

BIAC Economic Policy Committee Meeting & OECD Consultation

14 October 2015, Paris

Draft Program as of 10 September 2015

Schedule:

BIAC Economic Policy Committee Meeting (Part 1)	09h30 to 10h45	BIAC Offices, 13-15 Chaussée de la Muette, 75016 Paris
BIAC-OECD Roundtable on Productivity	11h00 to 13h00	BIAC Offices, 13-15 Chaussée de la Muette, 75016 Paris
BIAC Economic Policy Committee Meeting (Part 2)	13h00 to 14h30 (working lunch)	Venue tbc
BIAC-TUAC Consultation with OECD Working Party on Structural Policies and Macroeconomic Analysis	15h00 to 18h00	OECD Headquarters, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris

BIAC Economic Policy Committee Meeting (Part 1)

09h30 – 10h45, BIAC Offices

1. Introduction by Chair (09h30)
2. Adoption of draft agenda
3. Approval of summary record from previous meeting
 - *Background Document: Summary Record of March 2015 BIAC EPC Meeting*
4. Review of BIAC comments for OECD consultation (09h45)
 - Environmental policies and international trade
 - Wage share and the distribution of the growth dividends
 - Gross cost of flexibility-enhancing reforms
 - *Background Documents: Forthcoming*

End of Part 1

BIAC-OECD Roundtable on Productivity

11h00 – 13h00, BIAC offices

About: Productivity is experiencing a significant slowdown in many economies. Some believe this is a temporary phenomenon; others fear that weak productivity growth could become a long-lasting feature of our economies. A long-term productivity decline is likely to have profound economic and social consequences.

Aim: The purpose of this joint BIAC-OECD session is to therefore discuss recent productivity trends and share priorities for policies that can help revive productivity growth.

Welcome	
11h00 – 11h15	<p>Bernhard Welschke, BIAC Secretary General</p> <p>Christian Kastrop, Director of the Policy Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department</p> <p>Stephan Mumenthaler, BIAC Economic Policy Committee Chair</p>
Round 1: What are recent country trends? Is the slowdown in productivity growth here to stay?	
11h15 – 11h45	<p>Alvaro Pereira (tbc), Director of the Country Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department</p> <p>NBEIC company (tbc)</p> <p>Seiji Inagaki, Executive Officer and General Manager, Investment Planning Department, Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Ltd.</p> <p>Confederation of British Industry (name tbc)</p>
11h45 – 12h00	Open discussion
Round 2: What roles for governments and businesses in reviving productivity growth?	
12h00 – 12h30	<p>Christian Kastrop, Director of the Policy Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department</p> <p>Klaus Deutsch, Chief Economist, Federation of German Industries (BDI)</p> <p>Raymond van der Putten, Senior Economist, Economic Research Department, BNP Paribas</p> <p>Rafael Cayuela (tbc), Director - Corporate Chief Economist, Corporate Strategy & New Business Development, Dow Europe</p>
12h30 – 12h50	Open discussion
Conclusions	
12h50 – 13h00	<p>Stephan Mumenthaler, BIAC Economic Policy Committee Chair</p> <p>Christian Kastrop, Director of the Policy Studies Branch, OECD Economics Department</p>

BIAC Economic Policy Committee Meeting (Part 2)

13h00 – 14h30, Venue tbc

Continued from Part 1...

5. Preparation of the BIAC Economic Policy Survey 2016 (13h15)

- Background Document: BIAC Secretariat Proposal for BIAC Economic Policy Survey 2016

6. Update on BIAC consultations with Ambassadors and Ministers in 2016 (13h45)

7. Any other business

END

BIAC-TUAC Consultation with OECD

15h00 – 18h00, OECD Headquarters

Chaired by the Chair of the OECD Working Party on Structural Policies and Macroeconomic Analysis, the consultation will consist of three one-hour long sessions on the three consultation papers (forthcoming). The OECD Secretariat authors of each consultation paper will begin by making a short presentation of results and key messages, before opening up for comments from BIAC and TUAC representatives. The Chair will then convey a summary of BIAC and TUAC comments to the Working Party which meets on 15-16 October.

The three topics for discussion on 14 October are as follows:

Environmental policies and international trade

- This paper uses the OECD's "environmental policy stringency indicator" to look at whether more stringent policies lead to modifications in net export patterns (i.e. redirections of international trade specialisation).

Wage share and the distribution of the growth dividends

- Examining the decline in the wage share, this project will assess the role of a number of explanatory factors, such as biased technological progress or the reduction in the cost of capital, especially ICT. Other potentially important factors include globalisation and expansion of global value chains facilitating outsourcing, the growing importance of the financial sector and structural changes in the labour market (e.g. employment protection, union coverage, skills mismatches). Consequences on the composition and level and demand going forward as well as structural policy implications will be drawn from the empirical findings.

Gross cost of flexibility-enhancing reforms

- The work will probe micro-level data to evaluate what these reforms, which are known to bring net benefits, imply for individuals or population groups. In particular, the work intends to highlight how these individual-level consequences vary according to other policies and the economic cycle. The ultimate aim is to provide advice on designing reforms that enhance flexibility, while keeping associated costs low and thus facilitate their acceptance.