labor in Washington, DC.

- In May 2017, BIAC leadership participated to the G20 Labor Ministers meeting in Bad Neuenahr, where we delivered the joint B20-L20 Statement to G20 Ministers addressing Sustainable Growth, Decent Work and Social Cohesion in the Digital economy.

- The BIAC Employment, Labor, and Social Affairs Committee provided cross business perspectives on collective bargaining systems across OECD countries.

- In April 2017, BIAC education experts participated in meetings of the OECD Education Policy Committee and expert meetings on higher education.

- Throughout the year, BIAC actively contributed to the B20 Task Force on Employment and Education, and to the annual monitoring report of G20 recommendations together with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE).

Outlook

- BIAC will contribute expert input to the revision of the OECD Jobs Strategy.

- As priorities, the BIAC Education and Employment Committees will focus on the skills needs for the future of work, with emphasis on the digital economy through joint work with business experts on digital policy.

- BIAC will deliver its report on Gender Equality and Skills in support of the OECD Council Recommendation on Gender Equality.
EMERGING ECONOMIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Development

The Policy Context:

As global governments seek to implement the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the OECD has prioritized three focus areas: financing development, policy effectiveness, and building partnerships. Business has a key role in working with the OECD on developing best practice on development cooperation and providing expertise on mobilizing private sector finance for development.

Business at OECD (BIAC) contributions and activities

- Continuing its engagement with the OECD, the BIAC Development Committee participated in the High-Level Meeting of the OECD Development Assistance Committee where participants agreed on measures to modernize the monitoring of aid flows and reform to the OECD’s internal structures.

- BIAC members participated in regional business fora on development, including the OECD Eurasia Business Forum in Kazakhstan, and the 2nd High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Nairobi.

- In June 2017, the BIAC China Task Force convened a meeting with the OECD Informal Reflection Group on China. It shared expert advice on China’s economic growth performance and potential, including the current business climate for firms operating in China.

- In August 2017, BIAC Chair Phil O’Reilly participated in the 3rd Business Network Meeting of the OECD South East Asia Regional Programme in Bangkok, Thailand.

Outlook


- The BIAC Development Committee will provide expert input to OECD work on development financing and policy effectiveness, including convening a Business Forum on Development in November 2017.

- The BIAC China Task Force will continue supporting the OECD’s work with China. This will likely include hosting the OECD leadership for a private roundtable in China in connection with the China Development Forum, and building towards the 2018 meeting of the OECD Informal Reflection Group on China.
POLICY GROUPS AND CHAIRS

**Economic Policy and Regulation**

COMPETITION COMMITTEE
Lynda Martin-Alegi
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
Stephan Mumenthaler
FINANCE TASK FORCE
Kent Andrews
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Jens Hedström

**Taxation**

TAXATION & FISCAL POLICY COMMITTEE
William Morris

**Innovation and Technology**

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Richard A. Johnson
BIOTECHNOLOGY EXPERT GROUP
Lisa W. Zannoni
NANOTECHNOLOGY EXPERT GROUP
Karin Wiench
DIGITAL ECONOMY POLICY COMMITTEE (CDEP)
Vacant
SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES TASK FORCE
François Hurel

**Corporate Governance, Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-corruption**

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Dan Konigsburg
ANTI-BRIBERY & CORRUPTION TASK FORCE
Klaus Moosmayer
CONTACT GROUP ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT
Winand L.E. Quaedvlieg

**Trade and Investment**

TRADE COMMITTEE
Clifford Sosnow
EXPORT CREDITS TASK FORCE
Steven W. Howlett
RAW MATERIALS TASK FORCE
Pierre Gratton
INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT & RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT COMMITTEE
Winand L.E. Quaedvlieg

**Employment, Skills and Education**

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Charles Fadel
EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Renate Hornung-Draus
CONSUMER POLICY TASK FORCE
William McLeod
PRIVATE PENSIONS TASK FORCE
Hans Gidhagen

**Health and Well-Being**

HEALTH COMMITTEE
Nicole Denjoy

**Emerging Economies and Development**

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
David Croft
CHINA TASK FORCE
Joerg Wuttke

**Energy, Environment and Agriculture**

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMITTEE
Russel Mills
FOOD & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
Metin Akman
WATER EXPERT GROUP
Jack Moss
CHEMICALS COMMITTEE
Jay West
HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS

As the only officially recognized business body of the OECD, we hold annual consultations with 35 OECD Ambassadors and OECD leadership at the outset of the year, to provide guidance on where the global business community sees priorities for the Organization’s future work with its governments and global governance.

