

Paris, 20 March 2020

OECD Policy Leadership in Times of Global Crisis

Dear Secretary-General, dear Angel

We are very gratified by the proactive stance the OECD is taking and this letter is to reinforce our support in specific areas.

As capitals put themselves on a “war footing”, the most common response to this global health crisis has been the immediate adoption of the most extreme containment measures ever implemented. This in turn is creating an economic crisis that has rapidly moved beyond the travel, tourism and hospitality industries to every sector of the economy. Our respective constituencies, business organisations and trade unions, are at the frontline of the crisis and are actively working together through social dialogue and with their governments in response to the crisis.

It is now more important than ever that the OECD deliver the best policy advice both on short-term collective response measures, as well as the longer-term recovery plans that will soon need to be implemented. The extensive experience of the OECD, from the Marshall Plan follow up to the 2008-2009 global financial crisis makes the Organisation a unique forum to steer economic and labour market recovery. Evidence-based research and best practice sharing supported by coordinated collective actions will prove effective in the months to come.

In many ways, March 2020 resembles September 2008. However, there is one noticeable difference, and one that raises deep concern. This time there seems to be far less appetite for international cooperation and for multilateral solutions. We were therefore pleased to see the international outreach that you have already initiated. We urge the OECD to continue to be a highly visible force for good and help recreate the positive dynamic and spirit that prevailed in 2009.

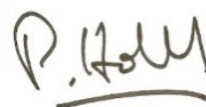
On behalf of both TUAC and Business at OECD (BIAC) we are pledging the full cooperation of our networks. This will help ensure the sharing of best practice policy measures are fully supported by both the workers, their trade unions, and the broader business community.

During this moment of crisis, it is also useful to reinforce the fact that there is broad agreement from our respective stakeholder bases on many of the measures available to us. The most important of these being to ensure we keep as many people as possible in employment.

With sincere best regards



Russel Mills, Secretary General, Business at OECD (BIAC)



Pierre Hubbard, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)