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**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY REFORM, 27-28
SEPTEMBER 2004**

**30th Session of the Public Governance Committee
Paris, 28-29 October 2004**

This room document is for information under Item 5 of the agenda.

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WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY MANAGEMENT AND REFORM

2nd Meeting, 27-28 September 2004

1. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of George Redling (Canada). Delegates selected the Bureau for 2004, to be composed of Mark Courtney (UK), Daniel Trnka (Czech Republic), Kirsii Kuutaniemi (Finland), and John Morrall (US). Ali Haddou-Ruiz (Mexico) has subsequently resigned from the Bureau, as he is leaving his department in the Ministry of Economics.
2. The policy roundtable took a full two hours, with delegates briefing each other on current policy priorities and recent innovations. Administrative simplification, RIA, and better co-ordination mechanisms are shared across most member countries. (A synthesis of the round table presentations and comments is being prepared). At the conclusion, the chair commented favourably on the progress made in a year, and on the degree to which countries are moving in the same direction. He also noted how relevant past and current OECD work is to the policy agendas of countries. The chair also raised the question how regulatory governance can find its way into wider debates both within the public governance community, and within OECD.
3. This opening session set the stage for a discussion of a stocktaking report on building capacity for regulatory quality, and a synthesis paper that incorporates this report together with similar reports on market openness and competition. The objective was to identify lessons about policy implementation from the 20 country reviews of regulatory reform completed to date, and to draw out their implications for future work. Both papers had been discussed previously, either at an extended bureau meeting (April 2004) or at a meeting of the Special Group on Regulatory Policy (June 2004). As a result, there were few critical comments, mostly about adjusting the presentation. Finland intends to translate both papers for domestic circulation. An additional paper on regulation inside government attracted several comments and expressions of interest in future work.
4. The synthesis and stocktaking papers show that the 1997 Policy Recommendations on Regulatory Reform have stood the test of time, but can be amended to incorporate the insights derived from the country reviews. The draft revisions elicited strong support. The chair noted that everyone has endorsed the draft, and proposed that the Secretariat prepare a preamble to be circulated to the bureau before being sent to the Working Party. The draft revisions will be presented to the SGRP as the 2005 Recommendations for Regulatory Quality.
5. The draft APEC-OECD Integrated Checklist for Regulatory Reform, which will be discussed at a conference in Bangkok on 1-2 November which comes at the conclusion of a series of three workshops, also met with endorsement. There was some discussion of the need for criteria to measure the benefits of reform.
6. The Secretariat report on Ex-Post Evaluation was very well received by delegates, several of whom commenting on how well this report supports government initiatives, but also observing that the political will and resources must still be marshalled to put these concepts into practice. The report will be made available on the internet as soon as possible. The Secretariat also presented a draft report on multi-level regulatory governance and an overview of current work on regulatory authorities including an agenda

for an expert meeting, which will be held in London on 10-11 January 2005. An update on the regulatory reform review of Russia included a brief presentation on administrative reform since the presidential election of March 2004, and information on how the review will be completed now that the Russian authorities are meeting the pre-conditions necessary.

7. The draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2005-2006 indicated broad support for activities for reports on reducing administrative burdens and a “red tape” scoreboard, and for regulatory indicators. Governance for high quality regulation and work to extend the conceptual framework to service sectors also drew support, as did the project on alternatives to regulation. In other words, each proposed activity was ranked as a priority by at least several countries. Delegates were reminded that several activities, and especially those for outreach, need voluntary contributions.