Led by BIAC Chair Phil O’Reilly and Secretary General Bernhard Welschke, business leaders presented the main recommendations from our 2017 Statement to Ambassadors “A World Open for Trade, Investment and Innovation”. The exchange centered on defending and communicating the benefits of open markets, showcasing commitment to responsible business conduct, and exploring opportunities linked to the digital transformation. OECD Secretary General Gurría also called on business and governments to engage more actively and concretely to address globalization challenges, where trust has been eroded and populism prevails.

Business at OECD builds on these recommendations and liaises with its global membership to prepare the next annual meeting with OECD ambassadors and leadership in early 2018.

ANNUAL MEETING WITH OECD AMBASSADORS AND SECRETARY GENERAL

Having 35 countries around the table gives us a unique opportunity to put our business priorities high on the agenda and ensure governments can support it through the work OECD does in global governance.

“Dominique Mockly
Chief Executive Officer, TIGF SA
Vice Chair, BIAC Executive Board

BIAC Secretary General
Bernhard Welschke addresses OECD Ambassadors and Secretary General.
2017 MEETING OF OECD MINISTERS AND THE OECD FORUM

Each year, ministers of trade, finance, and the economy from OECD countries gather in Paris to define approaches to international economic standard-setting and decide on the OECD’s strategic work with governments. This meeting takes place back-to-back with the OECD Forum, which facilitates policy discussions among different stakeholders.

Working closely with rotating presidencies of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM), BIAC contributes business expertise to this annual meeting, and has a full seat at the table with ministers from the 35 OECD member countries. In 2017, Denmark chaired the Ministerial exploring the theme Making Globalization Work: Better lives for all.

As part of our contribution to this Ministerial, we presented five core recommendations for open economies and inclusive societies in our 2017 BIAC Statement to Ministers. Addressing Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs, BIAC Chair Phil O’Reilly called on governments to address the twin challenge of strengthening growth and boosting economic participation. He also highlighted that societies can only support economic openness when it is accompanied by appropriate domestic policies to prepare people for change, strengthen competitiveness, with better skills and more opportunities for economic participation. Addressing Trade Ministers in a session discussing the increasingly critical public perception of open markets, BIAC Secretary General Bernhard Welschke encouraged governments to better address an increasing anti-trade rhetoric in OECD countries, and highlighted that both business and trade unions have a responsibility to communicate in a fair, balanced, and responsible manner.

The 2017 OECD Forum was held under the theme Bridging Divides, and explored how to regain confidence among those who feel excluded from the benefits of a globalized and digital economy. BIAC appointed senior business representatives into the Forum, who exchanged with other high-level speakers addressing views on fintech, responsible business conduct, and the future of work.

In 2018, BIAC will work closely with the OECD Ministerial Council presidency, giving an opportunity to our business leaders to exchange with government ministers on how to jointly address global governance challenges.

Business at OECD gives unparalleled access to ministers from OECD and key partner countries to discuss concrete ways in which the public and private sector can collaborate to achieve economic openness underpinned by the participation of people in our economies. These conversations do have a local impact which business federations can fully leverage at home.

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Jacob Holbraad
Director General,
Danish Employers’ Confederation (DA)
Health ministers and the OECD resolved to put the patient at the center of health policies. Business at OECD strongly supports these efforts as they will not only add more years to life, but also add life to years. We provided a vision and specific recommendations for OECD work to develop work that recognizes and encourages the links between health and economic productivity and growth.

Nicole Denjoy
Secretary General, COCIR
Chair, BIAC Health Committee
Leaders of the world’s 20 major economies meet annually to address global economic challenges. The B20 informs global policymaking in the G20 through consolidated representation of business views, concrete policy proposals, and expertise. As G20 mandates the OECD to fulfill several mandates, Business at OECD provides continuous support to the B20 and the OECD across rotating presidencies.

In 2017, BIAC helped shape the agenda of the German B20 Presidency, held by our German members BDI and BDA, and the DIHK, by actively participating in all B20 taskforces and contributing to the development of positions across themes. Further, we were appointed network partner to three B20 groups: the Digitalization taskforce, the Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-Corruption cross-thematic group, and the Health Initiative.

