

Speaking points

**Consultation with the OECD Health Committee
23 May 2007**

LONG TERM STRATEGY OF OECD WORK ON HEALTH

General comments on OECD health-related work

BIAC recommends that OECD maintain its focus as an economic organization on its added-value as compared to other international organizations and in line with its own specific positioning. OECD studies should be integrated and respond to a coherent long-term strategy. The outcome of the 2004 OECD Health Ministerial provides an important basis for further work by the OECD Health Committee. The long-term strategy should include health-related work across the Organization and adequately reflect the horizontal nature of health care. The strategy should be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Business is a major stakeholder in health care systems and should be an integral part of these discussions. With regard to the options discussed for interactions with social partners, we therefore strongly recommend option 1, i.e. full participation in the meetings of the Health Committee.

Specific comments on issues raised in the OECD thought starter

Undertaking policy analysis and evaluation to identify effective, efficient and high-quality practices: What is the rationale for selecting the practice of performance-based payment schemes as the focus of the study? BIAC recommends that OECD also address the questions of quality, how to optimize the systems within the existing health care system and how to improve the overall system. Other mechanisms to improve health care system performance should be given due attention (e.g. innovation, patient satisfaction, medical workforce, etc.)

Assessing options for sustainable financing of efficient health systems

Developing criteria for assessing the sustainability of funding of health systems might be an overambitious objective. A clarification is necessary as to the various implicit assumptions. BIAC recommends focusing on incremental steps and encouraging specific measures. Specific case studies could be undertaken for selected countries (e.g. early diagnosis, move towards prevention).

Encouraging cooperation among member countries in developing health accounts in a way and in other relevant health data and information sharing

BIAC suggests (1) improving the coverage of the existing data file; (2) the creation of a permanent body on the model of the international accounting standards in order to support the deployment, the understanding and the adaptation of health accounts, and information sharing.

Developing and promulgating health care indicators, and standardized, comparable sets of data and statistics

The study on PPP is a useful tool. We recommend OECD to focus closely on its intended use.

Comprehensive data on the characteristics of the health and long-term workforces should be compiled.

Such a study should be considered as a top priority. BIAC suggests addressing two additional issues: study of cohorts; use this study and the current data for defining a tool for forecasts.