

April 2011

BIAC celebrates the OECD's 50th anniversary in Budapest

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(L-R) BIAC Secretary-General Tadahiro Asami, BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter and OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría at the presentation of the 50th Anniversary BIAC publication



(L-R) VOSZ President Sándor Demjén; OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, MGYOSZ President Péter Futó, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and Chief Economist Pier Carlo Padoan

Budapest, Hungary, 7 April 2011 – On the occasion of BIAC's Annual General Assembly, over 120 international business, OECD, and Hungarian government policy decision makers met to explore and discuss how the OECD and the international business community have, since the Organisation's founding 50 years ago, worked together to promote open markets and job creation.

"Today's generation of business and government leaders have faced no challenge more daunting than helping their societies adjust to and reap the potential rewards of globalisation," stated BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter. "Progress in meeting this challenge would have been far more difficult without the enormous contributions of the OECD."

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán praised the work of BIAC-OECD, highlighting the importance of the OECD's support to his country's economic growth over the past fifteen years since Hungary joined in 1996.

The one-day conference, organised jointly by BIAC and its member organisations MGYOSZ (Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists BUSINESSHUNGARY) and VOSZ (National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers), provided insight into how the Paris-based OECD influences economic policies worldwide, and how business can engage with it.

"We must continue to work together, BIAC and OECD, to support the economic recovery by promoting better public policies. We also need to strengthen public trust in institutions," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. "Trust in governments and regulations, in banks and corporations, in open markets and globalisation as a whole is an essential element to boost confidence and increase prosperity."

In panel sessions, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and Chief Economist Pier Carlo Padoan outlined prospects for the global economy and MGYOSZ President Péter Futó and VOSZ President Sándor Demjén reaffirmed the Hungarian business support of BIAC-OECD process. Numerous other business and industry representatives from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the US, as well as host Hungary presented their views on better policies for private sector-led growth.

To mark the occasion, BIAC presented Mr. Gurría with a special 50th Anniversary celebratory publication featuring business testimonies to the value of OECD's work to the business community and to its future role in addressing the issues of globalisation and global economic prosperity.

OECD Business consults with Chair and Vice-Chair of 2011 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting

Speaking at the OECD Ministerial Bureau Preparatory Consultation with BIAC and TUAC on 14 April 2011, Washington DC, BIAC urged the Chair (United States) and Vice-Chair (Germany) of the forthcoming 25-26 May Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) to closely consider OECD Business perspectives for policies conducive to growth and development.

BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter underlined the importance of restoring private sector-led economic growth and stated that “for this to happen, market confidence has to improve, and this will depend very much on the extent to which policymakers can reassure the markets by fostering clear, predictable and transparent policy environments for investment and job creation”.

Building upon these remarks, Mr. Geoffrey Gamble, Chair of the BIAC Trade Committee (DuPont) highlighted the need for an ambitious conclusion of the WTO Doha Round, while also encouraging the OECD to continue its work on the link between trade and job creation. In addition, Mr. Brian Flannery (ExxonMobil) welcomed the OECD Green Growth Strategy, but cautioned that policymakers must pay due attention to innovation policy, fiscal neutrality for price-based instruments, competitive distortions, while examining the scale and pace of change required.

BIAC Investment Committee Vice-Chair, Mr. Alberto Echarri (Gomez-Acebo & Pombo), supported by BIAC Spanish member organisation CEOE, voiced BIAC’s concerns with respect to the update of the OECD Guidelines for Multi-National Enterprises (MNEs). Mr. Echarri observed that “even companies with the best intentions would be unable to comply” with “fundamental problems” in the text concerning due diligence and supply chains, emphasising that “the effectiveness of the Guidelines...depends on [whether] the final text is acceptable to business”.

In the context of building policies for development, Ms. Ronnie Goldberg, Chair of the BIAC ELSA Committee (USCIB), and Mr. Echarri stressed the importance of capacity building for tax administrations, women’s economic empowerment, competitive neutrality, and good governance and anti-corruption.

The preparatory consultation also marked an occasion for BIAC to congratulate the OECD on its 50 years anniversary and to discuss its future. Mr. Tadahiro Asami, BIAC Secretary-General, expressed that the OECD should become a global hub for evidence-based policy-making and should strengthen its outreach to emerging and developing economies.

