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

01-Feb-2010

English - Or. English

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

**Working Party of Senior Budget Officials**

**OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS  
Second Annual Meeting**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA AND REGISTRATION FORM**

**Bern, Switzerland  
11-12 February 2010**

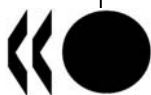
*The meeting is hosted at the Swiss Parliament in Bern.*

*The meeting will be chaired by Mrs. Margret Kiener Nellen, President, Finance Committee, Chamber of the National Council, Swiss Parliament (first day) and Mr. Mark Schipperijn, Head of Secretariat, Parliamentary Financial and Alp Transit Surveillance (SPFA), Swiss Parliament (second day).*

For further information, please contact Jon BLONDAL at OECD Headquarters  
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS

### ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### Wednesday, 10 February 2010

*from 19:00*      *Welcome Cocktail*

#### Thursday, 11 February 2010

**9:00-9:30**      *Welcome Coffee and Croissants*

**9:30-9:45**      **Opening by Chairman and OECD Secretariat  
Delegates' Introductions**

**9:45-10:00**      **Welcome Address by Mr. Hans Altherr, Second Vice-President, Chamber of the Council  
of States, Swiss Parliament**

**10:00-12:30**      **Roundtable on Recent Parliamentary Budgeting Developments**

This session is designed for Delegates to make informal presentations on recent budgeting and public expenditure developments in their countries from a parliamentary perspective. This allows participants to exchange information on reforms which are taking place and provides a useful opportunity for participants to keep up to date with developments in an informal setting. Participants at this year's meeting are accordingly invited to speak briefly on recent developments which may be of interest to others. Given constraints on time within this round table discussion, participants may wish to provide short, written statements to supplement their presentations.

Special time will be allocated during this session to countries that did not participate in last year's meeting in order for them to profile their respective parliamentary budget institutions.

*The Chairman will call a 30-minute coffee break during this session.*

**12:30-14:30**      ***Luncheon followed by Guided Tour of Parliament Building and Family Photo***

**14:-30-16:00**      **Fiscal Rules in Light of the Global Financial Crisis**

A large number of OECD Member countries have in place fiscal rules of various types, including spending, deficit and debt rules. These rules have come under great strain and have been *de facto* abandoned in many cases due to the global financial crisis.

This session will explore the future of fiscal rules in light of these recent events. Will they become integral to restoring fiscal responsibility and sustainability or have they been

undermined to such a degree that they will not be able to regain credibility? What can be learned from recent experience in terms of the optimal design of fiscal rules?

Following a lead presentation by **Mr. Allen Schick**, the floor will be opened to a general discussion among all Delegates.

**16:00-16:30**     ***Coffee Break***

**16:30-18:00**     **Restrictions on Parliament's Role in the Budget Process**

Common restrictions on parliament's role in the budget process include not being allowed to increase any appropriation, only reject or reduce them; to being allowed to increase an appropriation only if an equal reduction is made in another appropriation, to *any* change in the government's budget proposal being viewed as a vote of confidence in the government. Other restrictions include the government's prerogative in preparing a budget proposal, time limits on parliament's scrutiny of the budget proposal and special provisions if parliament does not approve a budget.

This session will review these and other restrictions and will identify trends in this regard among OECD Member countries. It will comment on the effectiveness of such restrictions in promoting fiscal discipline vis-à-vis other institutional features.

Following a lead presentation by **Mr. Joachim Wehner**, the floor will be opened to a general discussion among all Delegates.

**from 19:15**     ***Tram-Apéro followed by Gala Dinner***

**Friday, 12 February 2010**

**8:30-10:00      Dynamic Scoring**

Dynamic scoring is taking full account of all the economic effects of policies when estimating their budgetary effects. Both tax and spending proposals may induce behavioural changes by individuals, e.g. changes in hours of work, in effort, in human capital or financial investment, in consumption and savings, in risk-taking, etc.

These changes can then have 'second-round' effects through changes in market equilibrium, i.e. changes in prices in goods and services markets, changes in wages, interest rates, and so on.

In turn, these will lead to modification of macroeconomic aggregates, including total output, consumption and aggregate savings that will ultimately influence the growth rate of the economy. All of these can affect the revenue that the government collects, so the full chain of consequences will determine the actual budgetary cost of tax and spending proposals. But such scoring is formidably difficult to produce.

This session will assess the key conceptual and practical challenges dynamic scoring poses and consider the advantages and disadvantages of adopting it.

Following a lead presentation by the **OECD Secretariat**, the floor will be opened for Delegates to discuss their views and experiences in this area.

**10:00-10:30      Coffee Break**

**10:30-12:30      Parliamentary Budget Offices – Key Issue**

This session will highlight the key issues involved with establishing and operating parliamentary budget offices.

It will compare the experiences of Canada following 1 year of the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer and the experiences of the United States following 30 years of the Congressional Budget Office. The discussion will include elements of the standard OECD template for profiling parliamentary budget offices.

