



05-01-2011

Mr. Sergio Arzeni
Director of CFE and Head of the LEED Programme
2 rue André-Pascal
75016 Paris
France

Dear Mr Arzeni,

Re: International Council for Small Business (ICSB) – Request for OECD, WPSMEE Observer Status

As President of ICSB, I am writing on behalf of the organization to request Observer Status for ICSB in the Working Party on SME and Entrepreneurship (WPSMEE).

For many years, ICSB and OECD have shared an informal relationship, for example, ICSB participated in the 2004 OECD Istanbul SME Ministerial and the OECD Secretariat participated in the ICSB's World Conference in Canada in 2008. In November 2011, I represented ICSB in the 38th Session of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship and the Bologna +10 High-level Meeting. We strongly believe that Observer Status would provide a mechanism for strengthened collaboration between the two organisations.

Having the proud distinction of being the first international membership organization to promote the growth and development of small businesses worldwide, ICSB is now in its 58th year of operation. Annually, ICSB through one of our affiliates hosts a world conference which brings together our membership which is comprised of educators, researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world. The overall objective of these conferences is to share knowledge global knowledge, and is the platform for collecting research on policy and practice.

ICSB promotes the development of knowledge in all areas of business theory and practice and is particularly focused on strategies and policies proven to be effective in sustaining small businesses and entrepreneurship. We are confident that our ability to share global knowledge in areas of SMEs and entrepreneurship will enable us to make a significant contribution to the OECD WPSMEE. Through a more formal relationship, ICSB would also benefit as it would enable the organization to enhance our membership knowledge through the sharing of OECD's important work.



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for Small Business**

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On behalf of the ICSB, I respectfully request your consideration of this formal proposal, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Smallbone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Professor David Smallbone
International Council for Small Business

Copies:

M. Sergio Arzeni, Directeur du Centre de l'OCDE pour l'entrepreneuriat, les PME et le développement local (CFE)

Mme Mariarosa Lunati, Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe de travail de l'OCDE sur les PME et l'entrepreneuriat (GTPMEE)