



Working for a strong economy

Connecting businesses



The Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG) is committed to promote sustainable prosperity, based on a diversified economy and successful entrepreneurship business-wise, socially and environmentally. For this to materialise, it is necessary that companies, irrespective of their size or industry, find in Geneva a framework conducive to the pursuit of their activities.



DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF BUSINESS

Its **independent** position with respect to the political authorities enables the CCIG to make its voice heard, for instance in cantonal and federal legislative consultations and by formulating proposals in connection with one or the other of the framework conditions, often in the context of voting campaigns.

With respect to **taxes**, the Chamber works with expert panels towards tax relief for companies (taxation of wealth, business tax). For example, it has been actively involved in the reform of business taxation (TRAF) and the maintenance of the tax shield.

With respect to **urban planning**, the CCIG contributes to generating support for higher urban density around a structured and efficient public transport network.

With respect to **mobility**, the CCIG advocates a transport mix based on the coordinated development of transport infrastructure.

Finally, in the field of **energy**, the CCIG is committed to ensure that the implementation of the federal energy strategy takes into account the needs of businesses.

The CCIG also closely monitors labour issues, including cross-border relations

PROMOTING MEMBER COMPANIES

To ensure the promotion of member companies, the CCIG brings businesses into contact with each other through approximately a hundred events each year, which act as key opportunities for quality **networking**. The major events are:

- **The Annual Business Event**; one of the largest gatherings of business leaders in the Lake Geneva region, during which the Annual Economic Study is presented and discussed;
- **The Annual Dinner**, following the General Meeting;
- **Chamber breakfasts and afterworks**, bi-monthly events where Members pitch their companies.

In addition, the «**Member News**» section of the CCIG website allows Members to share updates about their companies.

SUPPORTING BUSINESSES BY DELIVERING SERVICES

The CCIG offers a variety of services designed to make life easier for companies, thus enabling them to focus on their core business and create economic value.

Here are some of the services:

- A **virtual marketplace**, reserved for Members, offering discounts or tailor-made services (accessible from the website and the **CCIG mobile app**);
- A **Sustainability Diagnosis** for businesses which want to integrate Sustainable Development Goals in their strategy. One-on-one coaching or small workshops are on offer;
- A **“SME Health check-up”**, to help managers identify the strengths in their organisation and the opportunities for improvement;
- A **one-stop advice desk** on the main issues of business management;
- Access to online platforms of **procurement**, whether public or private, Swiss or international;
- The administration of **arbitration** and other **alternative dispute resolution** through the Swiss Arbitration Center, and finally, through strategic partnerships. The CCIG offers its Members **preferential rates** on a selection of third-party services.

FOSTERING EXPORT

The CCIG is dedicated to help its Members export their goods and services. Accordingly it offers comprehensive services related to international trade.

Acting officially at the behest of the Swiss customs, the CCIG:

- **legalises** export documentation;
- issues **certificates of origin** and **CITES** certificates.

It also delivers **ATA** and CPD carnets (merchandise passports) and advises Members

wishing to develop their international activities. In support of this, the Chamber regularly leads business delegations abroad.

The CCIG also offers its Members free access to the International Trade Centre Market Analysis tool portal, which is one of the most extensive databases in the world.

Thanks to a collaboration with the Geneva School of Higher Education in Management, CCIG Members can benefit from free assistance to explore emerging markets, whether from a commercial or an investment angle.

INFORMING AND OFFERING INSIGHT

The CCIG keeps its Members – and the general public – well-informed on all issues affecting the entrepreneurial environment through the following publications:

- **CCIGinfo**, a monthly information magazine;
- **eCCIG**, a weekly online newsletter;
- The monthly **International Trade Newsletter**;
- The website **www.ccig.ch** (“News & Views” section);
- **Social media**.

Twice a year the Chamber publishes a **Business Climate Survey** and co-publishes, with the Geneva Cantonal Bank, an **in-depth study** of a particular sector of the Geneva or regional economy. Finally, the CCIG publishes at regular intervals an analysis on the status of taxation in Geneva.

To visit the CCIG website:



To download the CCIG app:



MISSIONS

The Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG) aims for a strong economy that allows those engaged in it to operate on the long run. This translates into a four-fold mission for the CCIG:

1. To **advocate** economic and political framework conditions which enhance business performance also from a social and environmental point of view.
2. To **promote** its Members by facilitating business opportunities.
3. To **provide** services that enable businesses to progress, particularly in terms of sustainability and digitalisation.
4. To **constitute** a model of corporate social responsibility by incorporating good practices within the CCIG.

Core values since 1865

When it was founded in 1865, the Geneva Chamber of Commerce was tasked with “enlightening the cantonal and federal governments with its information and formulating requests and suggestions (...) It will also have to disseminate our principles of free enterprise throughout Switzerland.” From the outset, the Chamber was representative of the entire business and commercial community. As the economy changed, so did the name of the institution with the addition of the terms “industry” in 1961 and “services” in 2006.

Even though the principle of freedom of enterprise is now well established, the fundamental mission and operating principles of the Chamber remain unchanged: independence from the State, defence of private enterprise in line with freedom to trade, unfettered international commercial exchanges, federalism and healthy public finances.

The CCIG focuses its activity on the four mainstays of Geneva’s attractiveness companies, the so-called framework conditions: fiscal policy, town planning, transport and energy. On these issues, the CCIG’s vision is very clear: competitive taxation of both individuals and companies encourages economic boldness; companies need premises at acceptable costs, in well-equipped and serviced areas, while the canton must be able to house a greater proportion of its working population; the fluidity of the movement of goods and people is fundamental to economic dynamism and, finally, the availability and cost of energy play a major role in the competitiveness of firms, particularly in industry.



A POWERFUL NETWORK

With a membership of over 2400 companies, ranging from SMEs to large multinational corporations and active in all sectors of the economy, the CCIG represents close to 120 000 jobs. A private association founded in 1865, the CCIG is fully independent from the State. Its autonomy and representativeness make it the voice of business vis-à-vis the public authorities.

By its very governance, the CCIG ensures that it is at the heart of a dense economic network. Its governing bodies, the Committee and the Economic Council, are made up of business executives from the various sectors of the Geneva economy. In addition, the CCIG sits on the General Council of the World Federation of Chambers of Commerce and maintains privileged links with the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). At the Swiss level, it is part of the national umbrella organisations *economiesuisse* and the Swiss Employers' Union.

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