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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

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KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

**34th Session of the Public Governance Committee
30-31 October 2006
Château de la Muette, Paris**

This document lists the key events and developments since the last Public Governance Committee meeting in April 2006.

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BUDGETING AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURES

2-3 May, Performance and Results Meeting, Paris, France

This meeting examined how performance information is used in budgetary and management processes; what impact it has had on budgetary, managerial and political decision-making and on performance itself; key challenges countries have encountered with this approach; the solutions that have been adopted to overcome these challenges; what has worked; what has not worked and what are the on-going problems.

7-8 May, 2nd Meeting of Working Group II on Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative, Cairo, Egypt

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss relevant budgetary developments and issues and specify action targets that could be mentioned in the MENA Ministerial meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, 19-20 May 2006.

5-6 June, Working Party of Senior Budget Officials – 27th Annual Meeting, Sydney, Australia

63 Delegates from 24 OECD countries discussed issues related to design choices for fiscal policy rules, top-down budgeting, using performance and results information in the budget processes and assessing fiscal risks through long-term budget projections. In addition, Norway's and Singapore's Budget System was also reviewed at this meeting.

2-3 October, Relationship between the Legislature and the Budget office in the Budget Process, Paris, France

The goal for this Expert meeting was to encourage the exchange of ideas among participants and to produce a report based on countries experiences, which will be presented at the upcoming SBO meeting.

5-7 July, Madrid, Spain and 18-20 October, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, Agencies and PPPs and Accountable Public Spending

The meeting on agencies and public private partnerships brought together delegates from 29 OECD and non-member countries, international organisations and private companies to discuss issues related to management, accountability and control, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public resources when using institutional bodies like agencies or contractual forms like PPPs in the implementation of public budgets and policies.

INNOVATION AND INTEGRITY

28-29 September, The Annual Centres of Government Meeting, Vienna, Austria

This year's meeting took place in Vienna and was warmly hosted by the Austrian authorities. Twenty-three countries were represented at the meeting which was opened by Dr. Alfred Finz, State Secretary of Finance. The meeting focused on 'Leadership in Managing Risk' and laid the groundwork for next year's meeting on 'Strengthening Public Trust by Delivering on Promises: What role for the Centre?' which will take place in Switzerland.

26-27 October, Meeting of OECD Senior E-Government Officials, Paris, France

Meeting of OECD Senior E-Government Officials in Paris held back-to-back with the PGC discussed and approved three e-government country reviews, discussed country experiences on how to improve returns on investment in e-government projects and looked at elements of ICT-enabled transformation in order to identify how e-government can best support a transformation agenda.

OECD E-Government Peer Reviews: three roll-out events will take place in November and December for the presentation of OECD reviews of e-government in Hungary, Netherlands and Turkey. The Deputy Prime Minister and State Minister Şener of Turkey will participate in the discussion of the Turkey review. The Government Commissioner of the E-Government Centre (EKK) in the Prime Minister's Office, Simon Géza, will participate in the discussion of the Hungary review.

29-30 November, The OECD Symposium: Mapping Out Good Practices for Integrity and Corruption Resistance in Procurement, Paris, France

The Symposium will review the information collected through the Questionnaire on country experiences in promoting integrity in procurement through increased transparency and accountability in order to map out good practices across OECD countries.

30 November - 1 December, The OECD Forum for Policy Dialogue with Non-Members: Sharing Lessons on Promoting Good Governance and Integrity in Procurement, Paris, France

The Forum will be organised back-to-back with the Symposium on the afternoon of Thursday 30 November and on 1 December 2006 to expand the dialogue and sharing of good practices with non-member countries.

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Public Employment and Management

- HRM Peer Review of Belgium successfully launched and well underway. The review encompasses 7 governments, including the federal level.
- Major surveys of OECD HRM practices, and concerning pay and employment have been successfully completed.
- Expert Meeting held on performance-based arrangements for senior civil servants in The Hague, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands.
- Comparative studies completed concerning public service ageing, delegated pay determination, management of the political/administrative boundary, and public sector pensions.

Indicators

- Completion of the review of available data, and conclusion of the first round of consultation on the technical approaches to measurement proposed within the project.

Outreach

- Collaborative projects underway on HRM with the government of the Russian Federation, and extensive dialogue with Brazil and China.

MENA

- The MENA GfD met at Ministerial level in Sharm el-Sheikh on the 20-21 May confirming the course of the activity, endorsing a set of national governance reform action plans and laying out a road for implementation of the programme until end 2007. Since then OECD GOV has organised a range of regional capacity building seminars and selected national peer-advice activities to strengthen Arab Reform implementation capacity.

REGULATORY POLICY

April 24, Meeting of the Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform

Discussion of draft reports on administrative simplification, alternatives to regulation, the red tape scoreboard, indicators, and risk.

April 25, Back-to-back meeting of Focus Group on Regulatory Reform of MENA Working Group IV

Nine MENA countries and over 15 OECD countries participated in a discussion of good practices for quality regulation, including RIA and consultation procedures, and on regulatory frameworks for public-private partnerships and public service delivery, including transparency in public service delivery.

May 8-9, Working Group IV regional meeting, Tunis

Evaluating progress since the launch in 2005 and set priorities for the 2nd year (charter and tools for quality law-making, training programme for jurilinguistes, pilot RIA projects, partnerships for administrative simplification). The Secretariat prepared a policy toolkit for regulatory decision-making, an Arabic-French-English glossary of key terms, and an Arabic translation of the 2005 OECD Guiding Principles for Regulatory Quality and Performance.

September 12, APEC-OECD Policy Roundtable on Regulatory Reform, Hoi An, Vietnam

Presentation and discussion of self-assessments by the United States, Hong Kong China and Chinese Taipei. The next round is scheduled for 2007. A synthesis publication will be prepared following three rounds.

September 18-19, Meeting of the Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform

Final reports on alternatives to regulation and on administrative simplification and a draft report on the red tape scoreboard were discussed in a special symposium format with 11 participants, BIAC and TUAC, on reducing administrative burdens. A working paper on indicators for regulatory quality, based on the 2005 questionnaire, will be revised for publication, following further analysis. Peer review discussions of the monitoring exercise of Korea (chapter on regulatory capacity) and of the country review of Sweden (chapters on regulatory capacity and multi-level regulatory governance). Delegates agreed to the proposal for a project on risk and regulation, and were informed of work in progress on reviews of administrative simplification in the Netherlands and on multi-level regulatory governance in Italy. Delegates from 19 countries and Brazil participated in the annual policy roundtable, with a focus on regulatory impact analysis.

New members of the bureau are Charles-Henri Montin (France) and Jerome Nijland (Netherlands), joining George Redling (Canada), Daniel Trnka (Czech Republic) and John Morrall III (United States).

Forthcoming:

December 7-8, Group on Regulatory Policy

Peer review discussions of the monitoring exercise of Korea (including a chapter on regulation and tertiary education) and of the country review of Sweden (including a chapter on regulation and environmental policy); a horizontal discussion on regulatory impact analysis; and a discussion on public services.