Based upon the 14 April discussions, BIAC shall further refine its draft submission to the MCM on 25-26 May and shall shortly invite additional comments from BIAC members. Finally, BIAC would like to sincerely thank its US member organisation, the USCIB, for hosting a reception for all delegates and USCIB members immediately following the consultation.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org).



(L-R) U.S. Under Secretary for Economic, Energy and Agricultural Affairs Robert D. Hormats, BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter, OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, U.S. Ambassador to OECD Karen Kornbluh, TUAC President Richard Trumka, and USCIB CEO Peter Robinson



BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter speaking at MCM Consultation in Washington, DC

Reviving private sector-led economic growth

As many countries are faced with low economic growth, persistently high unemployment, and in many cases high fiscal deficits, BIAC devoted its Annual Consultation with OECD Ambassadors on 18 January 2011 to discuss the topic "What is needed to revive private sector-led economic growth".

Three BIAC Executive Board members (Mr. Randolph Rodenstock, Mr. José Ignacio Mariscal, and Mr. Tuncay Özlhan) presented their country/regional business perspectives (Germany and the euro zone, Mexico, and Turkey, respectively).

Discussions then focused on the importance of creating a policy environment that encourages private sector-led economic growth (including policies for open and competitive markets, innovation, green growth, and employment creation), as well as the need to boost market confidence, the OECD role vis-à-vis the G20, the need for greater clarity in the updating process of the OECD MNE Guidelines, and the importance of dialogue with social partners.

Nearly all OECD national delegations participated in the meeting, including 18 Ambassadors, highlighting the strong government interest in this topic. The LCM was chaired by OECD Secretary-General, Mr. Angel Gurría, who was accompanied by all Deputy Secretary-Generals, as well as several OECD Secretariat directors and senior counsellors. BIAC Chairman, Mr. Charles Heeter, led the BIAC delegation, which was composed of six BIAC Executive Board members as well as BIAC Secretary General, Mr. Tadahiro Asami.

The feedback from OECD Ambassadors and Secretariat also provided an important basis for orienting BIAC's strategic directions in 2011, including the BIAC General Assembly and the BIAC role in the May 2011 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM).

For further information see the BIAC written contribution (available online at www.biac.org/policystatements.htm), or contact Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org).

G20 Labour Ministerial Process 2011

BIAC is participating together with the IOE and Member organisations to the G20 Labour Ministerial under the French Presidency in 2011.

The issues addressed in this process include: Labour market policies and focus on youth and the most vulnerable; strengthening social protection systems including through the development of social protection floors, promoting respect of social and labour rights; and enhancing coherence between international organisations and economic, financial, trade, development and social policies.

The process was started with an initial meeting between French Minister for Labour, Employment and Health, Mr. Xavier Bertrand, and the social partners on 23 February 2011 where BIAC had the opportunity together with IOE and MEDEF to present initial views on key topics for the G20 Labour agenda.

(continued on page 4)



BIAC Leadership at annual consultation with OECD Ambassadors



OECD and BIAC Leadership at annual consultation with OECD Ambassadors

G20 Labour Process (continued from page 3)

At the meeting, BIAC expressed its concern about the current uneven economic recovery with serious social impacts of persisting high unemployment, especially among youth. In addition, constraints on public finance, external imbalances, protectionism, volatility in commodity prices, and low levels of business confidence continue to have significant impact on employment and social systems in many countries.

The G20 Labour Ministerial will take place on 26-27 September 2011, including a consultation with the social partners. BIAC will participate in a number of the preparatory meetings in advance of the Labour Ministerial together with the IOE and MEDEF including sessions on employment, and policy coherence. BIAC Members are invited to contact Nicole Primmer (primmer@biac.org) with any questions regarding this process.

The G20 Labour Ministerial will take place on 26-27 September 2011.

BIAC participates in CII's 1st Green Manufacturing Summit in New Delhi

On 17-18 March 2011, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with the support of OECD and BIAC, organised its "1st Green Manufacturing Summit" in New Delhi.

