

## **B20 and G20 discuss practical measures to reduce corruption**

The B20 presented its interim recommendations on measures to curb corruption to the G20 at a meeting in Moscow on February 26, 2013.

The B20 Task Force on improving Transparency and Anti-corruption was represented by Andrei Bougrov, Vice President of RSPP, the Union of Entrepreneurs, and Brook Horowitz, Director of Business Standards at the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF). The Task Force comprises senior executives from about 50 companies and business associations from G20 countries.

The meeting was a continuation of a dialogue between the G20 and B20 on anti-corruption since the B20 Task Force was established at the Cannes G20 Summit in 2010.

Mr. Bougrov updated the G20 on developments since the last meeting in October 2012. The B20 Task Force has made its priority to follow through on previous years' recommendations, and focus on implementation. It has also made efforts to align its work more closely to the agenda of the G20. The four main themes it is working on this year are ensuring transparency in public procurement, promoting collective action, building capacity in the supply chain and amongst SMEs, and strengthening the role of the private sector in improving the regulatory environment. These themes all resonate strongly with the G20 Anti-corruption Action Plan.

The Task Force has also created an Implementation Work stream. The idea is to "test" the applicability of these initiatives in a pilot market, in this case Russia.

Mr. Horowitz outlined a number of projects which the B20 was focusing on. These are projects which business is ready to support with expertise, resource and in some case financing. To promote clean public procurement business supports the World Bank's benchmarking on public procurement. The B20 applauds the efforts of Columbia to set up a High-Level Reporting Mechanism to address complaints about unfair practices in public tendering. The B20 is planning to set up a "Collective Action Hub", a web-based facility which will enable the exchange of best practices in companies and governments working together to create fair competition in specific countries, markets and industries. Education and capacity building form a crucial part of the B20 programme, and the major companies are already promoting better awareness of compliance within their supply chains. There were also initial thoughts about how governments and international organisations can promote better compliance through making loans and the right to participate in public tenders conditional on companies' adoption of adequate compliance procedures. Companies are also pledging to share their experience of compliance management with the public sector, through training, exchange of best practice, and periodic review of international legislation.

During the discussion, the G20 representatives welcomed the practical nature of the B20 proposals. The need for dissemination was reiterated, and in connection with this, the idea of a Collective Action hub attracted considerable praise. There were suggestions that in each country there should be some kind of counterparty to the hub, to disseminate best practices into the markets and feed local experience back into the centre. A significant role of this network could also be to monitor and track the implementation of B20 recommendations. The combined "hub" and "spokes" of the wheel in each country could have significant impact on improving business culture.

A number of countries requested more information about the B20 programme and exchange of training opportunities for public officials. There was a recognition of the need to bring more companies from emerging markets, and from the financial services industries, into the B20, and a number of governments offered to support this domestically. The Russian co-chair requested the B20 to conduct a study benchmarking voluntary business codes of conduct in G20 nations similar to the RSPP Anti-corruption Charter.