7 September 2020

Reinforcing our communications and collaboration

Today we are re-launching our Business at OECD (BIAC) Update, our newsletter featuring the work our Paris-based team undertakes with you, together with our global network of leading business organizations and their members. We would also like to inform you that Russel Mills’s appointment as BIAC Secretary General came to an end on 31 August. You will find the full list of our Paris-based Secretariat on our website.

We start September with a renewed sense of urgency and opportunity. Some countries are now facing a surge in COVID-19 cases following the first wave of the pandemic with great uncertainty about what this means for people’s health and their livelihoods. The time for international collaboration to come back and show its value is now. This is the message that resonates from regular exchanges with our national business organizations. For the OECD, this is a call to reaffirm its voice as a defender of open markets and strengthen its role as a convener of global policymakers to coordinate better outcomes.

Our newsletter articles showcase our recent and upcoming initiatives and events
that give you an opportunity to shape the projects we pursue with the OECD. We also compiled on our Covid-19 special website our policy recommendations to the OECD and contributions from our national members as they tackle crisis and recovery efforts. In the coming months, we will organize virtual events that will allow our global membership to share their experiences as they tackle Covid-19 and identify ways for the OECD to tangibly support business. We very much count on your active participation so we can collectively leverage the business messages to bring back jobs, health, and prosperity.

Hanni Rosenbaum, Acting Secretary General
Ali Karami Ruiz, Senior Director, Strategic Engagement and Communications

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum & Ali Karami-Ruiz

Upcoming: our business input ahead of the annual OECD Ministerial Meeting
On 28-29 October, the OECD will convene its 2020 annual Ministerial Council meeting in virtual format. Spain will chair the meeting, with Chile, Japan, and New Zealand as Vice Chairs, focusing on “The Path to Recovery: Strong, Resilient, Green and Inclusive”. Business input and participation in this meeting will be critical.

To prepare for this annual event, we will participate in a joint consultation together with trade union representatives from TUAC and OECD leadership on 15 September. In this meeting, we will outline business priorities to address the impact and challenges arising from Covid-19, stressing the role for enhanced international coordination to ensure a strong, sustainable, and inclusive recovery.

We also delivered business messages in past OECD Ministerial roundtables held in June and July where Klaus Deutsch, Chair of our Economic Policy Committee, commented on the OECD Economic Outlook, and Renate Hornung-Draus, Chair of our Employment Committee, delivered views on the OECD Employment Outlook and priorities from employers to bring jobs back after Covid-19.

CONTACT - Nicole Primmer & Frederik Lange
Experts converge on need to reinforce international collaboration at 6th joint Business at OECD—B20—OECD special session

Last week, we hosted the 6th edition of our joint annual session with the OECD and the B20 Saudi Presidency “From Crisis-management to a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery”. Our Chair Phil O’Reilly stressed the unique role the OECD plays in bringing different governments together to develop concerted efforts. Our Senior Director Ali Karami Ruiz moderated panel discussions where business leaders from the B20 task forces, G20 Sherpas from India, the United Kingdom, and Italy, and senior OECD experts discussed the B20 recommendations and how they can help achieve the G20 Saudi presidency agenda and priorities. OECD Secretary General Angel Gurria underlined the critical role of business as the international community designs and implements recovery efforts.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in the run-up to the virtual B20 Summit and G20 Summit later this fall.
ENIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Business to participate in Roundtable of OECD Environment Ministers

Next week, a high-level Business at OECD leadership delegation will contribute to the OECD Ministerial Council Roundtable on “Economic Recovery: Strong, Resilient, Green and Inclusive” to be held virtually on 14 September.

The discussion among OECD Environment Ministers will focus on how to make a Green Recovery from Covid-19 work for jobs, income, and growth, and we will also contribute with a high-level statement on the issue.

This OECD Ministerial session is organized in the lead-up to the OECD annual Ministerial Council Meeting on 28-29 October of this year.
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

New publication: a guide for business and employers' organizations

This week, we are launching together with the International Organization of Employers (IOE) our new practical guide on connecting the anti-corruption and human rights agendas. The guide proposes practical suggestions for how companies can leverage existing synergies and foster experience and information sharing between anti-corruption and human rights experts – where this is desirable and feasible – by presenting a number of questions for self-assessment.

It also provides an overview of the vast array of instruments and resources that exist in the two fields. It notably includes examples of companies that have already embedded a more coordinated approach in their operations.
COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Explore our policy thought leadership and member contributions to address Covid-19

We designed a dedicated hub for our global business experts and stakeholders to compare and leverage the Covid-19 policy guidance that we have developed with our global business network, and insights from OECD across policy areas.

