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

27-Apr-2010

English - Or. English

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

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Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

31st MEETING OF OECD SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS

AGENDA

**Athens, Greece
3-4 June 2010**

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Gerhard Steger, Director-General of Budget and Public Finance, Ministry of Finance, Austria.

For further information, please contact Jon BLONDAL at OECD Headquarters
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English - Or. English

**31st Annual Meeting of OECD Senior Budget Officials
Athens, 3-4 June 2010**

AGENDA

Wednesday, 2 June 2010

From 19:00 **Welcome Reception**

Thursday, 3 June 2010

9:30-9:40 **Opening by Chairman and OECD Secretariat**

Introduction of Delegates

9:40-10:00 **Keynote Address by the Greek Minister of Finance**

- **Mr. George PAPACONSTANTINOU**

10:00-11:00 **Greece: Fiscal Crisis, Budget Measures and Reforms**

Greece is experiencing an extraordinary fiscal crisis – both in terms of the level of deficits and debts, and in the performance of the budget process itself.

This session will focus on the fiscal problems Greece is facing, and the measures that have been taken and are being planned for restoring fiscal sustainability. This discussion will be led by **Mr. Elias PENTAZOS**, Secretary General of Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance.

The OECD has been providing support, expertise and policy experience to Greece in this area. Following the Greek presentation, the **Secretariat** will describe the steps that have been taken for reform of the budget process and what challenges remain.

Following these presentations, the floor will be opened to discussion by all Delegates.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:00 **Budget Reform Implications of the Fiscal Situation:
Specific Developments in Individual OECD countries**

This session is designed to highlight specific budget reforms implemented in individual OECD countries in response to the fiscal crisis.

Delegates are invited to submit proposed interventions ahead of the meeting. Based on the proposals received, the Chairman will then call on selected countries to make brief interventions on areas that may be of interest to others. (Note that this is not designed as a traditional roundtable involving all countries.)

This session allows participants to exchange information on recent reforms which are taking place and provides a useful opportunity for Delegates to keep up to date with developments.

The floor will be opened to comments and questions following each selected intervention.

13:00-14:30 *Luncheon*

14:30-16:00 **Post-Crisis Fiscal Rules**

Fiscal rules have been among the most widely-adopted budget innovations during the past two decades. The fiscal crisis however revealed flaws in many of the fiscal rules in place, which will impel governments to adjust them on the basis of the lessons learned.

This session will be dedicated to discussing the optimum design choices for fiscal rules, key factors for their successful implementation, measures to strengthen their enforcement mechanisms, and expanding the scope and time-frame of fiscal rules to include tax expenditures, contingent liabilities and other long-term fiscal risks.

The session will be led by **Mr. Allen SCHICK**. Following his presentation, the floor will be opened to discussion by all Delegates.

16:00-16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30-18:00 **Restoring Fiscal Sustainability: Lessons for the Public Sector**

This session aims to draw together the day's discussion and focus on overall lessons for restoring fiscal sustainability.

The OECD has analyzed fiscal consolidation cycles from the past decades across OECD countries and assessed the results in terms of which approaches appeared most successful. This analysis is being summarized into a number of specific lessons to assist OECD countries as they grapple with their own, often unsustainable, fiscal position.

The session will be led by the **Secretariat**. Following the opening presentation, the floor will be opened to discussion by all Delegates. Delegates will be specifically invited to comment on the relevance of the lessons identified and whether they should be further developed into a set of OECD *Principles for Fiscal Consolidation*.

From 19:00 ***An Evening at the Acropolis***

Guided visit of the Acropolis Museum, followed by a Gala Dinner overlooking the Acropolis.

Friday, 4 June 2010

9:30-11:00 **Budgeting and Regulations**

Budgeting and regulations are two key public policy instruments available to governments. Each has its benefits and costs. In today's fiscal environment, there may be a temptation to use regulations instead of budgetary measures in this regard, even if they are non-optimal from an overall economic point of view.

This session will focus on the intersection of budgeting and regulations from two perspectives.

First, the concept of "regulatory budgets" will be introduced as an instrument for controlling the aggregate costs of regulations. The concept has been explored by several OECD countries and has influenced initiatives to control regulatory costs in those countries. The presentation will be made by the **Secretariat**.

Second, the use of "unfunded mandates" will be discussed. This typically involves national governments imposing service obligations on lower levels of government without compensating them, either directly or as a condition for receiving grants. The use of unfunded mandates has also been extended to individuals and businesses, albeit on a more limited scale at present. This presentation will be made by **Mr. Paul POSNER**.

Following these opening presentations, the floor will be opened to general discussion by all Delegates.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:00 **OECD Value-for-Money Project – The Netherlands**

The OECD Value-for-Money Project analyzes and assesses the size and organization of central governments in participating OECD countries. Its aim is to compare institutional arrangements and practices in order to identify opportunities for efficiency gains, improvements in service quality and cost reductions, in the participating countries.

The Project will consist of detailed assessments for each participating country and a final synthesis report.

The country assessment for the Netherlands has just been completed. It will be presented by the **Secretariat**. Following this presentation, the floor will be opened to general discussion by all Delegates.

At present five countries are fully participating in the project and an additional seven countries are participating on a partial basis. The **Secretariat** will provide additional information on both levels of participation for other countries who may wish to participate in the project.

13:00-14:30 *Luncheon*

14:30-16:00 **Report by the OECD Secretariat**

OECD Future Work Programme: SBO's Contributions

The **Secretariat** will provide a general report on activities since the last meeting of the Working Party, including an update on the work of each of the SBO subsidiary bodies. It will also discuss the work of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations Across Levels of Government.

