HEALTH

4th annual forum focuses on partnerships to achieve the SDGs

On 30 October 2019, at the OECD Conference Center, in Paris, we held the 4th annual Forum on Health where business, government, and OECD stakeholders all agreed on Breaking silos is essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The event brought together more than 180 participants from a wide array of sectors and identified ways for the OECD to help achieve the SDGs.

This Forum is an essential platform bringing stakeholders together and promoting strategic dialogue throughout the year. Among our speakers, Caroline Roan, President of the Pfizer Foundation, and Angel Gurria, OECD Secretary General intervened and spoke on the collective action towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

We thank our strategic partners for making this event a reality.
INVESTMENT AND RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT
Highlighting the importance of investment for sustainable development

Last month, Business at OECD participated in the high-level OECD Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development, which marked the launch of the first phase of the FDI Qualities project. We highlighted the contribution of foreign direct investment to the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the areas of economic development, labour market outcomes, the greening of the economy and the promotion of gender equality. Our key messages include specific recommendations for next steps on the OECD FDI qualities project and can be found in our paper "Sustainable Development and the Crucial Role of Investment".

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum
Ken Ashm, OECD Trade Director, and Julia Nielsen, OECD Trade Deputy Director, speaking at Business at OECD Trade Committee session

TRADE

*Business at OECD* releases recommendations to get trade back on track

Last month, our Trade Committee met in Paris and released the “*Getting Trade Back on Track*” paper, pointing to priority issues that business encourages the OECD to examine as part of its trade agenda in 2021-22 and beyond.

The Committee also participated in OECD trade meetings focusing on addressing market distortions to industrial goods, aluminium value-chain and high-tech sectors and included a special session on digital trade and wider digital economy and data governance work. Active participation from our membership in strategic discussions on future OECD work will be reflected in future work with the OECD Trade Directorate.

CONTACT - Dominik Kummerle
Andrew Haviland, Chargé d’Affaires from the U.S. Mission to the OECD, Peter Haas, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic Affairs of the U.S. State Department, Caroline Roan, President of Pfizer Foundation

HEALTH

Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Health and Partnerships
Andrew Haviland, Chargé d’Affaires from the U.S. Mission to the OECD, together with Peter Haas, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic Affairs of the U.S. State Department, hosted a joint Roundtable with Business at OECD for Ambassadors featuring Caroline Roan, President of the Pfizer Foundation.

The discussion focused on A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Health and Partnerships, highlighting initiatives to increase access to healthcare and linkages to valuing health-related investments in health for productive societies. Thomas Cueni Chair of our Health Committee, also highlighted the role business sees for OECD in providing evidence-based research and analysis.

CONTACT - Ali Karami-Ruiz
Focus on employment engagement and follow up strategy in our Employment Committee

As future of work and skills-related issues continue to take center stage in OECD policymaking, our Employment Committee met last month to define a strategy for engagement with Member States and the Organization going forward. Participants reviewed progress on the OECD project on collective bargaining, and highlighted the need to showcase employment engagement initiatives as essential tools of 21st-century workplace relations more broadly with stakeholders.

To implement its strategy, the Committee will meet on a quarterly basis in 2020 and potential members interested in the topics on future of work, skills and employability, access to training and inclusive and diverse labor markets are encouraged to join the Committee and contact the Secretariat.

CONTACT - Ali Karami-Ruiz
ENVIRONMENT

Business at OECD Environment and Energy Committee
Next week, our Business at OECD Environment and Energy Committee will meet in Paris to discuss the strategic orientations of the OECD Environment Policy Committee, including in the areas of circular economy, environmental taxation, green finance and investment, and climate change.

This session will be organized back-to-back with the OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum, focusing on Greening heavy and extractive industries: Innovation and Fiscal Implications.

CONTACT - Dominik Kummerle
ECONOMIC POLICY

Find the right policy mix to tackle economic slowdown

Last week, our Economic Policy Committee (EPC) met to discuss the current Economic Situation with Álvaro Pereira, Director, Country Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department. In addition, Committee members also exchanged views with OECD experts on political economy determinants of structural reform, as well as latest research related to the role of firms in wage inequality developments.