This website also compiles the contributions and perspectives from our leading national business organizations. The featured contributions should help our members and stakeholders share their experiences and ideas as we continue addressing the ongoing pandemic.
“GVC Passport” on financial compliance, a pragmatic concept to strengthen Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

FINANCE
Launch of the "GVC Passport" concept on financial compliance

Last week, we launched together with the B20 Saudi Arabia Presidency a conceptual policy proposal that focuses on reducing barriers that firms encounter in their quest to participate in global value chains. This proposal also seeks to address cross-border fragmentation and friction, which continue to impede the free flow of people, capital, goods and services. With the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the world’s dependence on these value chains, the concept titled GVC Passport on financial compliance, a pragmatic concept to strengthen inclusive and sustainable growth calls on G20 nations to work towards a system envisioning a significant reduction in bureaucracy, while increasing transparency and traceability, as well as facilitate firms’ access to wider markets.

CONTACT - Frederik Lange
MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Welcoming Romania as a new observer

We are pleased to welcome the Employers' Confederation of Romania, CONCORDIA, as our new observer organization. As a major economy in the Balkans, Romania has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the OECD and is already part of the OECD South East Europe program, adheres to a number of OECD standards, and is included in key OECD statistics and benchmarking exercises.

We look forward to closely working with CONCORDIA as a new observer organization in our global network.

CONTACT - Hanni Rosenbaum & Ali Karami-Ruiz
INNOVATION & DIGITAL ECONOMY

Register to join Business at OECD – OECD Virtual Roundtable on Regulatory Sandboxes and Privacy

As the OECD revises its Privacy Guidelines, and with support of the Singapore Data Protection Commission, the event will bring together experts from business, government, and civil society to explore how new regulatory initiatives, including regulatory sandboxes and policy prototyping, can help better understand how to implement existing or draft new regulations in the context of privacy and personal data protection.

The discussion will draw on concrete use cases to identify best practices and lessons learned from existing regulatory sandboxes. A Business at OECD report will reflect meeting outcomes. All members are invited to participate, and they should RSVP to Wilfried Jabot.

CONTACT - Nicole Primmer
Watch our Health Forum videos on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

We released our Forum Highlights from our 4th edition focusing on achieving the SDGs. While this Forum took place just before the Covid-19 outbreak, the policy messages and takeaways for the OECD have become even more relevant given the current international context we are facing. We invite you to watch the quick Forum Highlight videos where speakers and participants share their insights.

- Business at OECD 4th Health Forum - What role can the OECD play to achieve the SDGs?
- Business at OECD 4th Health Forum - What is the key factor to achieve the SDGs on time?
- Business at OECD 4th Health Forum - What are the key takeaways from this forum?
ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Business at OECD Nanotechnology Expert Group meets virtually

Last month, our Nanotechnology Expert Group met virtually to coordinate business perspectives to OECD discussions on testing, exposure, risk and regulation of manufactured nanomaterials. Our Expert Group Chair Karin Wiench and Vice Chair Scott Brown led a 15-person Business at OECD delegation and provided business expertise into the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials last week.
Selected OECD Publications

Agriculture and Food

• Strengthening Agricultural Resilience in the Face of Multiple Risks
  Published on: 01-Sep-2020

Employment

• OECD Labour Force Statistics 2020
  Published on: 02-Sep-2020

Social Issues/Migration/Health

• All Hands In? Making Diversity Work for All
  Published on: 02-Sep-2020

Tax policy

• Tax Policy Reforms 2020
  Published on: 03-Sep-2020

Economic Policy

• GDP Growth - Second Quarter of 2020
  Published on: 26-Aug-2020
**Upcoming Events**

**SEPTEMBER**
- 2 B2o – Business at OECD – OECD 6th annual special session
- 14 3rd Ministerial Virtual Roundtable – Environment
- 15 Business at OECD / TUAC Ministerial Virtual consultation with the OECD
- 15-16 OECD Global Forum Climate Change (CCXG)
- 17-23 OECD Working Party on the Taxation of Multinational Enterprises
- 22 US-FTC Workshop on Data Portability
- 23 Business at OECD/OECD Workshop on Regulatory Sandboxes and Privacy (Privacy Guidelines Review)
- OECD Webinar Drivers of Anti-Corruption Compliance
- 29-30 OECD Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development
- 30-1 OECD 3rd Roundtable on Investment and Sustainable Development
- 5-6 OECD Roundtable on Unlimited Government Access to Personal Data held by the Private Sector
- 7 Business at OECD Virtual Board Meeting
- 8-9 Working Party on SMEs & Entrepreneurship (tbc)
- 9 Green Finance and Investment Forum (tbc)
- 9 Virtual Summit “Skills Strategies for a World in Recovery”
- 12-16 Investment Week
- 12-13 OECD Working Party on State Ownership and Privatisation Practices (tbc)
- 12-18 International Monetary Fund/World Bank Autumn Meetings (tbc)
- 14-15 OECD Employment, Labor & Social Affairs Committee
- 15 CDEP Sessions 1-1.5 Going Digital Reviews Brazil and Latvia

**OCTOBER**