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Business' message to G20 Labour Ministers:

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Restoring business confidence urgently needed to stimulate job creation

In a meeting on 27 September with Labour Ministers from the G20 countries, BIAC called for strong action by governments to avoid the devastating effects a "double-dip" global recession would have on employment.

"Without decisive action, we risk prolonging record levels of long-term unemployment and having millions more young people enter adulthood without the prospect of meaningful work," said BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter. "This would be tragic for the individuals involved, their families and our societies."

BIAC urged governments to prioritise action to restore investor and consumer confidence by delivering clear and pragmatic national, regional and global strategies for growth and job creation. "The way out of the crisis will come from the private sector growth. Governments must focus on creating a better business environment to restore investor confidence," continued Heeter.

Business considers that even with limited fiscal resources, governments must urgently implement targeted measures to stimulate growth and job creation, including short-term fiscal stimulus measures and additional liquidity to the market. Financial stability, effective tax and regulatory policy, frameworks that support entrepreneurship and investment in skills and training must be in place to build confidence in markets and for sustainable recovery.

BIAC also emphasised the need to focus particular attention on youth, as many young people are at high risk of becoming disconnected from the labour market. Investment in skills and training in particular for youth and the long term unemployed, to enhance employability of the workforce, must have high priority.

For business, employment should be a top issue for G20 Leaders in Cannes this November and a key focus of co-ordinated action between governments, business and labour.

Mr. Heeter urged that "the voice of G20 Labour Ministers should be heard loudly and widely by their political leaders and the public given persistent high unemployment rates being faced in many G20 countries."

In preparation for the consultation, BIAC and the IOE jointly prepared a formal submission to Labour Ministers; available online at www.biac.org.

For further information, please contact Nicole Primmer (primmer@biac.org).

Save the Date

2012 BIAC General Assembly

BIAC will organise its next General Assembly during 22-24 May 2012, the dates of the OECD Ministerial (MCM).

Industry Supports OECD and G20 Focus on Financial Consumer Protection

The BIAC Finance Task Force, in co-operation with the BIAC Consumer Policy Task Force, supports financial consumer protection and believes that it can contribute to financial stability. However, a balanced policy approach is essential, and policymakers must resist taking drastic and burdensome policy measures that could negatively impact competition, innovation and consumer choice. Financial consumer protection is a shared responsibility of policymakers, industry and consumers, and it is therefore necessary to work together to develop suitable approaches.



Mr. Kent Andrews, BIAC Finance Task Force Vice-Chair with Ms. Gabriela Ramos, OECD Chief of Staff of the Secretary-General and G20 Sherpa

Mr. Kent Andrews, Vice-Chair of the BIAC Finance Task Force, highlighted these views at a G20 French Presidency/OECD High-Level Seminar on Financial Consumer Protection on 14 October. Moderating the panel discussion of non-governmental stakeholders, Ms. Gabriela Ramos, OECD Sherpa to the G20, welcomed the fact that financial consumer protection now features prominently on the G20 agenda.

At the occasion of their 19-20 February 2011 meeting in Paris, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors called on the OECD, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and other relevant international organisations to develop common principles on consumer protection in the field of financial services. BIAC actively contributed to the drafting of these principles over recent months, which were subsequently supported by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 14-15 October. BIAC appreciates the OECD's leading role in this effort and encourages further work in this area.

A paper on financial consumer protection, developed by the BIAC Finance Task Force in co-operation with the BIAC Consumer Policy Task Force, is available online (www.biac.org). For further information, please contact Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org) and Eiichi Ohira (ohira@biac.org).



BIAC hosts International Business Green Economies Dialogue

On 14 November, BIAC will host an International Business Green Economies Dialogue conference at the OECD in Paris. Organised as the second part of a business-led series of discussions in North America, Europe, Asia and South America, in the run up to the Rio+20 Earth Summit in June 2012, the conference will bring together key experts from government, business, academia, international organisations and other stakeholders to provide proactive input to the Rio+20 policy process.

The Paris conference will draw on the work on green growth carried out by the OECD and will actively engage representatives from different parts of the Organisation in the discussions. It will explore effective ways to address the challenges of greening the economy while promoting economic growth, reducing poverty and meeting growing demand for resources.

