



THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paris, 18 January 2018

Statement on OECD Enlargement

The Business at OECD (BIAC) Executive Board, at its meeting on 18 January 2018 in Paris, discussed the most recent calls for OECD membership from countries in Europe and Latin America. The Board looks at these expressions of interest as a confirmation of the important role the OECD assumes as a leading institution for international economic cooperation and development.

As a designated advisory body to the OECD, Business at OECD (BIAC) appreciates the impressive range of instruments and the deep knowledge of the organization to support governments in their efforts to establish and maintain rules-based and market-oriented economies. This is fundamental for fostering growth, employment, and economic cooperation. More than ever, business depends on an enabling environment to support trade and investment in global markets. The adherence to OECD standards and instruments, and their reliable implementation, are fundamental for more productive and competitive economies. Business at OECD (BIAC) welcomes the interest of new countries in OECD participation as an opportunity to further broaden the impact of established good practices for the governance of markets.

While the case for each country will be different, a thorough assessment of the current economic and legal environment, in particular the ability, capacity, and willingness to fully apply the body of OECD instruments, and a commitment to open markets should guide any decision on the opening of accession negotiations. The accession process should encourage countries to improve their business environment and engage in the necessary reforms. Business at OECD (BIAC) values the thorough process that takes place in each accession through the OECD committee reviews within the Accession Roadmaps, and we trust that committees will continue to have the opportunity for a comprehensive assessment in their policy areas for each candidate country. Consultation with Business at OECD (BIAC) throughout this process—as we convene the global business community in OECD countries and key partners—will be critical in this effort, and we stand ready to provide expertise and structured input to this process.