The session will be led by **Mr. Kevin Page**, Parliamentary Budget Officer, Canada, and **Mr. Bob Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office, United States. Following their lead presentations, the floor will be opened for Delegates to discuss their views and experiences in this area.

**OECD Template for Profiling Parliamentary Budget Offices**

- \* Their inception and development over time;
- \* Their legal basis;
- \* Their organization and function;
- \* Their financial and human resources (budget, number of staff, profile of staff in terms of specialties and academic background);
- \* The appointment process for their directors, including length of terms;
- \* The appointment process for their other staff;
- \* Their use of outside consultants;
- \* The existence of any panels of independent experts;
- \* Their output in terms of number of studies and reports, including both published and background papers;
- \* Their role in scrutinizing the effectiveness and efficiency of specific government programs;
- \* Their role in costing proposed legislation;
- \* Their role in reviewing the economic assumptions for the budget, fiscal risks, and long-term fiscal sustainability;
- \* The nature of their relationship with the budget committee (and other committees);
- \* The nature of their relationship with each Chamber of Parliament, if applicable;
- \* Their relationship with the government (executive) in terms of information gathering and analysis.

**12:30-13:45**      ***Welcome Drinks offered by the City of Bern***

**13:45-14:45**      ***Luncheon***

**14:45-16:00**      **Report by the OECD Secretariat**

This session is designed to update participants on current and future projects by the OECD in the field of budgeting and public expenditures. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

**16:00**              **Closing by Chairman and OECD Secretariat**

## MEETING INFORMATION

### Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the Swiss Parliament (*Palais fédéral*) in central Bern.

### Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

### Entry Passes

Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates, and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass. These entry formalities can be completed prior to the Welcome Cocktail on 10 February or prior to the opening of the meeting on 11 February.

### Simultaneous Translation

Simultaneous translation between English and French, the OECD's two official languages, will be available throughout the meeting.

### Welcome Cocktail

All Delegates (and spouses) are invited to a Welcome Cocktail on the eve of the meeting, Wednesday, 10 February at 19:00. It will take place in the *Galerie des Alpes* at the Parliament Building.

### Tram-Apéro followed by Gala Dinner

Following the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, Thursday, 11 February, all Delegates (and spouses) are invited to a one-hour sightseeing tram tour of Bern featuring cocktails (*Tram-Apéro*) followed by a Gala Dinner at the Komhauskeller Restaurant. The private tram will leave from the *Walgasse* (5-10 minutes walk from the Parliament Building) at 19:15 and will drop Delegates off in front of the restaurant.

### Welcome Drinks offered by the City of Bern

Prior to the luncheon on the second day of the meeting, Friday, 12 February, all Delegates (and spouses) are invited to Welcome Drinks offered by the Mayor of Bern, Mr. Alexander Tschäppät, at the *Erlacherhof* municipal hall. The venue is within walking distance from the Swiss Parliament.

### Accommodations

The Swiss Parliament has made arrangements with special rates (*prix de faveur*) at three hotels in Bern. All hotels are within walking distance of the meeting venue. Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations. Rooms are limited and reservations should be made by 15 January in order to guarantee the special rates.

## HOTELS

\*\*\*\*\* Hotel

### **BELLEVUE PALACE**

Kochergasse 3-5, CH-3000 Bern 7,  
Tel. +41 (0)31 320 45 45,  
Fax +41 (0)31 320 46 46  
[info@bellevue-palace.ch](mailto:info@bellevue-palace.ch),  
[www.bellevue-palace.ch](http://www.bellevue-palace.ch)

Standard room with breakfast at FRS 286.- per person per room.  
Please mention "Parlamentsdienste OECD" in order to receive the special rate.

\*\*\*\* Hotel

### **BEST WESTERN HOTEL BRISTOL**

Schauplatzgasse 10  
3011 Bern, Switzerland  
Telefon ++41 31 311 01 01  
Fax ++41 31 311 94 79  
E-Mail:  
[bristol@bestwestern.ch](mailto:bristol@bestwestern.ch)  
[www.bristolbern.ch](http://www.bristolbern.ch)

Standard room with breakfast at FRS 165.- per person per room.  
Please mention "71339" in order to receive the special rate.

\*\*\* Hotel

### **Hotel REUZ**

Zeughausgasse 41  
3000 Bern 7  
Tel: +41.31.329.95.95  
Fax:+41.31.329.95.96  
[www.kreuzbern.ch](http://www.kreuzbern.ch)  
[info@kreuzbern.ch](mailto:info@kreuzbern.ch)

Standard room with breakfast at FRS 134.- per person per room.  
Please mention "OECD" in order to receive the special rate.



**OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS**  
**Bern, Switzerland, 11-12 February 20010**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(TO BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT)

Mr. [ ]      Ms. [ ]

LAST NAME (in BLOCK letters) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FACSIMILE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the completed form to:

Mrs. Hélène LECONTE-LUCAS

OECD – GOV/BUD

2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16 - France

E-mail: [helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org](mailto:helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org) -- Facsimile: +33 1 44 30 63 34