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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE EDUCATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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Background

1. Originally established in 1970 as the Education Committee [C(70)134], the Committee was last renewed by Council on 14 December 2006 and renamed the Education Policy Committee [C(2006)173 and C/M(2006)20, Item 265]. The current mandate of the Education Policy Committee expires on 31 December 2011.

2. An In-depth Evaluation (IDE) of the Education Policy Committee (EDPC) was conducted between December 2009 and April 2010 by the Evaluation Committee. Council approved the recommendations of the IDE report of the EDPC [C(2010)149] on 7 February 2011 [C/M(2011)2, Item 11, ii)]. The IDE report's assessment was "high" for the evaluation criterion of relevance, vis-à-vis the needs of policy-makers; "medium" for efficiency; and "high" for effectiveness. The report noted that there had been, "significant positive changes in the way the Committee functions compared to its earlier incarnation" and that continued efforts were underway to fulfil the EDPC's mandate to "oversee the strategic direction, coherence, quality and communications of OECD work in the field of education policy" [C(2010)149].

3. The IDE report set out six recommendations, one of them being focused on the EDPC co-ordinating functions and mandate, stating that the EDPC should "realise fully its mandated function of co-ordinating OECD work on education policy, including that conducted under the responsibility of PISA, the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) and IMHE, and ensure that its next mandate includes clear policy objectives to orient its work and redefine its role vis-à-vis the Secretariat".

4. The Council invited the EDPC to take the appropriate measures to address the six recommendations set out in the IDE report. The EDPC's Action Plan, outlining a set of specific actions for each recommendation, was discussed at the Committee's 9th session on 7-8 April 2011 [EDU/EDPC/M(2011)1], was subsequently revised and approved by the EDPC via written procedure on 31 May 2011. The EDPC Action Plan was reviewed and approved by the Evaluation Committee at its meeting of 6 July 2011.

5. The IDE review of the EDPC's substructure and the report's overall assessment of "high" for relevance/effectiveness, provided a sound basis for the EDPC's positive appreciation of the ongoing relevance of its subsidiary bodies [Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure].

6. The EDPC currently has the following subsidiary bodies:

- Working Party on Indicators of Educational Systems (INES), under which fall two networks:
 - INES Network for Data development on labour market & social outcomes of education;
 - INES Network for Collection & adjudication of system-level descriptive information on educational structures, policies and practices;
- INES Advisory Group;
- Group of national experts (GNE) on Vocational Education and Training (VET);
- Group of national experts (GNE) on Evaluation and Assessment;
- Network on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC);

- Board of Participating Countries of the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS);
- The governing bodies of two Part II programmes also report to the EDPC:
 - Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE);
 - Board of Participating Countries for the International Assessment of Adults Competencies (PIAAC). It should be noted that PIAAC falls under the joint responsibility of the EDPC and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC).

7. The draft EDPC mandate [[EDU/EDPC\(2011\)5](#)] was approved at the EDPC's 9th session and reflects Council's recommendations set out in the IDE report [[EDU/EDPC/M\(2011\)1](#)] in particular with regard to: its co-ordination role (see Annex, paragraph 2); the inclusion of clear policy objectives to orient the EDPC's work (see Annex, paragraph 2), reference to OECD objectives of deepening engagement with non-Members (see Annex, paragraph 1) and oversight of subsidiary bodies (see Annex, paragraph 8).

8. In parallel with the renewal of the EDPC mandate, the respective mandates of the other Level I education bodies will also be subject to Council approval, namely: the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) [[C\(2011\)88](#)], the Programme on Institutional Management of Higher Education (IMHE) [[C\(2011\)110](#)] and the Programme on International Student Assessment (PISA) [[C\(2011\)92/REV1](#)]. The governing body mandates for the two Part II programmes reporting to the EDPC are also subject to Council approval, namely: Board of Participating Countries for the International Assessment of Adults Competencies (PIAAC) [[C\(2011\)91/REV1](#)] and the Centre for Effective Learning Environments (CELE) [[C\(2011\)111](#)].

9. It is proposed that the revised mandate, as set out in the draft Resolution in the Annex hereto, should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2016, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of the Committee. The Committee would return to the Council to propose a revision to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

Proposed Action

10. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2011\)90](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution revising the mandate of the Education Policy Committee as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2011\)90](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2012.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council concerning the participation of non-Members in the work of subsidiary bodies of the Organisation [C(2004)132/FINAL];

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council of 22 July 1970 establishing an Education Committee [C(70)134], as last renewed and renamed by Council on 14 December 2006, Education Policy Committee [C(2006)173 and C/M(2006)20, Item 265];

Having regard to the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation of the Education Policy Committee [C(2010)149 and C/M(2011)2, Item 11, ii)];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Education Policy Committee [C(2011)90];

DECIDES:

A. The Education Policy Committee is renewed with the following revised mandate:

1. The work of the Education Policy Committee (EDPC) reflects and complements the priorities of the OECD as a whole, in providing employment opportunities for all, improving human capital and social cohesion. The Committee contributes to supporting OECD Members and non-Members in their efforts to achieve high quality lifelong learning for all, which contributes to personal development, sustainable economic growth and social cohesion. It is carried out with due regard to the respective mandates of the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), the Programme on Institutional Management of Higher Education (IMHE), and the Programme on International Student Assessment (PISA).

2. In helping Members and non-Members build efficient and effective educational systems and improve learning outcomes, the EDPC provides comparative data and analysis on education policy and implementation. In its focus on education, economy and society, the EDPC covers policy issues ranging from early childhood education and care, schools and higher education to skill formation in youth and adults.

3. The EDPC is responsible for:

- assisting governments to develop effective, efficient and evidence-based policies for education and learning to meet individual, social, cultural and economic objectives through the development of specific policy recommendations, policy reviews, analyses and data collection;

- overseeing the strategic direction, coherence, quality and communication of OECD work on education carried out by the education bodies;
- exchanging information and promoting international co-operation among OECD Members and, where relevant, with non-Members on the objectives identified under 1) above;
- disseminating its policy advice, data and policy analysis to a wide range of stakeholders in OECD Members and non-Members.

Participation

4. Governments should, whenever possible, appoint to the Education Policy Committee senior officials with direct responsibility for advising their governments on general education policy and the allocation of educational resources.
5. The Council of Europe and UNESCO attend meetings of the Committee as observers.
6. The Chairs or a Vice-Chair of the Governing Boards of the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), the Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE), and the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) may attend meetings of the Committee *ex officio*.

Relationship with other bodies

7. The EDPC shall maintain close working relationships with other relevant bodies of the Organisation working on issues that affect the development and implementation of education policy and have implications for other policy areas. The Committee shall enhance its relations with other international and regional organisations active in this policy field to maximise synergies. It may consult with non-governmental bodies, as and when necessary.

Co-ordination of the OECD's Work on Education

8. The Committee will develop a medium-term strategy for work in the field of education, foster coherence in the overall programme of work of the other Education bodies and evaluate this work at the strategic level.
9. For work delegated to its subsidiary bodies, it shall ensure clarity of mandates, provide guidance on priorities and establish integrated oversight and evaluation mechanisms. It shall receive regular reports from subsidiary bodies to ensure their co-ordination, policy integration, timeliness and evaluation.

Duration

- B. The mandate of the Education Policy Committee shall remain in force until 31 December 2016.