



ccig
Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services

**WORKING FOR
A STRONG ECONOMY**

**CONNECTING
BUSINESSES**

OUR STRENGTH

- Independence
- Representation

**WORKING FOR A STRONG ECONOMY
CONNECTING BUSINESSES**

The Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG) works towards maintaining prosperity for Geneva, through a sustainable and diversified economy. Companies both big and small, from all industries, must be able to rely on a business-friendly environment, conducive to the pursuit of their activities.

MISSIONS

The CCIG aims for a strong economy that allows those engaged in it locally to go about their business in optimal conditions. This translates into a four-fold mission for the CCIG:

1. **improving** the framework conditions of the economy;
2. **supporting** its members by facilitating business opportunities;
3. **delivering** services to member companies;
4. **informing** members, providing them with documentation and analysis on a large range of topics.

KEY CONDITIONS FOR BUSINESS ACTIVITY

The CCIG focuses its activities on four framework conditions that make Geneva a business-friendly location:

1. **Urban planning:** companies need suitable premises in well-equipped areas at a competitive price and Geneva must be able to accommodate a larger proportion of its workforce.
2. **Energy:** essential to industrial production, its availability and cost play a major role in the competitiveness of companies.
3. **Mobility:** an indispensable condition for all commercial transactions. Poor mobility increases costs to businesses as well as to individuals.
4. **Taxes:** competitive tax rates encourage entrepreneurial activity; with more financial resources available to them, companies invest and create jobs.



DEFENDING THE INTERESTS OF BUSINESS

Its **independence** from political authorities enables the CCIG to be the voice of businesses before local and federal governmental authorities, and by advocating action and policy in connection with one or other of the framework conditions.

With respect to **urban planning policy**, the CCIG has contributed, by initiating a study carried out by the EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne), to generating support for higher urban density around a structured and efficient public transport network.

In the field of **energy**, CCIG action translates into energy and environmental legislation taking into account business interests, particularly that of the industrial sector.

With respect to **mobility**, the CCIG campaigns for necessary investment in quality transport infrastructure, good accessibility to commercial and city centres, and the future development of Geneva International Airport.

Finally with respect to **taxes**, the CCIG regularly publishes thematic brochures explaining in clear language what is at stakes when dealing with tax issues. These brochures have underpinned the measures taken by the Chamber for a lower taxation threshold (physical persons) and its fight against irrational proposals pertaining to lump sum taxation or inheritance tax.

With a seat in many official commissions and working groups, the CCIG works daily in close coordination with local authorities, ensuring that the interests of businesses are appropriately taken into account. Most of these deal with large scale projects such as Praille-Acacias-Vernets, the Greater Geneva area or the development of eco-industrial parks.



PROVIDING VALUE FOR MEMBERS

In support of its members, the CCIG encourages quality networking via a number of events.

The main ones are:

- **The Annual Business Event**; one of the largest gatherings of business leaders in the Lake Geneva region. The CCIG, together with the State of Geneva and the Office for the promotion of industry and technology, awards the “Geneva Business Prize” and the “Innovation Prize” on this occasion.
- **The Annual Dinner** held following the General Assembly.
- **Chamber breakfasts (le 7h30 de la Chambre) and lunches (Pitch@CCIG)** – monthly events at which members make 2-minute presentations of their companies.
- **Seminars** on specific topics.

In addition, the **Member News** page on the CCIG’s website enables them to share recent developments taking place within their businesses.

DELIVERING SERVICES

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

- **legalises** export documentation
- emits **certificates** of origin and CITES certificates.

It also delivers ATA and CPD (merchandise passports) documentation and advises members wishing to develop their international activities. In support of this, the Chamber regularly leads business delegations abroad.



Additional **services** designed to make life easier for companies are:

- PME Connect, a one-stop shop for initial advice and guidance on several major themes related to business management;
- commercial information and information on trade formalities and customs tariffs;
- administration of arbitrations and commercial mediations;
- sale of address databases.

INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The CCIG keeps its members informed on all issues affecting the entrepreneurial environment through the following publications:

- **CCIGinfo** – a monthly information newspaper;
- **e-ccig** – a weekly online newsletter;
- website **www.ccig.ch**.

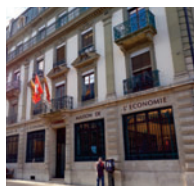
Twice a year the CCIG publishes the **Business Climate Survey** and co-publishes, with the Geneva Cantonal Bank, an **in-depth study** of a particular sector of the Geneva or regional economy. Finally, the CCIG publishes at regular intervals an analytical brochure on the status of Geneva taxation.

All the position papers published by the CCIG can be found on the website.



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 130 000 jobs. A private association founded in 1865, the CCIG is the third oldest Chamber of commerce in Switzerland. Fully independent from the State, its autonomy and representativeness entitle it to speak on behalf of businesses.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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