Preparing for change

Last week’s US elections will certainly bring significant change for international collaboration going forward.

The OECD is also preparing for a leadership change as the list of 10 candidates applying to succeed Angel Gurría after 15 years at the helm was announced last week. Irrespective of who ultimately will lead the organization, and based on our constructive relationship with Angel Gurría and his team, business will remain a solutions partner in the success of future OECD directions and policy deliberations.

To support the process, we will shortly convey what business needs from OECD leadership to overcome economic governance challenges. In times of crisis, international cooperation is more important than ever. Business needs a strong and authoritative OECD that can forcefully defend open markets and the prosperity they bring to our societies.
Business at OECD launches its first Development Strategy paper

We publish today our Development Strategy paper, leveraging the expertise and insights on trade, including illicit trade and export credits, investment, environment and energy, food and agriculture, anti-corruption, and tax from our relevant Committees.

The paper also presents a number of recommendations on fostering a conducive environment for business to engage in and with developing countries for the OECD to consider in streamlining its approach to development going forward.

CONTACT – Frederik Lange & Ina Sandler
Upcoming Business at OECD China Expert Group session

We invite our business delegates to join the upcoming session of our China Expert Group next Monday, 16 November.

Participants will be able to exchange with our constituency on China-related business priorities, and hear from the OECD about their ongoing and future cooperation with China.

During the session, we will also discuss our key messages and our presentation to the OECD Informal Reflection Group on China, which will convene selected Ambassadors and government delegates on 27 November 2020.

CONTACT – Dominik Kümmerle
Addressing Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online: read our business statement

The spread of terrorist violent extremist content across online platforms and services not only threatens the safety of the public, but also impedes the benefits that online platforms and the Internet bring to our economies and societies.

Our recent business statement to OECD reaffirms our commitment to tackle this challenge. All stakeholders, including large and small business, must collaborate to develop effective solutions. We welcome OECD’s leadership in facilitating a global multi-stakeholder, dialogue on this important issue.

Our recommendations to the OECD Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Project, available here, point to the need to identify and remove barriers to voluntary transparency. We also ask OECD to develop a practical approach towards a consensus-based agreement delivering a single set of recommendations for transparency, including for Member States.

CONTACT – Nicole Primmer
Last week our members participated in two dedicated OECD stakeholder consultations on responsible business conduct (RBC) and provided initial comments on a proposal to develop a new legal instrument on government policies and policy coherence for RBC. We further outlined priorities for the engagement on RBC with non-Adherents and stressed the need to reinforce trust in the National Contact Point system underpinning the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

As we closely follow the national and international discussions around regulatory developments regarding Due Diligence, we also underlined the need for practicability, proportionality, and additional research and evidence on different approaches to promote responsible business conduct.

CONTACT – Hanni Rosenbaum and Ina Sandler
Our Finance Committee addresses business priorities on COVID-19 and beyond

End October, our Finance Committee convened virtually to discuss our key activities and future priorities.

Following a session on the economic situation and policy requirements to address the current crisis, OECD Deputy Director Mr. Antonio Gomes shared views on the fiscal and financial implications of the crisis and how policy actions can address them. Members then engaged in an open discussion with Mr. Gomes on various policy issues such as how to continue vital economic support while ensuring the sustainability of public finances.

CONTACT – Hideaki Ozu
Corporate Governance, Corporate Finance and COVID-19

For the first time, business will fully participate in the OECD Corporate Governance Committee on 24 and 25 November. This will give our members an opportunity to contribute to the OECD’s work program in response to the Covid-19 crisis. We will also highlight the key messages of our paper on Improving Business Resilience through Corporate Governance, which we will release later this month.

CONTACT – Hanni Rosenbaum and Hideaki Ozu
Addressing the environmental challenges posed by chemicals

Last week, our Business at OECD Chemicals committee met virtually to exchange on member priorities and discuss with senior OECD leadership on latest developments at the OECD and beyond, including the EU’s Chemicals Strategy for sustainability towards a toxic-free environment.

The Committee also participated in the OECD Global Forum on Environment, focusing on challenges posed by chemicals and exchanging knowledge on effective and sustainable policies for the sound management of chemicals, and respective OECD chemicals meetings.

CONTACT – Dominik Kummerle & Rokas Morkunas
Business at OECD members discuss the global economic situation with OECD Director

At our recent Economic Policy Committee virtual meeting, members discussed with OECD Director Mr. Luiz de Mello the current global economic situation and key policy measures needed for recovery. We also presented results of our short member survey.

Survey respondents largely regard the current support to firms, workers and the unemployed, as well as monetary policy action by central banks, as adequate. About half of the respondents see room for improvement in economic stimulus focusing on longer-term policy objectives such as investment, decarbonization, and digitalization.

The discussion with members and the OECD will form the basis for our comments on the upcoming interim OECD Economic Outlook on 1 December.

CONTACT – Frederik Lange
Enhancing consumer protection safety

Last week, we contributed business perspectives to the OECD Committee on Consumer Policy and Working Party on Consumer Product Safety. We emphasized business priorities on the Recommendation on Consumer Product Safety and on the role of online marketplaces in enhancing consumer protection.

“Governments should take into account that there are many actors in the ecosystem, and they should work together with business and relevant stakeholders to encourage good practice and outcomes for consumer product safety,” said our Consumer Policy Committee Chair Mr. Pierre Chalançon.

CONTACT – Hiroki Tamura
NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

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Multilateral Development Finance 2020
UPCOMING EVENTS
NOVEMBER

16  Business at OECD Education Committee Meeting
    OECD Committee on Fisheries
    Business at OECD China Expert Group Meeting
    OECD Committee on Fisheries
    OECD Global Blockchain Policy Forum
    UN 9th Annual Business and Human Rights Forum

17  OECD Committee on Fisheries
    OECD Education Policy Committee Meeting
    UN 9th Annual Business and Human Rights Forum

18  OECD Committee on Fisheries
    OECD Education Policy Committee Meeting
    OECD Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste
    UN 9th Annual Business and Human Rights Forum

19  OECD CERI Governing Board
    OECD Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste

20  OECD CERI Governing Board

23  Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee
    OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum
    Virtual OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets
    OECD Corporate Governance Committee

24  OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum
    Virtual OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets
    OECD Corporate Governance Committee

25  OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum
    Virtual OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets
    OECD Corporate Governance Committee

26  OECD Informal Reflection Group on China
    OECD Digital Economic Report

27  OECD Working Party on Competition

30  OECD Working Party on Competition

DECEMBER

1   OECD Economic Outlook
    OECD Competition Committee

2   OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment
    OECD Competition Committee

3   OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment

4   OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment
    OECD Working Party on Competition
    OECD Going Digital Steering Group Meeting

7   Consultation with the OECD Working Group on Bribery
    2020 Annual OECD Conference of the Global Forum on Productivity - Flagship Event

8   OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy
    Working Party of the OECD Trade Committee

9   OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy
    Working Party of the OECD Trade Committee

10  OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy
    Annual Meeting for Business at OECD Lead Coordinators

11  OECD Working Party on Innovation and Technology Policy
    Annual Meeting for Business at OECD Lead Coordinators

14  OECD Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies
    60th anniversary of the signature of the OECD Convention

15  Annual Meeting for Business at OECD Lead Coordinators
    OECD Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies

16  OECD Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies

17  OECD Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies

18  OECD Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies