



Paris, 18 December 2014

Dear colleagues,

As 2014 is coming to a close, we at BIAC are looking back at a year both highly productive and rewarding. More than ever, your support and input made it possible for us to shape a broad agenda of economic policy and governance here at the OECD and on a global level.

Starting the year with our annual consultations with OECD Ambassadors and the OECD leadership, BIAC made a strong case for structural reforms in our economies, and for the fundamental importance of open and competitive markets. I am pleased to report that these themes were well reflected in the conclusions of the OECD Ministerial in May 2014, and in the Strategic Orientations of OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría.

Still as a consequence of the deep economic and financial turbulences in 2009, we currently witness an international debate on the correlations between growth, incomes, and the degree of “inclusiveness” in our economies. This debate also resonates in the work and analysis of the OECD and that of other multilateral institutions. BIAC, on many occasions and at many levels, including our active participation in the B20, points strongly to the potential of private sector led growth as a vital prerequisite and powerful lever to create economic opportunities and more employment.

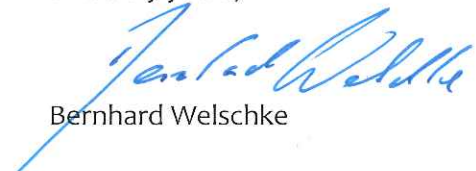
But as you know, BIAC does not only engage in broader debates on economic policy. In fact, our main body of work reaches deep into a full range of issues on the OECD and national agendas with great relevance for business such as corporate governance, trade and investment, education and skills, the digital economy, international taxation, and many more.

I take this opportunity to send you a fresh compilation of current selected BIAC work priorities. This paper, with an outlook on 2015, may be good guidance for you and your teams explaining the impact and value of BIAC work for all of us.

On this occasion, it is hardly possible to recognize all those who are instrumental for the success of BIAC. But let me at least give special praise to our Committee leadership and the Board. We are particularly grateful for the support of Keidanren and the Chair of BIAC Japan, Katsutoshi Saito, for their support and hospitality in the preparations of this year’s OECD Ministerial, chaired by Japan. Now we are looking forward to our cooperation with VNO-NCW towards the 2015 OECD Ministerial chaired by the Netherlands. Investment will be the focus of this important event.

On behalf of the entire BIAC team, I extend best wishes for the Holiday Season, and for a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year 2015.

Sincerely yours,



Bernhard Welschke

To: Directors General of BIAC Member, Observer and Associate Experts Group Organisations
BIAC Executive Board