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**BUSINESS**atOECD

*Business at OECD (BIAC)*

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# Food and Agriculture Committee

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**Annual Activity Report 2022**

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# Message

## from the Committee Chair

This year, food security was threatened in many parts of the world as severe climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russian war in Ukraine contributed to severe food supply constraints and enduring price inflation. Repetitive market shocks demonstrated a need for transformative policy solutions that foster resiliency in our food systems and agricultural supply chains, and in this regard, business had an integral role to play.

This year, alongside our continuous engagement with the OECD at all levels, on issues that are most salient for our businesses, we particularly focused on bringing stakeholders together—challenging different leaders, businesses and policymakers to discuss and engage with each other on specific and current issues in the food and agricultural sectors. We have successfully launched our ‘Peace for Food’ campaign, hosting three stakeholder dialogues and submitting a synthesis report as input to the OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers. Our *Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee* members demonstrated an enduring commitment to our key messages and contributed as active participants to many OECD discussions.

Throughout the year we focused on reducing the productivity gap between developing and developed country agriculture, emphasizing the role of digitalization in the food and agricultural sectors, replacing distortive government support with trade facilitating measures, and on removing trade restrictions and regulatory discrepancies across countries.

In 2023, our Committee will continue to engage the OECD to shape policy-making on behalf of our businesses, particularly under the ‘Peace for Food’ campaign, and with the hope that together, we can enhance food security globally. I look forward to continuing our work impacting food supply chains from farm to fork.



**Metin Akman**

*Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Chair*

# Context

The OECD is a global leader of statistics, forecasts, and evidence-based policy recommendations in the area of food and agriculture. Its annual publications, such as *Monitoring and Evaluating Agricultural Policies* and the *OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook*, are closely followed by policymakers and industry.

The OECD's policy work contributes to bettering food systems in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The OECD contributes actively to the G20, including on the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

*Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognized business advisory group to the OECD and represents the leading business and employers' organizations in OECD countries. The work of our Food and Agriculture Committee enables private sector representatives to participate in high-level OECD sessions and regular policy meetings, exchange and network with governments and OECD leadership, access information and contribute to OECD policy recommendations, and build momentum with private sector peers to impact policy-making at all stages.

This activity report provides selected year highlights of the *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee in 2022, and includes a list of Committee releases and sessions. In line with the OECD's priorities and the efforts of many others in our Committees, our activities in 2022 focused on aligning core issues of the Committee with the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food systems, among other important food and agriculture topics.

# Our activity highlights

## March

In March, a large *Business at OECD* (BIAC) Food and Agriculture Committee delegation participated in **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)** meeting, to discuss the OECD work on food systems and agricultural resilience to natural disasters and agricultural risk management policies, among other issues.

## April

In April, our *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee convened in Paris and virtually to exchange on members' agriculture priorities and discuss with Ms. Marion Jansen, OECD Trade and Agriculture Director, on the key priorities for the Organization on agriculture for the upcoming period, particularly in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine.



*(Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting April 2022)*

A *Business at OECD* delegation led by Vice Chair Natasha Santos (Bayer) participated in the session of the **OECD Committee for Agriculture (COAG)** and convened business priorities for the programme of work of the organization in this field.

*Business at OECD* also hosted a COAG cocktail reception, where we introduced the launch of our Peace for Food Campaign.



*(Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Vice Chair, Natasha Santos, speaking at a Business at OECD hosted COAG reception April 2022)*

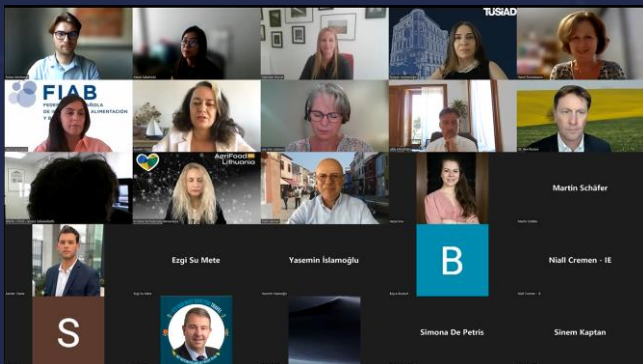
## May

In May, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the session of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets** and the **Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade**, and convened business messages on aligning agricultural, trade and environmental policies, overcoming evidence gaps in food systems and other issues.

## July

As a response and a proactive initiative, our Food and Agriculture Committee launched a special campaign, titled [Peace For Food](#), to bring international attention and global stakeholders together to highlight the current situation in global food markets. It also highlights business commitment to reaching global objectives, including agriculture sustainability and innovation objectives.

On 13 July, we organized a **virtual stakeholder dialogue**, with the participation of OECD Deputy Secretary General Ulrik Knudsen, to highlight key issues the private sector identifies in the agriculture sector that require urgent joint attention.



*(Peace for Food – Virtual Stakeholder Dialogue)*

## October

On 5 October, we organized a second stakeholder dialogue, as a **High-Level Roundtable** and addressed medium-term priorities for enabling sustainable productivity growth and transforming global food systems.