The **Secretariat** will then highlight proposals for SBO's contributions to the OECD Future Work Programme. Delegates will be asked to comment on priorities and indicate their interest in particular studies.

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

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the Divani Caravel Hotel, which is located at 2 Vas. Alexandrou Avenue. Please visit the hotel's website (below) for location details.

Accommodation

The Greek authorities have negotiated special rates at the Divani Caravel Hotel for Delegates. Please note that the special rates are valid only for reservations made by 19 May 2010. **Please contact the hotel directly for reservations** using the attached *Hotel Booking Form* (p.9).

Divani Caravel Hotel

www.divanis.com/caravel/

2 Vas. Alexandrou Avenue
16121 Athens

Tel: +30 210 72 07 000

Fax: +30 210 72 53 750

Single Superior room: 140 € per room per night

Double Superior room: 160 € per room per night

Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the attached *Meeting Registration Form* (p.8) and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting. 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.

Hospitality

The Greek authorities invite all Delegates to a Welcome Reception on the eve of the meeting (Wednesday, 2 June). It will take place at the Divani Caravel Hotel from 7.00 pm.

The Greek authorities invite all Delegates to a guided visit of the Acropolis Museum followed by a Gala Dinner overlooking the Acropolis at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting (Thursday, 3 June). Buses will leave at 7.00 pm from the Divani Caravel Hotel.

Spouses are welcome to join Delegates at the above social events.

Please confirm your attendance at these events by completing the appropriate "Social Activities" boxes on the attached *Meeting Registration Form* (p.8).

All Delegates are also invited to luncheons on both days of the meeting. These will take place at the Divani Caravel Hotel.

Entry Formalities

Delegates are advised to confirm any necessary visa requirements for entry in to Greece.

Documentation

Background documents will be available for all substantive sessions of the meeting. The documents will be distributed electronically to all registered Delegates prior to the meeting.

Format of Discussions

Following the lead presentation(s) at each substantive session, the floor will be opened for general discussion among all Delegates. Delegates are asked to limit each intervention to no more than 5 minutes.

Simultaneous Translation

Simultaneous translation between English, French and Greek will be available throughout the meeting.

**31st Annual Meeting of OECD Senior Budget Officials
Athens, Greece, 3-4 June 2010**

Meeting Registration Form

**Please return the completed form for each participant to: helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org
Fax: +33 1 44 30 63 34**

Ms. Mrs. Mr.

NAME (in block letters please):

First Name:

JOB TITLE:

ORGANISATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

COUNTRY:

TELEPHONE:

FACSIMILE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Social Activities

Divani Caravel Hotel

___ person(s) will participate in the **Welcome reception**
on Wednesday, 2 June 2010 (7.00 p.m.)

Acropolis Museum

___ person(s) will attend the guided **visit of the Acropolis Museum**
on Thursday, 3 June 2010

___ person(s) will participate in the **Gala Dinner**
on Thursday, 3 June 2010

NOTE: Please check if you prefer **vegetarian menu** for the **Gala Dinner**
on Thursday, 3 June 2010: ___ person(s)

Accommodation

Hotel reservation made at the:

Divani Caravel Hotel ___

Other ___

Hotel Booking Form

OECD Senior Budget Officials Annual Meeting 02 June 2010-04 June 2010 -- Divani Caravel Hotel, Athens

Please ensure the Hotel Reservation Form is faxed or e-mailed to:

Email: reservations@divanicaravel.gr – Fax: +30 210 7253750

For confirming your reservation, you are kindly requested to fill in the present form and return it to us duly signed. In order to secure space, reservation forms should be sent to our reservations fax number +30 210 7253750 or e-mail reservations@divanicaravel.gr by 19th of May 2010. Our reservations department will confirm back your reservation when all information is received. Your reservation will be confirmed, subject to hotel's availability.

Family Name:	First Name:
Company Name:	
Address:	
City:	Country:
Postal Code:	Tel:
Fax:	E-mail:

A special room rate has been negotiated for this event at the **Divani Caravel Hotel**. Delegates, wishing to make a reservation should contact the Hotel directly and refer to their participation to the **OECD Senior Budget Officials Annual Meeting**

Single Superior room at	140.00 €
Double Superior room at	160.00 €

Room rates are inclusive of American Buffet Breakfast, services and current taxes (10, 55 %). Should taxes change, the rate will be adjusted accordingly.

Room type required (please tick appropriate box):

Superior, Single occupancy: <input type="checkbox"/>	Superior, Double occupancy: <input type="checkbox"/>	Superior, Twin occupancy: <input type="checkbox"/>
Arrival Date (DD/MM/YYYY):	Departure Date (DD/MM/YYYY):	
Total number of overnights:	Arrival time at the hotel:	
Please indicate any special requirements:		

RESERVATION DEPOSIT & CANCELLATION - NON-SHOW TERMS:

I accept the charge of one night deposit, non-refundable and non transferal, as guarantee for my reservation. In case of cancellation after 22nd of May 2010 one night cancellation fee will be applied.

In case of non-show or early departure all nights fees will be charged.

We require full pre payment of all stay by credit card.

Credit Card Number:			
Credit Card Type: (tick applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	Other (please indicate type):	Expiring Date (MM/YY):
	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard		
	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEX		
Cardholder's Name:			
Signature:		Date:	