



The Voice of OECD Business

Press Release

Lisbon hosts Business Conference on OECD's Response to Global Economic Crisis

Lisbon, Portugal, 21 May 2009 – As global leaders continue to face the challenges of addressing the global financial and economic crisis, over 150 international business and government policy decision makers met today to explore and discuss how the OECD and the international business community are working together to promote open markets and job creation.

"We must work together, BIAC and OECD, to restore public trust," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. "Trust in governments and regulations, in banks and corporations, in open markets and globalisation as a whole."

The one-day conference, organised jointly by the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) and its Portuguese member Associação Industrial Portuguesa – Confederação Empresarial (AIP-CE) on the occasion of BIAC's Annual General Assembly, provided insight into how the Paris-based OECD, which groups the world's most advanced industrialised nations, influences economic policies worldwide, and how business can engage with it.

BIAC Chairman Charles P. Heeter helped open the event saying that "crisis management necessitates extraordinary measures, and governments are pressing, both domestically as well as internationally, to restore market confidence in the financial sector and to stimulate their economies. BIAC is the means for the business voice to be heard at the highest levels at the OECD as it deals with today's problems and thinks of tomorrow's challenges."

Additional speakers included Mr. Fernando Teixeira Dos Santos, Portugal's Minister of State and Finance, Mr. Jorge Rocha De Matos, AIP-CE President, and Portugal's Ambassador to the OECD, Mr. Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues. Panels included numerous other business and industry representatives from US, Japan, Germany, Brazil, India, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland, as well as host Portugal.

Mr. Heeter concluded by thanking AIP-CE for successfully hosting this year's event, and by highlighting that BIAC will build on the outcomes of the roundtable in preparing for its 23 June Consultation with OECD Ministers in Paris. "It is in times like these when our collective work is needed more than ever – Business and governments acting together can help restore trust in globalisation."

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, www.biac.org.

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