

BIAC urges Health Ministers to foster close co-operation with private sector to improve health care

Paris, 8 October 2010 – Speaking to OECD Health Ministers on 7 October 2010, BIAC urged governments to work closely with the private sector to maximise the efficiency of health care systems with limited resources, and to obtain better value for money while improving quality of health care and patient outcomes.

“Business is greatly concerned about the challenges to our health care systems and the implications of rising non-wage labour costs for companies’ competitiveness,” stated Ms. Nicole Denjoy, Chair of the BIAC Task Force on Health Care Policy. “But business is also part of the solution as it is instrumental in finding innovative solutions for sustainable health care systems.”

The financial and resource pressures facing health care systems today, which have been further exacerbated by the recent global economic crisis, are likely to rise because of ageing populations and changing patterns of disease. BIAC urged Ministers to take a long-term and holistic approach to address the fundamental drivers of rising costs and avoid short-term fixes that merely offer a sticking plaster.

BIAC called upon Health Ministers to set clear priorities for future OECD work, taking into account the following five business priorities:

1. Improve the efficiency of health care delivery to citizens and patients
2. Encourage innovation in health care
3. Enhance the quality of health care delivery
4. Foster a solid infrastructure and appropriately trained workforce
5. Foster disease prevention and personal initiative for healthier and more active life-styles

Addressing the challenges at hand will require innovation in health delivery, funding schemes, products and services, as well as in organisation and management of medical facilities. It is critically important that all stakeholders co-operate to develop patient-centered health strategies that improve quality, efficiency and ensure overall economic prosperity.

Founded in 1962 as an independent organisation, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognised representative of the OECD business community. BIAC’s members are the major business organisations in the OECD member countries and a number of OECD observer countries.

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