Bringing together close to 300 high-level representatives of Indian and international business, the Indian government, the OECD as well as other key experts, the Summit provided an excellent platform for a constructive discussion on green manufacturing and complemented Indian efforts of promoting the country as a green manufacturing location. The first session included a keynote address by the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India.

India is increasingly embracing the concept of sustainability, which has become a major trend in the manufacturing industry and which, with the right policy framework in place, can create new business opportunities.

The Summit allowed for interactive discussions in several areas, including: green manufacturing as a business trend; impacts on competitiveness; the role of regulation and implementation; innovation in products and processes; managing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency; as well as the role of IT infrastructure and technologies in green manufacturing. To enrich the discussions, a number of case studies were presented from a range of different sectors, including, among others, steel, cement, automobile, electronics, IT, energy, and fertilisers.

In the framework of OECD work on green growth, one of the Organisation's current priorities, BIAC has consistently underlined that the success of the OECD Green Growth Strategy will depend on the active involvement of major non-member economies, bearing in mind that "greening" of growth is needed throughout the world.

Further information on CII's Green Manufacturing Summit is available at: www.cii.in/greensummit2011, or contact Hanni Rosenbaum (rosenbaum@biac.org).



BIAC's Information, Computer and Communication Policy Committee Vice Chair Dr. Makoto Yokozawa speaking at the 1st Green Manufacturing Summit in New Delhi

Strengthening Indonesia's investment climate

Eager to work with OECD to strengthen his country's economic development, Indonesian Finance Minister, Hon. Agus D.W. Martowardojo, led a high-level seminar on Indonesia's investment climate at the OECD headquarters on 18 February 2011, bringing together several Ambassadors and senior government representatives from OECD and non-OECD countries. Mr. Martowardojo presented his views following the November 2010 release of the first OECD Investment Policy Review of Indonesia.

Discussions focused on the need to strengthen infrastructure via public-private partnerships, as well as improving governance, increasing transparency, improving implementation of laws, reforming the tax system and reducing bureaucratic red tape.

Speaking at the seminar, Mr. Tadahiro Asami, BIAC Secretary General, voiced BIAC's strong support for public-private co-operation and highlighted the need for greater liberalisation of Indonesia's trade and investment policies, including reforms in tax and customs, in order to create a more predictable and transparent investment environment. In addition, Mr. Asami encouraged Indonesia to take steps towards adopting the OECD Declaration and Decisions on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises.

Mr. Martowardojo welcomed Mr. Asami's remarks, particularly concerning the need for public-private co-operation. In this respect, Mr. Martowardojo expressed his strong support for the finalisation of the Indonesian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) process to become a BIAC Observer. BIAC looks forward to the completion of this process and working closely with the Indonesian business community in our activities.



(L-R) BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami and Indonesian Finance Minister, Hon. Agus D.W. Martowardojo



(L-R) SEV Vice President Harry Kyriazis, BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami and Mr. Michael Mitsopoulos in Athens

BIAC Secretary General meets with Greek member SEV in Athens

On 24 January 2011, BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami met with SEV Vice President Harry Kyriazis, and Mr. Michael Mitsopoulos, at SEV's Headquarters to discuss the current economic situation and BIAC-SEV priorities.

Mr. Asami commended SEV's support for OECD-BIAC and Greek business participation in the range of BIAC committees.

Mr. Kyriazis reinforced SEV's commitment to BIAC, especially in the areas of Tax, Corporate Governance, and Consumer Policy.



(L-R) President of the Employers of Poland Andrzej Malinowski, BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami, and Mr. Mariusz Gaca, in Paris

President of the Employers of Poland visits BIAC

On 30 March 2011, BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami welcomed the President of the Employers of Poland, Mr. Andrzej Malinowski, and the President of the Polish Section of BIAC, Mariusz Gaca, to the BIAC offices in Paris to discuss further cooperation between the two organisations and the details of the BIAC General Assembly.

Mr. Malinowski reiterated his commitment to BIAC, while Mr. Asami applauded Polish business efforts to become further engaged in BIAC's work at OECD.

Improving the business climate in Russia

As Russia advances towards membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), BIAC expects that progress in Russia's accession to the OECD will accelerate. BIAC sees the OECD-Russia membership discussions as an important opportunity for the Organisation to assist the Russian government in improving the Russian business environment.

Encouraging Russia's adherence to OECD legal instruments and norms is a win-win process.

In order to contribute to the OECD-Russia accession discussions, BIAC advised OECD in March 2011 on OECD business community experiences and perspectives concerning a broad range of policy areas: [1] rule of law, public administration and anti-bribery; [2] competition and the role of the state; [3] investment; [4] trade; [5] taxation; and [6] intellectual property rights.

For each policy area, BIAC outlined the current policy situation, key recommendations to policy-makers, and consequently the envisaged benefits to be reaped by the Russian economy and society. BIAC also emphasised that encouraging Russia's adherence to OECD legal instruments and norms is a win-win process that will yield significant benefits for Russia and the global economy.

For any further information, please contact Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org).

India joins OECD agreement on mutual acceptance of chemical safety data

India has become the third key emerging economy to join the OECD system for the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) in the Assessment of Chemicals, ensuring that the results of non-clinical chemical safety testing done there will be accepted in all other participating countries.

The OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system is a multilateral agreement which saves governments and the chemical industry around €150 million every year.

The OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system is a multilateral agreement which saves governments and the chemical industry around €150 million every year by allowing the results of a variety of non-clinical safety tests done on chemicals and chemical products, such as industrial chemicals and pesticides, to be shared across OECD and other countries that adhere to the system. It requires that testing be carried out using OECD standards for test methods and for data quality. OECD countries – and now India, South Africa and Singapore – have implemented this system via the appropriate legislative and administrative procedures. Provisional adherents to the MAD system are currently Argentina, Brazil, Malaysia and Thailand.

The BIAC Chemicals Committee participates as a partner in the OECD chemicals programme, contributing major expertise to the OECD work to make it of mutual benefit for government and industry.

To learn more about BIAC's work on chemicals, contact Hanni Rosenbaum (rosenbaum@biac.org).

CEOE/BIAC/OECD conference addresses on challenges to Spanish business

Following BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami's visit to its Spanish member CEOE last October, the two organisations teamed together to hold a high-level business conference on 7-8 March 2011 at CEOE's headquarters in Madrid.



(L-R) BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter and CEOE President Juan Rosell

CEOE President Juan Rosell opened the event, under the theme of BIAC-OECD co-operation on current social and economic challenges to Spanish business. BIAC Chairman Charles Heeter was joined by OECD Deputy Chief Economist Jorgen Elmeskov and OECD Director of Employment, Labour & Social Affairs John Martin as keynote speakers, and over 40 other business and government leaders participated.

Mr. Elmeskov outlined the economic outlook for Spain for 2011 and beyond, while Mr. Martin presented OECD views on necessary reforms for employment recovery.

In the face of current challenges, Mr. Heeter encouraged CEOE and Spanish business to continue their efforts to help build political momentum for reforms, highlighting the need for strengthened government-business dialogue, both at the national and international level.

BIAC reaffirmed its support to CEOE and looks forward to future opportunities to working with Spanish business on the many policy areas covered by the OECD.

For more information about the conference, please contact Peter Heller (heller@biac.org).

BIAC participates in OECD Green Growth Conference

In February, BIAC participated in the OECD Green Growth Conference, which brought together over 300 participants to review the first draft of the OECD Green Growth Synthesis Report in preparation for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May.

The OECD Green Growth Strategy is intended to lay out the tools needed to shift to a more sustainable growth path, while identifying the benefits and economic opportunities that come from heading in that direction.

The conference encouraged an open debate around key green growth issues, and examined the draft Synthesis Report, which will be submitted to Ministers at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in May 2011.

BIAC submitted detailed comments on the draft synthesis report, many of which have been reflected in the latest draft, and a statement addressing the key themes of the conference; available online at www.biac.org/policygrp/stmts-env.htm.

To learn more about BIAC's work on green growth, contact Hanni Rosenbaum (rosenbaum@biac.org).

The OECD Green Growth Strategy is intended to lay out the tools needed to shift to a more sustainable growth path.

Policy Group News

BIAC would like to welcome the latest additions to our team of policy group leaders. Further information about BIAC's policy work and advocacy can be found online at www.biac.org/policywork.htm.

