



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

C(2019)84

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English - Or. English

14 June 2019

COUNCIL

Council

**PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

JT03448885

1. Purpose

1. This note seeks approval from the Council on extending, on a temporary basis, the mandate of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) [[C\(2014\)126](#)], due to expire on 31 December 2019.
2. The proposed extension will allow the Committee to review its mandate, informed by the results of its In-depth Evaluations (IDE). This proposed extension is in line with recent practice throughout the Organisation, with extensions agreed by the Council notably most recently in 2018, for similar reasons, in relation to the Education Policy Committee, the Economic and Development Review Committee, the Economic Policy Committee, the Committee on Fiscal Affairs [[C\(2018\)72](#)], and the Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy [[C\(2018\)123](#)].

2. Background

3. The RDPC was originally created as the “Territorial Development Policy Committee” in January 1999 to discuss regional, urban and rural policies involving policy makers at the national, regional and local levels. It was subsequently renamed in 2014 on the occasion of the revision of its mandate for 2015-19 [[C\(2014\)126](#) & [C/M\(2014\)9](#)].
4. The current mandate of the RDPC expires on 31 December 2019. The IDE of the RDPC is currently scheduled to be finalised towards the end of 2019.

3. Proposed Extension

5. In order for the Committee to take into account the outcomes of its IDE when discussing its mandate renewal, it is suggested to extend the current mandate of the RDPC for a period of one year until 31 December 2020. The proposal to extend the mandate of the RDPC was approved by the Committee on 6 June 2019 by written procedure [[CFE/RDPC\(2019\)6](#)].
6. As required by Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee will have to submit to the Council, together with the proposed renewal of its mandate, the results of its evaluation of the continuing relevance of its substructure. In line with the OECD-wide Standard-Setting Review, the Committee will also assess the relevance and impact of the legal instruments under its responsibility, and identify possible follow-up actions, such as revision or a review of implementation [[C/MIN\(2018\)11](#)].
7. The proposed revised mandate is annexed to this document (see Annex). The preamble and the duration have been modified to refer to this proposed extension.

4. Proposed Action

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

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2019\)84](#);

- b) agreed to extend the mandate of the Regional Development Policy Committee, as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2019\)84](#), until 31 December 2020.

ANNEX. DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING THE MANDATE OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 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 Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/REV1/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council concerning the Creation of a Territorial Development Policy Committee [[C\(98\)198/FINAL](#) and [C/M\(99\)1/PROV](#), Item 17] whose mandate was last revised in 2009 [[C\(2009\)126](#) and [C/M\(2009\)21/PROV](#), Item 242];

Having regard to the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation of the Territorial Development Policy Committee [[C\(2012\)84](#) and [C/M\(2012\)5](#), Item 82];

Having regard to the principal conclusions of the meeting of the Territorial Development Policy Committee at Ministerial level in December 2013 [[GOV/TDPC/MIN\(2013\)3](#)];

Recognising that restoring trust in the ability of governments to regulate markets, manage public finances, deliver the services that citizens expect and ensure access to employment and economic opportunities for citizens in all parts of the national territory are key elements of a sustainable growth strategy;

Seizing the considerable opportunity for regional development policy to promote long-term, sustainable and inclusive growth while addressing major national and global policy challenges, such as fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting green growth, the transition to a low carbon economy, investing in skills, dealing with demographic issues (such as ageing and migration), and enhancing the effectiveness of public investment and the quality of public services in both urban and rural areas;

Acknowledging that public investment and many public services are a shared responsibility within and across levels of government;

Recalling that Ministers agreed that mobilising cities, regions, rural areas, private operators and civil society around place-based policies can generate opportunities for skills development, investment and innovation, and directly contribute to a better quality of life;

Acknowledging that the Committee provides a unique forum for Members, non-Members and other relevant stakeholders to share views on regional development policy design and implementation and to improve the understanding of economic, social, environmental and institutional trends relevant to regional development;

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Territorial Development Policy Committee, including that it be renamed the “Regional Development Policy Committee” [C(2014)126];

Having regard to the proposed extension of the mandate of the Regional Development Policy Committee [C(2019)84];

DECIDES:

The Regional Development Policy Committee (hereafter the “Committee”) has the following mandate:

I. Objectives

Overarching objectives

- i) The Committee should serve as the premier international forum for senior-level policy makers to identify, discuss, develop, and disseminate a vision of regional development policy that is place-based, multi-level, multi-sectoral, evidence-based and innovative.
- ii) The Committee seeks to enhance well-being and living standards in all region types, from cities to rural areas, and improve their contribution to national performance and more inclusive and resilient societies. To this aim, the Committee promotes the design and implementation of policies that are adapted to the relevant territorial scales or geographies, and that focus on the main factors that: sustain competitive advantages; generate stronger, fairer and liveable regional economies; and promote effective and innovative governance at all levels of government.

Mid-level objectives

The mid-level objectives of the Committee are to:

- i) Improve regional development and attractiveness in terms of growth, employment and well-being, by: diagnosing the characteristics, challenges and opportunities of different region types; comparing and analysing trends in regional performance outcomes, in local finance, and in regional development policies; and promoting understanding of the linkages and complementarities among different types of regions.
- ii) Enhance the capacity of regional development polices to address challenges and opportunities such as the enduring consequences of the economic crisis, transition to a low carbon economy and adaptation to climate change, ageing, gender equality and migration. This should also contribute to national agendas in key areas such as innovation, the internationalisation of regional economies, green growth and inclusive growth.
- iii) Address the economic, social and environmental needs and opportunities of metropolitan areas and cities of all sizes through comprehensive national urban policy frameworks.
- iv) Support the development of rural areas through modern rural development policy frameworks with a focus on economic development and competitiveness, fostering rural-urban linkages, improving access to services, land use and sustainable use of natural resources.
- v) Improve governance mechanisms within and across levels of government for more efficient and effective public investment and public service delivery by developing

implementation tools and guidelines for policy at the relevant scale. This also applies to different policy sectors such as water as well as safe and efficient transport infrastructure.

- vi) Promote dialogue between the OECD and central governments with sub-national government leaders often responsible for policy action, as well as financial institutions, private operators and social partners, given the importance of such dialogue for achieving better regional development outcomes.

II. Working Methods

To achieve these objectives, the Committee will:

- i) Produce thematic analytic reports and peer reviews in specific countries, regions and metropolitan areas. Develop policy and multi-level governance tools that enable all levels of government to better fit policies to places.
- ii) Create opportunities for exchange of best practices to help Members and non-Members design and implement coherent regional development policies on a national and transnational basis.
- iii) Identify and develop projects on cross-cutting issues, such as green growth, business demography, migration, land use and housing.
- iv) Develop and maintain high-quality and relevant statistical indicators to support evidence-based policy making, in particular by providing data that enables policy action at the relevant scale.
- v) Disseminate the Committee's work via websites and social media as well as through regular events involving actors from national and sub-national governments.

III. Co-ordination arrangements

- i) The Committee's three Working Parties – on urban policy, rural policy and territorial indicators – will continue to play a key role in supporting the work of the Committee and assisting in the implementation of its programme of work.
- ii) Building on its work on multi-level governance between supra-national (when applicable), central, regional and/or local actors, the Committee will draw on the work of, and work in close co-operation with, the Public Governance Committee.
- iii) The Committee and its Working Parties shall co-operate with other OECD committees on matters related to regional development policies, including participation in horizontal projects, particularly with the Local Economic and Employment Development Programme (LEED).
- iv) Recognising the global importance of regional development policy, the Committee will continue to work closely with non-Members to discuss issues of common interest and identify and disseminate best practices.
- v) The Committee will continue and expand its working relationships with the European Union's European Investment Bank (EIB) and other international entities such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank (WB). Such entities will be invited to participate in meetings and events when deemed appropriate.

- vi) To further the Committee's dialogue with sub-national governments, the Committee will also continue and expand its working relationships with relevant stakeholders, in particular: the European Union's Committee of the Regions (COR), the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), C40 Cities, Eurocities, Regions United FOGAR and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). Such entities, along with other organisations representing sub-national governments, will be invited to participate in meetings and events when deemed appropriate.
- vii) The Committee shall also consider the views and input of BIAC, TUAC and other major stakeholders in the field of regional development policy.

IV. Duration

The mandate of the Committee shall remain in force until **31 December 2020**.