Members also had an opportunity to examine key global economic developments with Ms. Tomoko Hayashi, Director General for Economic and Fiscal Affairs, Cabinet Office, Japan and Vice Chair of the OECD Economic Policy Committee at a networking event. Finally, Committee leadership participated at the OECD Committee meeting, highlighting the importance of finding the right policy mix to address the current slowdown in global economic growth.

CONTACT - Frederik Lange
importance of implementation of the OECD/G20 Principles and reform assistance, including in key non-member countries, provided recommendations for the OECD Corporate Governance Factbook, and supported multi-disciplinary work on state-owned enterprises, digital solutions, and trust in business.

We also contributed to a special roundtable on the importance of audit quality. To read our comments on the future OECD program of work, click here.

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Corporate Governance Essential for Trust in Business

Last month, we joined the OECD Corporate Governance Committee to help shape discussion on the Committee’s future program of work. We underlined the importance of implementation of the OECD/G20 Principles and reform assistance, including in key non-member countries, provided recommendations for the OECD Corporate Governance Factbook, and supported multi-disciplinary work on state-owned enterprises, digital solutions, and trust in business.

We also contributed to a special roundtable on the importance of audit quality. To read our comments on the future OECD program of work, click here.

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum

FINANCE

Our Finance Committee provided input to OECD financial roundtable

Last month, our Finance Committee met to discuss with a number of OECD experts key issues related to trade finance for SMEs, responsible finance, the impact of new technology on financial markets, and green finance.

Following the meeting, Committee members discussed over lunch topics ranging from financial fragmentation, blockchain, virtual identity, and trust in business, with Greg Medcraft, OECD Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs. Our Committee Vice Chair Gianluca Riccio also gave a presentation on the link between market financing and productivity growth at the OECD financial roundtable, highlighting the importance of holistic approaches for policy implementation.

CONTACT - Frederik Lange
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

Business contribution to future OECD work on responsible business conduct

During the OECD consultation on Responsible Business Conduct in November, we called for policy consistency and alignment with key international instruments, including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, to avoid a proliferation of unaligned measures creating challenges for business operating globally.

Our comments on the future OECD program of work are available on our [website](#). We also participated in a workshop to discuss challenges and opportunities of digital solutions in this field, including for increasing transparency in supply chains.

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum
GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY POLICY

Business stresses importance of principles-based regulation at OECD Regulatory Policy Committee

Last week, our Business at OECD Governance and Regulatory Policy Committee Chair, Jens Hedström actively contributed to the sessions of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee and the Steering group on Measuring Regulatory Performance. He conveyed priorities on regulating emerging technologies, a need to shift from a rules-based to a principles-based approach towards regulation, and the importance of stakeholder engagement in regulatory reviews.

Members participating in these meetings also had an opportunity to address topics on international regulatory co-operation, evidence-based rule making, and the role of parliament in regulatory policy processes.

CONTACT - Frederik Lange
UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

18
Business at OECD Export Credit Expert Group meeting

18-22
OECD Digital Economy Committee week

19
OECD Export Credit Forum

19-22
OECD Education Committee Meetings

20
Business at OECD Tax Committee Meeting

20-21
OECD Committee for Agriculture

21-22
OECD Public Consultation on Digital Tax - Pillar One Proposal

25-26
Business at OECD Environment and Energy Committee meeting

26-27
OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum

29
First roundtable on SME Digital Transformation co-hosted by the OECD and Business at OECD

DECEMBER

2-4
OECD A6-HoC Task Team on Amendments to Council Decision on Transboundary Movements of Waste

2-6
OECD Competition week

3-5
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets

9-11
OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy

10
Annual consultation with the OECD Working Group on Bribery

9
Business at OECD Anti Corruption Committee

19
France G7 Social High Level Meeting