China Task Force

- Chair: Mr. Joerg Wuttke, BASF China (Germany)

Competition Committee

- Vice Chair: Mr. Wolfgang Kopf, Deutsche Telecom (Germany)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Paolo Palmigiano, Lloyds Banking Group (UK)
- Vice Chair: Ms. Lynda Martin Alegi, Baker & McKenzie (UK)

Consumer Policy Task Force

- Vice Chair: Mr. Lars Kindervater, Deutsche Telekom (BDI)
- Vice Chair: Mr. William McLeod, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP (USCIB)
- Vice Chair: Ms. Nuşin Oral, Yeni Karamürsel Co. (TÜSIAD)
- Vice Chair: Mr Anders Stenlund, (Confederation of Swedish Industries)

Corporate Governance Task Force

- Vice Chair: Mr. Murat Dogu, Dogan Yayin Holding (TÜSIAD)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Dan Konigsburg, Director, Deloitte Global Center for Corporate Governance (USCIB)
- Vice Chair: Ms. Julie O' Neill, Gilead Sciences Ltd. (IBEC)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Christian Stiefel, Swiss Holdings (economiesuisse)

Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee

- Vice Chair: Mr. Kazuo Tanigawa, Toshiba Corporation (Japan)
- Vice Chair: Ms. Gülden Türktan, (Turkey)

Energy Committee

- Vice Chair: Mr. Henry Wang, SABIC (United Kingdom)

Export Credits Task Force

- Chair: Mr. Steven W. Howlett, GE (United States)

Finance Task Force

- Chair: Mr. Christian Schricke, Société Générale (MEDEF)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Kent Andrews, TD Bank Group (CCC)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Bartosz Drabikowski, Bank PKO BP (Employers of Poland)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Mefin Ar, Garanti Securities (TÜSIAD)

Food and Agriculture Committee

- Vice Chair: Mr. Alain-Dominique Quintart, Syngenta (Switzerland)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Douglas T. Nelson, CropLife America (United States)

Governance Committee

- Chair: Mr. Jens Hedström, NNR (Sweden)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Jan Oravec, The Entrepreneurs Association of Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Yilmaz Argüden, ARGE (Turkey)

Investment Committee

- Chair: Mr. Winand Quaadvlieg, Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Alberto Echarri, Gómez Acebo & Pombo (Spain)
- Vice Chair: Mr. Clifford Henry, Procter & Gamble (US)

Trade Committee

- Vice Chair: Mr. Oliver Wieck, BDI (Germany)

Upcoming Events (Subject to change)*

April	26-27	OECD-NEPAD Ministerial Conference and High-Level Forum
	26-27	OECD Stakeholder Consultation and BIAC MNE Committee Preparatory Meeting
	26-27	OECD Task Force on Industrial Biotechnology
	27-28	G20-OECD Conference: "Joining Forces Against Corruption: G20 Business and Government"
May	3-4	OECD Ministerial Meeting of Social Policy
	4	BIAC Food & Agriculture Committee Meeting
	5	Meeting of the BIAC Trade Committee and Consultation with the OECD Trade Committee Bureau
	9-10	OECD Working Group on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology
	12-13	OECD Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds
	16-17	OECD Conference on New Building Blocks for Jobs and Economic Growth (Washington, DC)
	24-25	OECD 50th Anniversary Forum
	25-26	OECD Ministerial Council Meeting
	26-27	OECD Health Care Quality Indicators (HCQI) Expert Group Meeting
	30-31	OECD Task Force on Hazard Assessment
June	6-7	USCIB BIAC OECD International Tax Conference (Washington, DC)
	6-7	OECD Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy (WPCISP)
	6-8	OECD Working Party on Biotechnology
	7-8	OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS)
	8	OECD Joint WPIE/WPIIS Meeting
	8-9	OECD Working Party on the Information Economy (WPIE)
	9-10	OECD Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP)
	14	Meeting of the BIAC Chemicals Committee
	15	Anniversary event on 40 Years of Chemical Safety at OECD: Planning for the Next Decade
	16-17	OECD Joint Meeting
	22	OECD 50th Anniversary Conference on Health Reform: Co-sponsored by OECD and BIAC

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