

From Berlin to Buenos Aires - B20 Handover

Voices of B20



Emma Marcegaglia, Chair of the B20 Trade and Investment Taskforce, President of BusinessEurope and Chairwoman of the Board of Eni

The President of BusinessEurope and Chairwoman of the Board of Eni, Emma Marcegaglia, led the B20 Trade and Investment Taskforce. “The B20 welcomes the G20’s commitment to open markets, the willingness of its members to fight protectionism, and their announcement to work together towards a successful WTO ministerial conference in Argentina later this year”, emphasized Marcegaglia. However, the language of Hamburg often remains painfully vague and open to interpretation. “Protectionism and mercantilist policies can in no way propose a solution to concerns about inclusiveness. Quite the contrary, they hurt the poorest the most,” Marcegaglia stated. “There is also too little on digital trade and investment in the Declaration”.



Kurt Bock, Chair of the B20 Energy, Climate and Resource Efficiency Taskforce and Chief Executive Officer BASF

“Effective climate protection needs consistent global action. B20 welcomes the fact that 19 of the G20 governments reaffirmed their strong commitment to the Paris Agreement at the Summit in Hamburg. We regret, however, that the Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth does not include a path to develop mechanisms for global carbon pricing,” said Kurt Bock, Chair of the B20 Energy, Climate and Resource Efficiency Taskforce and CEO of BASF. According to Bock, the B20 is providing the innovations required to combat climate change. “I am also pleased that the G20 members have agreed to launch a G20 dialogue on resource efficiency. This is an important step in the right direction”, explained Bock.



Oliver Bäte, Chair of the B20 Financing Growth and Infrastructure Taskforce and CEO of Allianz

“I applaud the G20’s commitment to international economic and financial cooperation, as this will ultimately create opportunities and wealth for more people across the globe,” said Oliver Bäte, Chair of the B20 Financing Growth and Infrastructure Taskforce and CEO of Allianz. The G20 Declaration supports the relevant B20 recommendations to enhance the role of Multilateral Development Banks to act as catalysts to crowd-in private investment in infrastructure. Oliver Bäte: “If we achieve the targeted 25 to 35 percent increase of private infrastructure investments over the next three years, large communities will greatly benefit. This is why implementing the Hamburg decisions to create transparency on investible infrastructure projects for potential investors is crucial.”



Klaus Helmrich, Chair of the B20 Digitalization Taskforce and Member of the Executive Board of Siemens

“I am pleased that the G20 members want to close the digital divide, promote digital literacy in all educational paths, and invest more in infrastructure”, emphasized Klaus Helmrich, Chair of the B20 Digitalization Taskforce and Member of the Executive Board of Siemens. The G20 recognizes the digital transformation as a driving force for global, innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth. By 2025, all citizens are to be digitally connected. “However, as business we hope for more regarding global standards, IT security, Industry4.0 and the potential of artificial intelligence”, Helmrich stated.



Gerhard F. Braun, Chair of the B20 Employment and Education Taskforce and Vice President of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA)

“The G20 leaders recognize the effect of digitization on employment and the need to educate and train people with the necessary skills for the future of work”, said Gerhard F. Braun, Vice President of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA) and Chair of the B20 Employment and Education Taskforce. However, there is no mention of planned efforts to promote more diverse forms of work or creating more inclusive labor markets in general. “The G20 members need to rework this. We need to remove labor market barriers in order to allow better access for women and young people and to foster the transition from informal to formal employment in emerging economies”, Braun added.



Klaus Moosmayer, Chair of the B20 Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-Corruption cross-thematic group and Chief Compliance Officer at Siemens

The cross-thematic group on Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-Corruption was led by Klaus Moosmayer, Chief Compliance Officer at Siemens. “The endorsement in the Hamburg Leaders' Declaration of four sets of High Level Principles aimed at fostering integrity in the public and private sector reflects the importance of the issue and is strongly welcomed by the B20”, Moosmayer underlined. The B20 specifically welcomes the G20 Leaders' recognition that effectively preventing and combating corruption in customs is essential to an enabling business environment and investment climate. “That Beneficial Ownership Transparency as an important tool to fight corruption found its way into the G20 Leaders' Declaration as well as the Hamburg Action Plan, is a significant signal”, Moosmayer added.



Rudolf Staudigl, Chair of the B20 SMEs cross-thematic group and Chief Executive Officer of Wacker Chemie

Small and Medium Enterprises are another B20 focus. The cross-thematic group was led by Rudolf Staudigl, Chief Executive Officer of Wacker Chemie. Staudigl stressed that in all regions of the world, SMEs are drivers of economic growth, employment and innovation. Regarding G20 actions he said: "Specifically, in my view, free trade is an important lever for giving SMEs better access to global supply chains and access to financing and digitalization." That is why, according to Staudigl, it is disappointing that the role of SMEs as backbone of many countries' societies is not paid nearly enough attention in the Hamburg Leaders' Declaration.

About the G20

The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Within the G20, 19 leading industrial and emerging economies as well as the European Union coordinate their policies and agree on joint actions and principles. The G20 members combined hold more than 85 percent of the global economic output, more than 80 percent of global goods and services exports and represent about two thirds of the global population.

About the B20

The B20 is an integral part of the G20 process and represents the global business community. The B20's task is to support the G20 by making concrete recommendations for actions, consolidating global businesses' interests, and lending its expertise to the G20. Beyond this engagement the B20 focusses on advocacy and fosters the international dialogue between governments, civil society, and the business community. Like the G20 presidency, the B20 presidency is a perennial process and rotates on a yearly basis.

Links:

[B20 Germany Website](#)