We also organized our 3rd Annual High-Level BIAC-OECD-B20 Joint Session on March 22, strengthening the German B20 dialogue with guidance from Business at OECD, and advocating business recommendations to selected G20 Sherpas. The conference featured meetings of the B20 task forces, and workshops on health, the digital economy and SME financing. It also convened a high-level B20 Germany Plenary with speakers and attendees from business leadership, selected Sherpas and senior government officials from G20 economies, the OECD Secretary General, Ambassadors, and representatives from permanent delegations. The session built momentum for this year’s B20 Summit in May and the July G20 Summit in Hamburg.

At the B20 Summit in Berlin, BIAC advocated private sector recommendations to leadership from the German G20, international organizations and governments, and spoke on a high-level panel on The Future of Trade and Investment: Making Trade Work. Gearing for the G20 Hamburg Summit, Business at OECD also co-hosted G20 Labor Ministers at a joint B20-L20 Dinner in May. As network partner, BIAC also moderated a high-level panel at the B20 Health Conference, delivering inaugural recommendations on health policy to the German and Argentinian Health Ministers.

In 2018, BIAC will support the B20, and continue its broad engagement with the Argentinian B20 Presidency led by Daniel Funes di Rioja. In working with UIA, we will be guided by our efforts to ensure continuity and consistency of business input across G20 presidencies and connect closely with relevant OECD work.
Rotating B20 presidencies require partners like Business at OECD to ensure continuity year after year. We count on Business at OECD to carry our work forward. As B20 Sherpa, I appreciate the substance BIAC brings to the table as it plays a vital role in the long-term success of the B20.
OUR WORK WITH MEMBERS

BUSINESS DAY: DISCUSSING OECD CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE G20 AND B20

In December 2016, Business at OECD organized another Business Day at the OECD in Paris for senior business leaders from our global constituency to discuss the organization’s contributions to the German G20 and the B20 presidencies with OECD leadership. A representative from the German G20 presidency, the OECD Sherpa to the G20, and the German B20 Sherpa joined a high-level panel, which was framed by sessions on employment and education, responsible business conduct and anti-bribery, trade and investment, the digital economy, and energy, climate and resource efficiency. The day was rounded off during the Business Day Dinner with remarks from Frédéric Sanchez, the President of MEDEF International and CEO of Fives.

“Good policies have something in common: they consider the advice and expertise from those who compete in markets, create jobs, and add value. The BIAC Business Day was an excellent opportunity to share our on-the-ground experience with OECD and governments.”

Frédéric Sanchez
Chairman, Fives
President, MEDEF International
COMMUNICATING BUSINESS: FIRST HEADS OF COMMUNICATIONS ROUNDTABLE IN PARIS

Heads of Communications from Business at OECD’s global constituency met for a first roundtable in December 2016 in Paris to exchange best practice in communicating business and global economic governance against a background of increasing populism. The roundtable also featured sessions with the Director of OECD Public Affairs and Communications, and an international journalist from The Economist, who elaborated on how media and social communications are shaping the narrative on globalization. Business at OECD will organize a 2nd Heads of Communications Roundtable in Dublin in October 2017, together with its Irish member Ibec.

Meeting with other heads of communications from national business federations is very valuable to Ibec and our business community. This roundtable gives us a platform to share common messages on the benefits of open markets and globalization.

Siobhán Masterson
Head of Corporate Affairs, Ibec
BIAC conducts regular visits to our national member federations and hosts business delegations in Paris to exchange top business priorities with our members and observers, and identify how they correspond with OECD work. In the past year, we were pleased to visit ten of our national member federations in their respective countries, including the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI), the Danish Employers’ Confederation (DA), the Confederation of Finnish Industry (EK), the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK), the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK), the Employers Confederation of Mexico (COPARMEX), the Employers of Poland, and the Confederation of Portuguese Business (CIP), and the United States Council for International Business (USCIB). We were also pleased to host the executive leadership from four national member federations in Paris, including from the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC), the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW), and the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.
I was delighted to host the BIAC Executive Board in Seoul to commemorate this important anniversary and show the opportunities that OECD membership constantly brings to the Korean business community and to our country.

Yoon Kim
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Samyang Holdings
Vice Chair, BIAC Executive Board
Operating internationally involves both opportunities and risks, with coordination among leading national business federations being critical if our companies are to succeed in global markets. The BIAC General Assembly provides a platform to discuss our strategic directions in order to facilitate consensus business contributions and guidance to OECD and the G20.

—

Peter Robinson
President and Chief Executive Officer, USCIB

Executive leaders from our global network of business federations met in Paris in June 2017 to set the strategic directions for BIAC’s contributions to the OECD. Hosted by our French member federation MEDEF, the General Assembly also discussed the positioning of global business in the debate on a growing anti-globalization sentiment. At the event, participants discussed the overall business climate, enabling conditions and factors affecting trade and investment, and views on top structural reform priorities.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Phil O’Reilly  
EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIR

Bernhard Welschke  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Gerhard Braun  
EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE CHAIR

Ole Johansson  
EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE CHAIR

Charles R. Johnston  
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Yoon Kim  
EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE CHAIR

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Peter Lörincze  
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José Ignacio Mariscal  
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Dominique Mockly  
EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE CHAIR

Kengo Sakurada  
EXECUTIVE BOARD VICE CHAIR

Ghislaine Weder  
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SECRETARY GENERAL

Hanni Rosenbaum  
SENIOR DIRECTOR, POLICY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Nicole Primmer  
SENIOR POLICY DIRECTOR

Ali Karami-Ruiz  
DIRECTOR, POLICY, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SHERPA TO THE B20

Maud Garnier Bourrelly  
POLICY DIRECTOR

Toby Bateman  
POLICY MANAGER

Marie-Thérèse Dos Reis  
HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE, AND POLICY DIRECTOR ASSISTANT

Salette Bellavoine  
POLICY DIRECTOR ASSISTANT AND LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

Jasmine Puoti  
ASSISTANT TO POLICY DIRECTORS AND PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR
MEMBERS

- AUSTRALIA Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
- AUSTRIA Industriellenvereinigung (Federation of Austrian Industries)
- BELGIUM Federation des Entreprises de Belgique FEB (Federation of Enterprises in Belgium)
- CANADA The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
- CHILE Confederación de la Producción y del Comercio CPC (Confederation for Production and Commerce)
- CZECH REPUBLIC Svat průmyslu a dopravy České republiky (SP) (Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic)
- DENMARK Dansk Abilighedsforening DA (Danish Employers' Confederation)
- DENMARK Dansk Industri (DI) (Confederation of Danish Industry)
- ESTONIA Estonian Employers’ Confederation
- FINLAND Elinkeinoelämän keskusliitto (EK) (Confederation of Finnish Industries)
- FRANCE Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF)
- GERMANY Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände (BDA) (Confederation of German Employers’ Associations)
- GERMANY Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI) (Federation of German Industries)
- GREECE SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises
- HUNGARY Munkaadók és Gyaláparosok Országos Szövetsége (MGYSZ) (Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists BUSINESHHUNGARY)
- HUNGARY Vállalkozók és Munkáltatók Országos Szövetsége (VÖSZ) (Hungarian Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers)
- ICELAND Samtök Atvinnulífsins (SA) (Business Iceland)
- IRELAND Ibec
- ISRAEL Manufacturers’ Association of Israel (MAI)
- ITALY Confederazione Generale dell’Industria Italiana (Confindustria)
- ITALY Associazione Bancaria Italiana (ABI) (Italian Banking Association)
- JAPAN Keidanren (Japan Business Federation)
- KOREA Federation of Korean Industries (FKI)
- LATVIA Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK)
- LUXEMBOURG - Business Federation Luxembourg (FEDIL)
- MEXICO - Confederación Patronal de la República Mexicana (COPARMEX) (Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic)
- NETHERLANDS Vereniging VNO-NCW (Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers)
- NEW ZEALAND BusinessNZ

ASSOCIATE EXPERTS

- ARGENTINA Union Industrial Argentina (UIA)
- BRAZIL National Confederation of Industry (CNJ)
- COLOMBIA Asociacion Nacional de Empresarios de Colombia (ANDI) (National Business Association of Colombia)
- COSTA RICA Union Costarricense de Cámaras y Asociaciones del Sector Empresarial Privado (UCCEAP) (Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Associations of the Private Business Sector)
- CROATIA Croatian Employers' Association (CEA)
- INDIA Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- INDIA Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- INDONESIA Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin Indonesia)
- LITHUANIA Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK)
- PERU National Confederation of Private Business Institutions (CONPÆP)
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ABOUT BUSINESS AT OECD (BIAC)

Business at OECD (BIAC) speaks for business at the OECD. Established in 1962, we stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and prosperity. Through Business at OECD, national business and employers federations and their members provide expertise to the OECD and governments for competitive economies, better business, and better lives.
Project managed by: Ali Karami Ruiz