

Unclassified

English text only

17 February 2025

**Public Governance Directorate
Public Governance Committee
Committee of Senior Budget Officials**

Network of Senior Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnerships Officials

Draft Agenda – Advancing Infrastructure Governance: Conference on Accelerating Infrastructure Permitting and Improving Cost Control during Infrastructure Permitting

Network of Professionals in Infrastructure Delivery

24-25 February 2025 9h00
Paris, France

This event is organised in consultation with the Network of Professionals in Infrastructure Delivery.

The policy objectives of climate transition are at odds with the long project gestation and permitting periods of infrastructure, which are meant to facilitate the transition. These periods can easily reach or exceed 10 years. An expert conference will examine two sides of the same coin. One side is the environmental permitting legislative framework, which defines the process and empowers the stakeholders involved. The other side is the stakeholder management itself. What fundamental adjustments are possible on both sides to accelerate progress? Expert academics and practitioners from multiple OECD member countries will share their views and experiences.

This conference is part of a project with the same name, developed by the OECD in consultation with the Network of Professionals in Infrastructure Delivery (IPP-P), under the auspices of the OECD Network of Senior Infrastructure and Public-Private Partnerships Officials.

The OECD Conference Centre is located at 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris. Additional information is provided starting on page #7.

Paulo Magina (paulo.magina@oecd.org)
Dejan Makovsek (dejan.makovsek@oecd.org)
Deirdre Kiernan (deirdre.kiernan@oecd.org)

JT03559964

Advancing Infrastructure Governance: Expert conference on Accelerating Infrastructure Permitting and Improving Cost Control during Infrastructure Permitting

OECD Headquarters, Paris

DRAFT-AGENDA

Monday 24 February 2025

Day 1 Theme: Legal regulation, permitting, and how they drive stakeholder
behaviour

9:00 – 9:15 Opening Session

- **Chair:** Mr. Rafael Herz, Chair of Network of Senior Infrastructure and PPP Officials; Vice President of the Colombian National Infrastructure Development Bank
- **Mr. Paulo Magina**, Head of Division, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Public Governance, OECD
- **Mr. Dejan Makovsek**, Procurement Strategy Lead – Major Projects, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, Public Governance, OECD

Getting infrastructure planned in a reasonable time and then delivered at a reasonable price, without large cost overruns and delays is a key objective of any government. These dimensions affect the trust of citizens in their governments, define the cost of closing infrastructure gaps, define the cost and speed of the climate transition, define the cost of increased infrastructure resilience etc.

Even the most advanced OECD countries still face significant challenges in infrastructure planning and delivery. The Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), the largest public procurer in Sweden, is back to the basics. Trafikverket is currently investigating the reasons for cost growth in the planning phase and during project delivery. Norway, with one of the worlds most sophisticated approach to quality assurance still faces a 40% cost growth on average in the planning phase of road projects for example. The first day of the conference will focus more on the environmental permitting frameworks, which are seen as the root driver of the time and cost evolution in large infrastructure projects.

9:15 – 10:00 **SESSION 1: SESSION 1: Regulating environment protection in infrastructure projects and other public works: The long-term development, and challenges ahead**

- **Mr. Jonas Ebbesson**, Professor of Environmental Law Director of Stockholm Environmental Law and Policy Centre, at Stockholm University; and former Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

10:00 – 10:45 **SESSION 2: Streamlining legal processes for infrastructure consenting - striking a balance between efficiency and access to justice**

- **Mr. Charles Banner [Lord Banner KC]** – barrister at Keating Chambers and working Peer in the House of Lords – [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

10:45 – 11:15 *Coffee*

11:15 – 12:00 **SESSION 3: Environmental permitting of large infrastructure projects: Untying the Gordian knot of regulation, eliminating delaying factors, and easing the complexity of decision-making**

- **Ms. Ulla Steen**, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Department of Law, The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aalborg University. Denmark [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 13:45 **SESSION 4: The Law and Economics of Infrastructure Permitting in the US**

- **Mr. Zachary Liscow**, Professor of Law at Yale Law School, CT, United States of America. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

13:45 – 14:30 **SESSION 5: A Fork on the Road: Balancing Megaproject Costs, Accountability, and Stakeholder Inclusion**

- **Mr. Nuno Gil**, Professor of New Infrastructure Development, University of Manchester, UK. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

14:30 – 15:00 *Coffee*

15:00 – 15:45 SESSION 6: Environmental protection regulation in major infrastructure projects - The Fehmarnbelt fixed link project's permitting process

- **Mr. Claus Dynesen**, Project Director at Femern A/S, Denmark [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

15:45 – 16:30 SESSION 7: From Transport to Energy: Permitting Challenges in the Energy Industry. What is the same and what different?