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Green Dialogue (continued from page 2)

Specific sessions will focus on green growth for development and job creation; policy instruments; agriculture; energy; and resource efficiency. Sessions will be introduced by presentations of key academics, followed by reactions from experts from business, national governments and international organisations as well as an interactive discussion with all participants around the table.

The first conference, held in Washington D.C. on 12 October, highlighted recent green economy experiences in North America, including fostering green jobs, undertaking low-carbon development, and policy and fiscal instruments. Conferences in Asia and South America are planned to be held during the first half of next year, prior to the Rio+20 conference.

In addition to conferences, the Green Economies Dialogues benefit from the commissioning of a series of peer-reviewed papers written by independent academics to provide specialised research and perspectives on a range of green economy areas. The 'Green Perspectives' academic papers are scheduled to be published in a special edition of Energy Economics alongside Rio+20. Several of the authors will speak at the Paris Dialogue.

For further information, please contact Hanni Rosenbaum rosenbaum@biac.org, Camilla Hanna hanna@biac.org.

*International Business
Green Economies
Dialogue is organised to
provide pro-active input
to the Rio+20
policy process.*

Financing Climate Change

Public and private financing for climate change is high in governments' policy agendas ahead of the COP 17 climate conference to be held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November through 9 December 2011. The OECD has carried out substantial work in supporting countries in their efforts to attract finance and investment for climate action.

On 7 November 2011, OECD will hold an expert workshop on "Catalyzing Investment in Low-Carbon, Climate-Resilient Growth". The workshop, in which BIAC will actively participate, aims to bring together leaders from business and governments to exchange knowledge and experience on how climate and investment policies interact to mobilise private capital toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development in different country contexts.

Recognising the important role private sector investment can play, BIAC produced a Thought Starter paper (available online at www.biac.org) that summarises key business messages in this area.

Public funding is most effective when it leverages private sector financing, and should be used in a way that it does not violate the key principle of technology neutrality, recognising the need to consider all technology options.

It is essential that governments' policies are designed to increase technological capacity. The G20 can play an important role in restoring confidence to investors while also strengthening the long-term sustainability of the global financial system.

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Financing Climate Change (continued from page 3)

Additionally, it is crucial that important offset mechanisms, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), continue to be supported, while other innovative financing mechanisms and new approaches are explored.

Going forward, BIAC will remain actively involved in OECD climate change work to identify and implement least-cost policies to reduce GHG emissions. The OECD also has a critical role in tracking climate finance, and in examining how public finance can help leverage private financial flows.

To learn more about BIAC's work on climate change, please contact Hanni Rosenbaum rosenbaum@biac.org

BIAC Secretary General addresses IOE European Meeting and BIAC's Israeli member in Tel-Aviv



BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami participating at the IOE European Members' Meeting, hosted by the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI)

On 14-15 September 2011, BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami participated as a special guest at the IOE European Members' Meeting; hosted by the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI).

The meeting, chaired by IOE Vice-President for Europe, Ms. Renate Hornung-Draus, brought together 65 participants from 29 national employers' organisations, and saw the exchange of experiences among employers' organisations on global and national issues and highlighted the importance of BIAC-IOE co-operation in responding to current challenges. Mr. Asami participated as a panellist during a session on Global Policies for Business.

On the occasion of this event, Mr. Asami also met with MAI Foreign Trade Director Mr. Dan Catarivas and more than 20 representatives to discuss Israeli business contribution to BIAC policy work as well as BIAC-MAI priorities. In his introduction, Mr. Catarivas noted the increased activity since MAI's transition from BIAC Observer to full BIAC Member in 2010. Over the past year, the number of MAI representatives in BIAC Policy Groups rose from 15 to 49, and MAI's participation and involvement expanded from 7 to 23 BIAC policy groups.

Mr. Asami commended MAI's support for BIAC, highlighting how this strengthens BIAC's ability to influence the OECD's policy activities. Mr. Asami discussed the recent update process of the MNE guidelines, highlighting the importance of a successful implementation of the updated Guidelines in order to contribute to a global level playing field for business.

Mr. Asami concluded by welcoming MAI's objectives to host a formal meeting of a BIAC Policy Group and to nominate Israeli candidates for a future BIAC policy group Chair or Vice Chair position.

For further information, please contact Mark Primmer (mark.primmer@biac.org).



BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami meeting with Israeli business representatives at the Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI)

BIAC hosts side-event on greening the economy with agriculture

On the occasion of the FAO/OECD Expert Meeting on Greening the Economy with Agriculture, 5-7 September 2011 in Paris, BIAC took the initiative to host a side-event in the form of a luncheon panel discussion on the role of science and technology in greening the economy with agriculture. This event was generously sponsored by BIAC's Associate Expert Group member, CropLife International, and successfully contributed an outside perspective to the discussions in the FAO/OECD Expert Meeting.

The panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Caroline Henshaw, journalist for Dow Jones and the Wall Street Journal, focused on the role of science and technology in helping farmers in both developed and developing countries to increase production sustainably while adapting to climate change and other challenges. 80 distinguished experts from government, farming, business and scientific communities from all over the world participated in this event.

Panellist Sir Gordon Conway, from Imperial College London, emphasised that technologies need to be "appropriate", meaning that they need to be accessible, sustainable and productive, so that high outputs can be generated from low inputs. Meanwhile, Ms. Alice Kachere, a smallholder farmer from Malawi, highlighted the importance of imparting knowledge and training to smallholders through education and extension programmes. Dr. Mike Bushell, Syngenta, stressed that a mosaic of different solutions shall be necessary, and that both public and private investment is necessary for boosting research and development.

This event marked an important contribution on the road to Rio+20, in which agriculture is emerging as one of the key sectors in efforts to "green" the world's economies and reduce poverty. Over coming months, the BIAC Food & Agriculture Committee shall review OECD plans for further work on green growth and agriculture, and agriculture shall form an important focus in BIAC's forthcoming International Business Green Economy Dialogue to be held on 14 November in Paris. For further information, please contact Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org).



Ms. Caroline Henshaw from Dow Jones and the Wall Street Journal, and Sir Gordon Conway from Imperial College



Ms. Alice Kachere, from Malawi, and Dr. Mike Bushell, from Syngenta

BIAC strengthens its work on development

The Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, released at the Seoul G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2010, marked a shift towards a much broader conceptualisation of development beyond aid, to also encompass the important role played by the private sector. This Multi-Year Action Plan specifically mandated the OECD to carry out several different development-related activities, and thus paved the way for the OECD Development Strategy, which shall be presented in spring 2012. In addition, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is working towards the Fourth High-Level Forum (HLF-4) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan on 29 November - 1 December 2011, which shall focus on broader partnerships for development, including the private sector.



BIAC Secretary General Tadahihiro Asami addressing Korea-hosted workshop examining synergies between the development agendas of the G20 and the Fourth High-Level Forum (HLF-4) on Aid Effectiveness

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Development

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In light of this increased recognition of the role of the private sector in development, BIAC is now strengthening its contributions to OECD development activities. BIAC Secretary-General, Mr. Tadahiro Asami, participated as a panel speaker in a recent Korea-hosted workshop examining synergies between the G20 and the HLF-4 agendas, presented to the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, and shall participate in the HLF-4 in Busan. BIAC members are also working intensively in the drafting of a joint public-private statement to the HLF-4, which shall propose a set of high-level shared principles for increasing development effectiveness.

As preparations begin for the OECD Development Strategy, BIAC has created an informal network on development in order to help coordinate and enhance BIAC activities. The network currently consists of over 25 business experts, representing expertise from a broad range of different BIAC policy committees and task forces.

If you would like to join this network, or obtain further information on BIAC's work on development, please contact Mr. Jonathan Greenhill (greenhill@biac.org).

BIAC Secretariat News

New BIAC Policy Manager welcomed



At the beginning of October, Ms. Tabea Kölbl assumed the duties of BIAC Policy Manager replacing Mr. Peter Heller, who resigned in August.

Ms. Kölbl, previously a political adviser at the Confederation of German Employers (BDA), manages BIAC's activities in the areas of trade, export credits, raw materials, investment, anti-bribery and corruption, corporate responsibility, corporate governance, public governance, SMEs, human rights and non-member economies (MENA, Russia). Ms. Kölbl studied North American Studies, History and Political Science at Bonn University and New York University and holds a Master's degree from the University of Bonn.

On behalf of the BIAC Secretariat, we wish Mr. Heller great success in his endeavours, and extend a warm welcome to Ms. Kölbl.

For further information on the BIAC Secretariat, please contact Mark Primmer (mark.primmer@biac.org).

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