



April 2016

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A Word from Bernhard Welschke



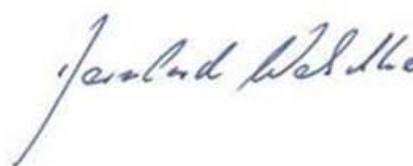
Dear Colleagues,

“Enhancing Productivity for Inclusive Growth” will be the theme of this year’s OECD Ministerial Council meeting chaired by Chile. The Chilean government, led by the Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs, hosted a preparatory meeting with BIA and TUAC on 25 April 2016 in Santiago. Fernando Alvear Artaza, the General Manager of the Confederation for Production and Commerce (CPC) in Chile, presented the views of BIA and his federation on measures to improve productivity and to better use the growth potentials of our economies. The CEO of the US Council for International Business (USCIB), Peter Robinson, spoke on the key role of business to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. The Chair of our Technology Committee, Rick Johnson, explained the potential of innovation and digital technologies for more growth and well-being.

The BIA delegation was strongly enhanced by the participation of Martin Pérez Monteverde, President of the National Confederation of Private Entrepreneurial Institutions (CONFIEP), our new observer in Peru. Following the meetings in Santiago, Martin hosted us in Lima for talks with the Presidents of CONFIEP member federations. The Peruvian economy and cooperation with BIA on all OECD matters were the focus of discussions.

Now, we are in the run up to our General Assembly on 30 May and OECD Week. At the General Assembly, we will present the results of our new economic policy survey and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises. But there is much more going on at BIA and the OECD. This bulletin will again give you a good account of current BIA activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernhard Welschke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

USCIB CEO Peter Robinson, BIA Secretary General Bernhard Welschke, and BIA Innovation & Technology Committee Chair Rick Johnson at the MCM Consultation (Santiago)

BIAC Innovation, Health, and Well-Being Forum on 3-4 May



Over 150 business, governments, the OECD, and academia representatives will gather next week at the OECD to discuss what businesses can do for healthier societies in collaboration with governments. This BIAC Forum will showcase the diversity of how business is providing solutions to healthcare challenges. On day one of the Forum, participants will learn how the food and beverage industries are investing to deliver healthier products for consumers, and how employers are offering wellness programs that empower populations and increase productivity. On day two of the Forum, participants will address business views on how to create sustainable and patient-centered healthcare systems.

Registration is free of charge and can be done by visiting the dedicated website: www.biachealthwellness-forum2016.org. For further information on OECD health policies, please contact BIAC Director Policy & Communications [Ali Karami Ruiz](#).

OECD Integrity Forum Explores Links Between Corruption and Trade



BIAC Anti-Corruption Task Force Chair Klaus Moosmayer and BIAC Trade Committee Chair Cliff Sosnow

A strong business delegation participated in the OECD Integrity Forum, which took place on 19-20 April, focusing on global trade without corruption. Recognizing that corruption is a significant barrier to trade, BIAC called upon the OECD to consider the private sector as a key partner in the fight against corruption, and to explore opportunities that foster trade while addressing corruption at the border, including the demand side. The BIAC paper, which summarizes our recommendations for fostering integrity and trade, is available on the [BIAC website](#).

The Forum brought together high-level policy makers, the private sector, civil society organizations and academia to discuss how to prevent corruption in customs, protect supply chains, and counter illicit trade. The OECD Integrity Forum is the OECD's key event for a multi-disciplinary discussion on integrity and anti-corruption.

To participate in BIAC's integrity activities, contact Senior Director, Policy and Strategic Planning [Hanni Rosenbaum](#) and Director, Policy and Public Affairs [Maud Garnier](#).

Innovation and Productivity



BIAC Vice Chair Dominique Mockly

On 7 April, BIAC Vice Chair Dominique Mockly spoke at an OECD seminar on innovation and productivity. The Chief Scientist of Israel, Avi Hasson, offered a keynote on the challenges of productivity and discussed the paradox of Israel’s highly innovative and resilient economy with big productivity gap. Speaking about the emergence of new technologies and innovation patterns, Dominique Mockly pointed to the importance of policy coherence, coordination and better collaboration. BIAC is strongly supporting OECD work on policy recommendation that pave the way for the Next Production Revolution, and calls for measures that help governments to better understand how industrial production could develop, to reap the benefits, but also prepare for the risks.

For further information on OECD innovation-related activity, please contact Director, Policy and Public Affairs [Maud Garnier](#).

Innovations in Plant Breeding

Innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions are needed to address world challenges from increasing population, changing food demands and climate change. On the occasion of the 23rd meeting of the OECD Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds and of the 30th OECD Working Group for Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology, BIAC released a [vision paper](#) describing five different areas along with recommendations to inform the OECD priorities in advancing agricultural policies based on the experience and perspective of agricultural technology providers. The areas and recommendations covered are:

- Harmonization of oversight of Regulated Technologies
- Synchronization of Approvals for Regulated Technologies
- Support Innovation in Plant Breeding
- Intellectual Property (IP) Protection to Spur Innovation
- Support for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education

BIAC will furthermore support an OECD Workshop “Microbiome, Diet and Health: Assessing Gaps in Science and Innovation” taking place in Brussels on 30-31 May.

For further information on OECD innovation-related activity, please contact Director, Policy and Public Affairs [Maud Garnier](#).

BIAC's 5 Priorities on Stakeholder Engagement

The release of the first OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook in October 2015 met strong support from the business committee and BIAC warmly welcomes further work to identify the drivers of regulatory efficiency. The OECD is now pursuing activities to develop and promote good regulatory practice. Implementation, oversight and stakeholder engagement were at the center of discussions during the OECD Regulatory Policy week, and BIAC presented [Five Priorities for Stakeholder Engagement](#): consultations should be open and transparent, as well consistently carried during the regulatory lifecycle. It is furthermore crucial that the proper implementation of good regulatory practice is monitored, and pre-conceived political choices should be balanced with the findings of well-conducted impact assessments.

The OECD Regulatory Policy Committee also discussed the lessons learnt from the previous work on International Regulatory Cooperation (IRC) with the aim to prepare for the development of an IRC toolkit in 2017/18. BIAC Governance Committee Chair Jens Hedström contributed thoughts on a practical guidance on IRC, insisting on implementation.

For further information on OECD regulatory policy, please contact Director, Policy and Public Affairs [Maud Garnier](#).

Policies for a Robust Global Food System

Recognizing that the global food system must serve ever more people, address shifting consumer preferences, cope with unpredictable climate and weather patterns, and compete for limited nature resources, BIAC participated in an [OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers](#) on 7-8 April in Paris.

In a BIAC's [statement](#) to Ministers, business calls on the OECD to deepen evaluation of policies to support open and competitive markets, promote frameworks for international regulatory cooperation, enhance enabling conditions for private investment for innovation, encourage greener growth in the agri-food chain, and promote nutrition through sound policies that take a holistic approach to food, food chains, and diets.

For further details, please contact BIAC Policy Director [Jonny Greenhill](#).

BIAC Active in OECD Trade Meetings to Discuss Trade Priorities

A strong BIAC delegation led by the BIAC Trade Committee Chair and Vice Chairs met in Paris to present to OECD and its member governments business priorities on trade for the 2017-2018 biennium. BIAC also held its bi-annual Trade Committee, where the BIAC Trade Committee leadership presented the BIAC paper on cross-border data flow restrictions and where members discussed priority items in the trade policy agenda. The BIAC Trade Committee also participated in the OECD Trade Committee, where BIAC highlighted the need to continue building the evidence base to address issues related to digital trade, including cross-border data flow restrictions, among others.

For further information, please contact BIAC Director Policy & Communications [Ali Karami Ruiz](#).

Climate Change High on BIAC's Agenda

Following the opening ceremony for signature of the Paris Agreement, held at the United Nations headquarters on 22 April, BIAC reiterates its continued support to the OECD as a key organization in the field to provide fact-based analysis concerning the implementation of the Paris Agreement. BIAC calls upon the OECD to contribute to increasing the overall cost-effectiveness and coherence of climate measures and to help ensure a policy environment that is supportive of innovation and investment by all the business involved.

At the meeting of the OECD Environment Policy Committee in early May, BIAC will highlight the key recommendations of its paper on the “Post-COP 21 Agenda: Key Actions for the OECD”. Going forward, BIAC will contribute to preparations for the OECD Environment Ministerial planned for September 2016.

*For further information,
please contact Senior Director, Policy and Strategic Planning [Hanni Rosenbaum](#).*

Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains

The OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas provides detailed recommendations to help companies respect human rights and avoid contributing to conflict through their mineral purchasing decisions and practices. The guidance had been developed with the active participation of business.

BIAC members will participate in the upcoming Forum on 10-12 May, which will focus on compliance and implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and other initiatives to enable responsible mineral supply chains. The agenda as well as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance are available on the [OECD website](#).

*For further information,
please contact Senior Director, Policy and Strategic Planning [Hanni Rosenbaum](#).*

Business Priorities for Education

As many countries are experiencing a deceleration in their productivity growth, there is growing political attention to the role of education and skills policies for raising productivity. In this context, an informal [meeting](#) of OECD Ministers will examine skills policies in June in Bergen. As a timely input to OECD discussions, the BIAC Education Committee organized an Education Roundtable with the OECD Secretariat on 11 April 2016 at the OECD Headquarters in Paris.

The Roundtable discussed issues raised in the forthcoming BIAC discussion paper on education, entitled “Business Priorities for Education”, including curriculum redesign, entrepreneurial education, character qualities for the workplace, innovation in education, teaching and evaluation, higher education, vocational education and training, and apprenticeships. The BIAC discussion paper will be released in May 2016.

*For further details,
please contact BIAC Policy Director [Jonny Greenhill](#).*

May Spotlight Dates

3-4	OECD Environment Policy Committee BIAC Forum on Innovation in Health and Well-Being
10-12	Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains
11-12	OECD Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems OECD Working Party on Bio-, Nano- and Converging Technology
25-27	BIAC and OECD Economic Policy Committee Meetings
30	BIAC General Assembly
30-31	OECD Workshop “Microbiome, Diet and Health: Assessing Gaps in Science and Innovation” (Brussels) G20/OECD Task Force on Institutional Investors and Long-term Investment
31	High Level Roundtable on Financing SMEs in Global Value Chains
31-1	OECD Forum

*More information on BIAC meetings and events
is available on the [BIAC website](#).*

*BIAC speaks for business at the OECD. Established in 1962, we stand for policies that enable
businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and prosperity.*

*Through BIAC, national business and employers federations and their members provide expertise to
the OECD and governments for competitive economies, better business, and better lives.*