- **Mr. Rene Queren** - Environmental Planning & Licensing Lead, Large AC Projects; TENNET. [CONFIRMED].
- **Q&A**

16:30 – 17:30 SESSION 8: Panel discussion

What lessons can be drawn from the day's discussions? What avenues for a way forward present themselves?

- **SPEAKERS OF THE DAY**
- **Q&A** with the audience

17:30 – 17:45 SESSION 9: Closing remarks first day

- **Chair**

17:45	Social activity – Cocktail in the George Marshall Room at the OECD Chateau
--------------	---

Tuesday 25 February 2025

Day 2 theme: Legal Regulation and Permitting, Effective and inclusive stakeholder management, and the use of technology to advance both

9:00 – 9:15 Introduction to day two/Summing up day one.

- **Chair**

The inclusion and collaboration with external stakeholders to major infrastructure projects is key in securing public support, the safeguarding of property rights and plays a central role in providing necessary scrutiny of these projects. At the same time, as has been illustrated in presentations during day one of the Conference, stakeholder involvement might be complex and time consuming. Extensive demand for involvement and handling of complaints from the public may seriously hamper the delivery of such projects and add to cost and delivery time. While not abandoning the legal requirements, day two of the conference will expand on the good examples of successful stakeholder involvement and possible ways ahead.

9:15 – 10:00 **SESSION 10: From Transport to Energy: Permitting Challenges in the Energy Industry. What is the same and what different – adding the nuclear dimension?**

- **Mr. Thomas Lautsch** – Technical director, BGE - federal company for radioactive waste disposal, Germany. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

10:00 – 10:45 **SESSION 11: The environmental permitting challenges of new nuclear mega projects**

- **Mr. Peter Bryant** - Director of ESG and Radiation Strategy, Sizewell C. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

10:45 – 11:15 *Coffee*

11:15 – 12:00 **SESSION 12: The state of the practice in stakeholder management - Inclusion of the public in planning and delivery of the new Grand Paris Express**

- **Ms. Elise Brax**, Environmental Manager. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 13:45 SESSION 13: The public sector can speak with one voice, how can the stakeholders?

- **Mr. John Stewart, the former Chair of HACAN** (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise). [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

13:45 – 14:30 SESSION 14: Can we improve spatial planning procedures in practice, through research? What could the role of economic experimentation and Institutional Design be for the spatial planning practice?

- **Mr. Sander Renes**, Assistant Professor Economics of Technology and Innovation, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

14:30 – 15:00 *Coffee*

15:00 – 15:45 SESSION 15: How can AI help us optimize permitting and stakeholder engagement processes?

- **Mr. Grzegorz Marecki**, CEO of Continuum Industries. [CONFIRMED]
- **Q&A**

15:45 – 16:45 SESSION 16: Concluding panel discussion

- **Mr. Jonas Ebbesson**
- **Ms. Ulla Steen**
- **[speakers from day two]**
- **Q&A**

16:45 – 17:00 SESSION 17: Closing remarks and next steps for IPP-P

- **Chair**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Accommodation

All visitors are responsible for their own accommodation. Information on hotels close to the OECD at special rates and our online booking system can be found at: <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/plan-your-trip.html> (bottom of page/hotels)

Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the Conference Centre at OECD Headquarters – Château de la Muette – which is located at: 2, rue André Pascal in the 16th arrondissement (district) of Paris. Access information is available here: <https://www.oecd.org/en/about/plan-your-trip.html>

Reception

Country delegates, speakers, and supporters of the IPP-P are kindly invited to a cocktail reception on 24th of February.

Security and Badges

Please be advised that OECD Headquarters is a secure complex. Badges can only be issued to registered visitors. A passport or national identity card is required in order to receive a badge. Visitors must go to the main entrance and pass through the security checkpoint in order to pick up badges. Please allow up to 15 minutes to complete these formalities.



Wi-Fi Internet Access and Business Centre

The OECD Conference Centre features complimentary Wi-Fi Internet Access throughout its facilities. Internet access is also available in the Espresso Café. There is a Business Centre located in the Conference Centre offering complimentary desktop computers with standard Microsoft Office software, Internet connections and printers.

Social Media

Visitors are encouraged to use #Network of Professionals in Infrastructure Delivery when tweeting.

Contacts

If you have questions, please contact Deirdre Kiernan (deirdre.kiernan@oecd.org).