This solution-focused dialogue explored actions that could be taken by the private and public sectors, and brought multiple OECD Ambassadors, representatives from OECD Governments, World Bank and Academia together, among others.



*(Peace for Food High Level Roundtable)*

## November

Our Peace for Food campaign set the scene for the **OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers**, which took place on 3-4 November 2022. Our chair Mr. Metin Akman led our business delegation at this important meeting, where BIAC was allocated a speaking slot during the working lunch, where we have presented our [Peace for Food Synthesis Report](#).

The report synthesizes key messages addressed by our Roundtable participants for consideration by Agriculture Ministers. It also explores immediate, medium-term and long-term challenges that the agriculture sector is currently facing, and proposes several case-study examples, on how these can be addressed.



*(From left to right: Committee Vice Chairs Martin Schäfer, Natasha Santos, Committee Chair Metin Akman, Business at OECD Executive Director Hanni Rosenbaum, Policy Manager Rokas Morkunas at OECD Agriculture Ministerial)*

In November, BIAC delegates participated in the meeting of **Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)**, which, among others, discussions were held on using policies to improve environmental performance, and measuring sustainability and productivity, and policy reforms, climate change mitigation, trade and sustainability, aligning agriculture, trade and environmental policies.

As next steps for the Peace for Food campaign, together with AgriFood Lithuania, on 15 November we have organized the **largest AgriFood Forum in the Baltic States**. The Forum gathered digital innovation hubs, government representatives, OECD and EU high-level officials, to discuss some of the most pressing challenges for agriculture sector in the Baltic region.



*(Speaking at the event, second from the left: Business at OECD Policy Manager Rokas Morkunas, first from the right and panel moderator, our Food and Agriculture Vice Chair, Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė)*

Members also participated in the meeting of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets**, discussing among others agriculture policies to build system-wide resilience in agro-food value chains, climate change adaptation policies to foster resilience in agriculture and other issues.

# Sessions

## Our Meetings with the OECD and Governments

### ***Business at OECD Sessions***

**22 February**

Annual Consultation with OECD Ambassadors and Secretary General

**25 April**

*Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting*

**13 July**

*Business at OECD Peace for Food – Virtual Stakeholder Dialogue*

**5 October**

*Business at OECD Peace for Food – High-level Roundtable*

**15 November**

*Joint Business at OECD, AgriFood Lithuania and LPK Peace for Food – AgriFood Baltic Forum*

### ***Engagement in High-Level OECD Sessions***

**9-10 June**

OECD Ministerial Council Meeting

**3-4 November**

OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers

### ***Engagement in OECD Committee Sessions***

**27-28 April**

OECD Committee for Agriculture

**7 October**

OECD Committee for Agriculture

**16-17 November**

OECD Committee for Agriculture

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## **Engagement in OECD Fora**

OECD Global Forum on Agriculture

**6 October**

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## **Engagement in OECD Working Party Sessions**

OECD Working on Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)

**15-16 March**

OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)

**7-8 April**

OECD Working on Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)

**10-12 May**

OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Agriculture

**16 May**

OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)

**9-10 November**

OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Agriculture

**21 November**

OECD Working on Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)

**22-24 November**



# Our **key releases**



[Peace for Food Synthesis Report](#)  
(October 2022)

## **Peace for Food**

Our Food & Agriculture Committee is working with farm groups and with agribusinesses that operate upstream and downstream in the food supply chain to identify actions that the private sector can take on its own, in partnership with governments and other stakeholders, and in response to specific policy changes.

This report synthesizes key messages from our campaign for consideration by Agriculture Ministers.



[Key Messages to OECD Ambassadors and Leadership:](#)  
(February 2022)

## **Exiting crisis mode: Addressing business recovery, risks and realities**



[Key Messages to OECD Ministers:](#)  
(June 2022)

## **The Future We Want: Business Contribution to the 2022 OECD Ministerial Council**

# Committee **Leadership**

Chair

**Metin Akman**

Trouw Nutrition Turkey (Türkiye)

Vice Chair

**Natasha Santos**

Bayer (Germany)

Vice Chair

**Gabriela Wurcel**

FMC Corporation (US)

Vice Chair

**Mark Ball**

Syngenta (Switzerland)

Vice Chair

**Martin Schäfer**

BASF SE (Germany)

Vice Chair

**Ghislaine Weder**

Nestlé (Switzerland)

Vice Chair

**Kristina Šermukšnytė -  
Alešiūnienė**

AgriFood Lithuania DIH (Lithuania)

Vice Chair

**Mauricio Garcia de Quevedo**

FIAB (Spain)



*(Food and Agriculture Committee Leadership convening in Paris for the Peace for Food High Level Roundtable in October )*



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Established in 1962, Business at OECD (BIAC) stands for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and societal prosperity. Through Business at OECD, national businesses and employers' federations representing over 7 million companies provide and receive expertise via our participation with the OECD and governments promoting competitive economies and better business.