

Media Release

Business Calls for Policies Supporting a Robust Global Food System

Paris, 8 April 2016—***“Private sector efforts to strengthen the global food system ultimately hinge on government policies that uphold the virtues of open and competitive markets for agricultural trade, investment, and innovation,”*** commented Mr. Metin Akman, Chair of the BIAC Food and Agriculture Committee, at the OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers on 7-8 April in Paris.

This meeting occurred at a time where the global food system must serve ever more people, address shifting consumer preferences, cope with unpredictable changes in climate, and compete for limited natural resources.

In response, the agri-food sector is heavily investing and innovating to boost productivity and sustainability across the entire food chain. Recognizing that the right policies must be in place to enable the sector to play this role, BIAC’s Statement to Ministers calls on the OECD to:

- Deepen evaluation of policies to support open and competitive agricultural markets, and promote frameworks for international regulatory cooperation.
- Enhance the enabling conditions for increased private investment for innovation in the agri-food chain, promoting cooperation with the private sector and improving public perception of innovation.
- Encourage greener growth in the agri-food chain, with focus on private sector-led and collaborative investment initiatives.
- Promote nutrition through sound policies that take a holistic approach to food, food chains, and diets, and which recognize the role of businesses as an indispensable partner for change.

BIAC Statement to Meeting of OECD Committee for Agriculture at Ministerial Level, available here: <http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial/statements/>

OECD Declaration on Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System available here: <http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/ministerial/meeting/>

About BIAC:

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.

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