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**DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY
STEEL COMMITTEE**

STATUS REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON STEEL TRADE ISSUES

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Summary

1. Arrangements of the *Workshop on steel trade issues*, which will be held on 27-28 May 1998, are discussed.

Action

2. Delegations are asked to:
- provide the names of Workshop participants and observers to the Secretariat;
 - nominate lead speakers;
 - encourage Workshop participants to prepare reports on the topics to be addressed at the workshop, and to provide these reports to the Secretariat as soon as practicable.

Related documents

CCNM/EMEF/SC/A(98)1

CCNM/EMEF/SC(98)1

DSTI/SI/SC(97)35

WORKSHOP ON STEEL TRADE ISSUES: STATUS REPORT

Documentation and letters of invitation

1. As discussed at the last Committee meeting, the *Workshop on Steel Trade Issues* will be held on 27-28 May 1998. Please note that all workshop documents will be issued under a CCNM code [i.e., the code beginning CCNM/EMEF/SC(98) or CCNM/EMEF/SC/A(98)]. A draft agenda and issues paper have been prepared and are currently available as documents CCNM/EMEF/SC/A(98)1 and CCNM/EMEF/SC(98)1.
2. Non-Member countries have been informed about the Workshop and OECD delegations have been asked to provide the Secretariat with the names of the individuals who will be participating in the meeting. For information, a copy of the information note that was sent to parties is attached, as is a copy of a form that can be used to register individuals (see Annexes 1 and 2).
3. As pointed out in the information note, documentation will be available to Workshop participants via the Internet, once they have registered.

Structure of the Workshop.

4. The Workshop will have four substantive sessions as follows:

Perspectives on steel markets and trade, where representatives from companies that produce, process, trade and/or consume steel will provide their views on market and trade issues;

The situation in steel trade: Country reports, where industry and government representatives will provide reports on their respective areas;

Steel trade and globalisation, where government and industry speakers will address globalisation issues; and

Market access and trade facilitation issues, where government officials and experts will provide views on current and emerging issues in steel trade.

Each session will be led by a session Chairman, who will introduce the topic to be addressed, and intervene in the discussion that takes place. In addition to the Chairman, in each session a number of lead speakers will provide their views on the subjects being addressed. Following their presentations, which collectively should be limited to 30 to 60 minutes, all Workshop participants will be able to provide additional comments and views.

Action points

5. Countries participating in the Committee are asked to provide the names of participants in the Workshop as early as possible, so that these individuals can be provided with further information on the meeting.
6. Nominations are needed for individuals who will serve as lead speakers. Countries are asked to contact the Secretariat if they wish to nominate such an individual. In the event further speakers are needed, the Secretariat will contact delegations directly to explore possibilities.
7. In addition to speakers, papers or reports from other individuals would be welcome. These reports should be submitted to the Secretariat, in English or French, as soon as possible, for distribution to other Workshop participants.

ANNEX 1

WORKSHOP ON STEEL TRADE ISSUES: INFORMATION NOTE

Background

1. In 1989, the OECD initiated a policy dialogue with a number of Asian economies, namely Hong Kong (China), Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, and Korea. This was extended in 1993 to include Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico. Korea and Mexico have since become Members of the Organisation. This Group of countries has been known collectively as the Dynamic Non-member Economies (DNMEs). In 1995, it was decided to invite, on a case-by-case basis, China, India and participants from the Indonesian private and academic sectors, to certain workshops. The Philippines joined the Dialogue in 1997.

2. In 1996, a new programme was launched -- the Emerging Market Economy Forum -- as a flexible means for policy dialogue destined for a wider range of non-member countries engaged in market-oriented policy reform and with which policy dialogue is considered of interest to OECD Member countries.

3. The upcoming Workshop is the first to be organised on steel in the context of the EMEF. A related meeting with the DNMEs, China and India was, however, held in October 1996. That meeting brought together representatives from 36 countries that collectively accounted for close to 90 per cent of world steel production and 90 per cent of world steel exports. As with the 1996 meeting, the upcoming Workshop will be tri-partite, bringing together senior government, industry and trade union officials, as well as persons from academia.

Objective

4. The objective of the Workshop is to deepen understanding of the changes that are occurring in world steel trade, and to examine the effects that trade and trade-related policies are having on competitive conditions in the industry. Throughout the discussions, consideration will be given to ways to strengthen steel trade, while promoting competition, adjustment and open markets. Among the topics to be addressed will be the expanding globalisation of the steel industry, the forces underlying the growth that has occurred in steel trade during the 1990s, and current and emerging policy issues facing steel in the field of trade.

Participation

5. Participants and observers in the Workshop will include delegates from the OECD's Steel Committee, and representatives invited from the following areas: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, India, Indonesia (from industry and the academic sectors), Kazakhstan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, the Slovak Republic, South Africa, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam. The participants and observers will be selected by their respective governments and attend in their personal capacities.

Documentation

6. A draft agenda and issues paper will be circulated to participants and observers in advance of the Workso. In addition, papers on the topics to be discussed will be prepared by the OECD Secretariat, experts, and representatives from the economies participating in the Workshop. These papers will be circulated to participants and observers in advance of the meeting as well. Any other relevant material that is submitted will be available as “room documents”. To the extent possible, these documents will also be distributed prior to the meeting.

Internet site

7. To facilitate communication, the OECD has established an Internet site for the Workshop. Access to the site will be restricted to persons who have been registered for the Workshop. The site will contain all documents that have been prepared for the Workshop, as soon as they become available. It will also contain information about the Workshop, and provide a forum where questions and information can be exchanged among participants through the posting of E-mail messages. The Internet address for the site is as follows:

<http://www.oecd.org/dsti/sti/industry/steel/access.htm>

After receiving the names of participants and observers, the OECD Secretariat will assign individuals a “**User name**” for the Internet site. The “**User name**” will be the person’s last name, followed by an underscore (i.e., _) and the initial of the person’s first name.

Example:

Name of registered participant: **William Smith**

User name for Internet site: **Smith_W**

Access to the Internet site will also require a “**Password**”. The initial password issued to all persons will be as follows:

Password for Internet site: **steelwk**

Once users have accessed the site, they can, if they wish, change their password.

Contacts

8. Further information can be obtained from the following individuals:

Concerning registration and related issues:	Concerning the substance of the Workshop:
Ms. Valérie Ino Tel: (33 1) 45 24 93 93 Fax: (33 1) 45 24 88 65 Internet: Valerie.Ino@oecd.org	Mr. Peter Avery Tel: (33 1) 45 24 93 63 Fax: (33 1) 45 24 88 65 Internet: Peter.Avery@oecd.org

ANNEX 2
WORKSHOP ON STEEL TRADE ISSUES: REGISTRATION FORM

Last name:	First name:	
Title:	Status (participant or observer):	
Company/organisation:		
Address:		
.....		
Phone:	Fax:	Internet:

Last name:	First name:	
Title:	Status (participant or observer):	
Company/organisation:		
Address:		
.....		
Phone:	Fax:	Internet:

Last name:	First name:	
Title:	Status (participant or observer):	
Company/organisation:		
Address:		
.....		
Phone:	Fax:	Internet:

Last name:	First name:	
Title:	Status (participant or observer):	
Company/organisation:		
Address:		
.....		
Phone:	Fax:	Internet: