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

GOV/TDPC/M(2005)2  
Unclassified

**SUMMARY RECORD**

**14th Session of the Territorial Development Policy Committee,  
held on 1-2 December 2005**

*The Summary Record of the 14th Session of TDPC is submitted to the Committee at its 15th Session for APPROVAL.*

Please contact the OECD Secretariat for further information: E-mail: Suzanne-Nicola.Leprince@oecd.org; Tel.: 33 1 45 24 81 72; Fax: 33 1 45 24 87 96

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English - Or. English

**TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE  
14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The Committee approved the Agenda of its 14<sup>th</sup> Session.

**Item 2: Summary Record of the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of TDPC**

2. Delegates approved the Summary Record of the Committee's 13<sup>th</sup> Session.

**Item 3: Reports by Territorial Development Policy Committee (TDPC) and Working Party Chairs and Remarks by the Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV)**

3. Mr. Fabrizio Barca, TDPC Chair, introduced the Agenda of the Committee's 14<sup>th</sup> Session and reported on the latest developments since the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the TDPC. He welcomed Mr. Mohammed Souafi, Morocco, Observer to the TDPC and the participation of experts from the World Bank, Ms. Marsha Olive and Mr. Brian Ngo, whose participation underlines rising opportunities for discussion and transfers from OECD countries to countries where the World Bank operates and is particularly relevant for the Committee's Outreach Strategy, in particular with China and Central America. The Chair gave the floor to the Working Party Chairs, welcomed their presentations and ideas that contributed to the late afternoon discussion on the programme of work.

4. Mrs. Margaret Clark, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policies in Rural Areas, Mr. Takayuki Hara, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas (WPURB); and Mr. Dev Virdee, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators provided brief overviews of each group's outputs, including ongoing and future activities and indications on how each group may contribute to the 2007-8 TDPC Programme of Work (subject for discussion in item 6).

5. Mrs. Odile Sallard, Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development (GOV) reported on the latest developments in the OECD and in GOV. OECD discussions in recent months have focused on its own process and internal governance, assessing the quality and effectiveness of its work via two instruments. The first concerns the "Programme Implementation Reporting Exercise", a systematic reporting and evaluation exercise of the Output Results planned in the OECD's Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). The results of the 2004 PIR for TDPC reflected the quality of the Committee's work and its positive impact, as several of its outputs were ranked above average among the ratings in the OECD overall. Based on these results, the Council is looking for an assessment by Committees. Delegates were requested to send any views in written form on the usefulness of the PIR exercise, in order to report them back to the Council early 2006. The second concerns an "Indepth Assessment of Committees" (2-3 per year). As the TDPC was not selected for evaluation this year, it is not directly involved for the moment, but further details on this process will be provided at the Committee's next meeting. Finally, Mrs. Sallard mentioned work with non-member countries, described the document "A Framework for OECD Relations

with Non-Members” [C(2005)158/FINAL], which provides Committees with strategic guidance on relations with non-Members for the preparation of the 2007-08 PWB. The Outreach dimension will be taken into account in the discussions on the programme of work (item 6). In this context, the debate will focus on regional programmes, identifying new regions and countries, main work orientations with these countries and the roundtable approach; and the work of this Committee.

#### **Item 4: Review on the Mesoamerican Region**

6. *The Review on the Mesoamerican Region* was discussed and approved by the Committee. It was introduced by Mr. Marvin Taylor, Chief Economist, Central American Bank for Economic Integration; and Mr. Oscar Nuñez, Director General, Central Bank of Honduras and Deputy Commissioner of the Plan Puebla Panama Plan’s Executive Commission. The Mesoamerican Review is the first comprehensive regional development study of the entire Mesoamerican region (MAR) and the first multi-national review conducted by the TDPC. It discusses how the economic potential of the MAR requires regional policies that can better exploit its many comparative advantages and that better governance at mesoregional, national and local levels is also needed. A lively debate followed with interventions by Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, United States. Delegates considered the policy relevance of the report to be a good illustration of what the Committee's analytical approach can bring to cross-national co-operation and to non member country contexts. The Committee supported a continuing link with the MAR integration process and several countries recommended that a similar study for the Balkans be undertaken. The Secretariat noted the comments made following its presentation, which will be taken into account in the final version of the publication due to be released in Spring 2006.

#### **Item 5: National Territorial Review of France**

7. *The National Territorial Review of France*, was introduced by Mr. Pierre Mirabaud, Head of the DIACT “Délégation interministérielle à l’aménagement et à la compétitivité des territoires” (formerly DATAR) and Mr. Dominique Schmitt, “Directeur général des Collectivités locales”, Ministry of Interior. In France, regional policy, previously very much geared towards infrastructure and planning in the territory now also focuses on the competitiveness of regions. The review assesses three areas considered to be central to regional competitiveness: policies to support regional clusters and growth poles, specific initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of rural and urban regions; and policies to ensure access to broadband. It also reviews a range of related governance arrangements, in particular the reforms necessary to render the State-region contractual approach more effective, policy outcomes from inter municipal co-operation, and the need to focus more on evaluation mechanisms. In the lively debate that followed, delegates praised the Secretariat for the high quality of its work and stressed the relevance of the analysis for their own countries, through interventions by Austria, Finland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the US. In particular, the U.S. highlighted the increasing link between innovation and competitiveness in policies for regions and stressed the important role played by universities in this field as well as the important connection with entrepreneurs (for example: North Carolina). Sweden expressed its particular interest in the French programme of competitiveness poles and more generally in the usefulness of the work carried out by TDPC on clusters and announced that the “Agency for Economic and Regional Growth” (NUTEK) would provide financial support for a project on the impact of sectoral specialisation and regional clusters on regional economic performance. The Committee approved the report, which will be published in Spring 2006.

**Item 6: TDPC Programme of Work Issues : 2004 PIR Results, Outreach Activities, Siena Research Programme**

8. Concerning the orientation of the “2007-8 Programme of Work for TDPC”, a roundtable discussion provided guidance to the Secretariat on six main areas of analysis, summarised by the Chair on the basis of the POW 2005-6, the results of the 2004 PIR and the Reports of the Working Party Chairs: 1) Competitiveness and Diagnosing Regional Comparative Advantages; 2) Innovation; 3) Policy Strategies; 4) Trade, Migrations and Territorial Policies; 5) Governance; 6) Measurement (Results and Assets). During the discussion, the Committee acknowledged that Social Cohesion and Environment are central to the competitiveness of a region. It was also recognised that Rural and Urban issues are fundamental dimensions of each main area of analysis and need further articulation. Overall, the Committee expressed satisfaction on the grouping of items that allowed a first exchange of views. The discussion also highlighted: a) the need for a more forward looking approach to anticipate trends (demographic trends, environment, etc.); b) the importance of territorial cooperation and the role of supranational case studies (e.g. Baltic Region and the Balkans); c) the importance of monitoring the implementation of Reviews; d) the need for stronger theoretical/analytical foundations and the opportunity, in this respect, offered by the Siena Research Programme. The Secretariat underlined the importance of cooperation with other OECD Directorates (e.g. on the themes concerning innovation; trade and migrations; fiscal relations across levels of government) and agreed to prepare a draft programme of work, taking into account the views of the Committee. A document on the directions for the TDPC Programme of Work 2007/8 will be discussed at the Enlarged Bureau in March 2006. Further to this discussion and to the written comments received, the Secretariat will prepare a draft work programme for review and comments via the written procedure, following which a final version will be prepared for mid-May according to the indicative timetable.

**Item 7: Strengthening Competitive Metropolitan Regions: *The Case of Stockholm***

9. A *Synthesis Report on Metropolitan regions "Competitive cities in the Global Economy* will be published at the end of 2006, based on the analysis drawn on completed and ongoing policy studies in metropolitan areas. As a contribution to this horizontal report and as part of the ongoing series of metropolitan reviews, the *Case of Stockholm*” *Sweden*, was discussed and approved. The review assesses the durability of Stockholm's strong economic performance over the last few decades and identifies areas on which national and local policymakers will need to pay particular attention if the region is to maintain its current position as one of Europe's leading high-tech centres. It highlights, for example, factors that are affecting Stockholm's business environment and the need to continue investment in innovation capacity. It also reviews the governance framework in light of the current regionalisation process in Sweden and discusses the concept of the wider *Stockholm Mälar region*. The discussion included interventions by Canada, Finland, France, Spain, and the Council of Europe. The Committee commended the usefulness of the metropolitan reviews and stressed that the debate would benefit from an assessment of the urban policy dimension of the Baltic area in a similar study.

**Item 8: Vertical Co-ordination between Levels of Government: How to Design Effective Arrangements?**

10. This session was devoted to governance issues and was based on a note on *Vertical Co-ordination between Levels of Government: How to Design Effective Arrangements?*, which was discussed and approved by the Committee. It focuses on the financial aspects of these vertical relationships and on regional policy financing. This note was accompanied by two documents. The first is an annex on the effective design of grants according to their objectives, which was the subject of the paper provided by GOV for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Network of Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government, 8-9 September

2005. The second document is devoted to the contractual approach to multilevel governance (for information). It is a preliminary draft of a position paper and its results will be applied to the analysis of various national cases of regional policies using contracts (late 2006). Delegates agreed that "equity and competitiveness" are no longer alternatives but often very complementary objectives that can be served through regional policy instruments. Following the high level of interest shown in the various interventions made by Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Chair proposed to delegates to send a brief note on their intervention to the Secretariat, in order to provide input to this work. For the future, the Committee would be interested in focusing on the role played by earmarked grants for supporting decentralisation processes and thus regional policy implementation. The next meeting of the Network will be held in Paris on 28-29 November 2006, back to back with the TDPC's 16th Session.

**Item 9: Report on “*The New Rural Paradigm: Strategies and Policies*”**

11. A horizontal synthesis report on *The New Rural Paradigm: Strategies and Governance* was discussed and approved by the Committee. The report focuses on the reorientation of policy strategies for rural regions that has been observed through TDPC work in recent years. Evidence suggests that the shift in policy concerns a place-based approach to rural policy that emphasises *investments* rather than *subsidies* and that is able to integrate different sectoral policies and improve the coherence and effectiveness of public expenditure in rural areas. The review draws on a number of recent reviews at national and regional level, as well as the results from several international conferences (most recently, the Oaxaca conference and OECD Workshop on the Coherence of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies, 24-26 October, 2005, Bratislava, jointly organised by AGR/GOV). Mr. Ray Bollman (Canada), Delegate of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators, made a presentation on some quantitative findings that were used in the publication and that result from co-operation between the two Working Parties. Delegates from Australia, Austria, Canada, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Mexico, Spain, and the United States, commended the report that capitalizes on the relevant empirical work conducted through rural and metropolitan reviews and statistical analysis. The TDPC was informed by the member countries concerned that the OECD will begin a national territorial review on rural policy development in Germany and Mexico.

**Item 10: Other Business**

12. Ms. Karen Gosling, General Manager, Department of Transport and Regional Services, Australia provided an update on the preparations of the International *Growing Regions* Conference that is being arranged by the Department of Transport & Regional Services in Brisbane, Australia from 25 to 27 July 2006. Further information on the Conference is available at <http://www.dotars.gov.au/regional/growingregions>.

13. Before adjourning the meeting the Chair thanked delegates for their participation and announced that the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the TDPC would be held on 29-30 June 2006, preceded by the 12th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators on 28 June. The 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas, will be held several weeks before the TDPC, back to back with an urban policy development workshop on 5-6 June in Bilbao, Spain, following the kind offer made by the Spain host the meeting.

**14TH SESSION OF THE TDPC  
14ÈME SESSION DU TDPC  
PARTICIPANTS LIST/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
1 December 2005 - 2 December 2005**

**Chair / Président**

**Mr. Fabrizio BARCA**  
Head of Department  
Ministry of Economy and Finance  
Department for Development and Cohesion Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 97  
I-00187 Roma  
Italy

Tel : 00 39 06 4742 102  
Fax : 00 39 06 48 36 44  
Email : fabrizio.barca@tesoro.it

**Australia / Australie**

**Ms. Karen GOSLING**  
General Manager  
Department of Transport and Regional Services  
Sustainable Regions and Operations Branch  
GPO Box 594  
2601 Canberra ACT

Tel : +61 2 6274 7760  
Email : karen.gosling@dotars.gov.au

**Austria / Autriche**

**Mr. Roland ARBTER**  
Federal Chancellery  
Regional Policy and Spatial Planning  
Ballhausplatz 2  
A-1014 Vienna

Tel : +43/1/ 53115-2911  
Fax : +43/1/53109-2180  
Email : roland.arbter@bka.gv.at

**Canada / Canada**

**Mr. Ray BOLLMAN**  
Statistics Canada  
Agriculture Division  
Jean Talon Building Tunney's Pasture  
OTTAWA  
Ontario K1A 0T6

Tel : 00 1 613 951 3747  
Fax : 00 1 613 951 3868  
Email : RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

**Mme Nadia BOURÉLY**  
Second Secretary/Deuxième Secrétaire  
Délégation Permanente  
15, bis rue de Franqueville  
75016 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 44 43 20 10  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 44 43 20 99  
Email : Nadia.bourelly@international.gc.ca

**Mr. David CHATTERSON**

Minister/Counsellor  
Permanent Delegation  
15, bis rue de Franqueville  
PARIS  
France

Tel : 01 44 43 20 25  
Fax : 01 44 43 20 99  
Email : david.chatterson@international.gc.ca

**Ms. Marilyn KAPITANY**

Assistant Deputy Minister  
Western Economic Diversification  
250-240 Graham Ave.  
Winnipeg  
Manitoba R3C 2L4

Tel : 001 204 983 5715  
Fax : 001 204 983 0966  
Email : Marilyn.Kapitany@wd.gc.ca

**Mr. Ian MATHESON**

Director  
Rural Policy and Strategic Development  
Agriculture & Agri-food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7  
Skyline Building  
Floor 6, Room 6212  
Ottawa  
ONTARIO K1Y 0A7

Tel : 001 613 759 68 38  
Fax : 001 613 715 5544  
Email : mathesoni@agr.gc.ca

**Mr. Adam OSTRY**

Head, Policy and Communications, Cities Secretariat  
Infrastructure Canada  
1380 - 55 Metcalfe Street,  
Ottawa,  
Ontario K1P 5B4

Tel : + 1 613-952-9940  
Email : Ostry.Adam@infrastructure.gc.ca

**Ms. Fiona SALKIE**

Senior Policy Analyst  
Western Economic Diversification Canada  
9700 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton  
Alberta T5J 4 H7

Tel : + 001 780 495 6882  
Fax : + 001 780 495 6876  
Email : Fiona-Salkie@wd.gc.ca

**Czech Republic / République Tchèque**

**Mr. Jan JERABEK**  
Expert/Senior Officer  
Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic  
Department of Regional Development Strategy  
Staroměstské náměstí 6,  
Staré Mesto  
11015 PRAHA 1

Tel : 00 420 2 2486 1238  
Fax : 00 420 2 2231 3227  
Email : jerjan@mmr.cz

**Finland / Finlande**

**Mr. Antti VALLE**  
Director of Regional Development  
Ministry of the Interior  
Department for Development of Regions and Public  
Administration

Tel : 00 358 9 160 42312  
Fax : 00 358 9 160 42310  
Email : antti.valle@intermin.fi

**Mr. Olli VOUTILAINEN**  
Senior Officer  
Ministry of the Interior  
Department for Development of Regions and Public  
Administration  
P.O. BOX 26  
00023 GOVERNMENT FIN

Tel : +358-9-160 43425  
Fax : +358-9-160 44655  
Email : olli.voutilainen@intermin.fi

**France / France**

**M. Pierre MIRABAUD**  
Délégué  
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du territoire  
Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale  
(DATAR)  
1, avenue Charles-Floquet  
75 343 Paris cedex 7

Tel : +33 (0)1 40 65 12 34  
Fax : +33 (0)1 43 06 99 01

**Mme Christiane AVELINE**  
Conseillère  
Délégation Permanente  
5 RUE OSWALDO CRUZ  
75016 PARIS

Tel : + 33 (0)1 43 17 57 01  
Fax : + 33 (0)1 43 17 58 32  
Email : christiane.aveline@diplomatie.gouv.fr



**Mme Monique BONNEAU**

Chef du bureau de l'action régionale  
Ministère de l'Education nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur  
et de la Recherche  
Direction de la Technologie / SDIDT  
21, rue Descartes  
75231 PARIS cedex 05

Tel : +33 (0)1 55 55 88 68  
Fax : +33 (0)1 55 55 89 29  
Email : monique.bonneau@technologie.gouv.fr

**M. Alex BONNIALY**

Chargé de mission  
Ministère de l'Education nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur  
et de la Recherche  
Direction des personnels, de la modernisation et de  
l'administration / SDDM  
110, RUE DE GRENELLE  
75357 PARIS 07 SP

Tel : +33 (0)1 55 55 33 63  
Email : alex.bonnialy@education.gouv.fr

**M. Daniel DARMON**

Conseiller auprès du délégué  
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du territoire  
Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale  
(DATAR)  
1, avenue Charles-Floquet  
75343 Paris cedex 7

Tel : +33 (0)1 40 65 12 34  
Email : daniel.darmon@datar.gouv.fr

**M. Rémi DHESSE**

Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité  
DGEFP / Département de synthèse  
7, Square Max Hymans  
75741 Paris Cedex 15

Tel : +33 (0)1 44 38 28 22  
Email : remi.dhesse@dgefp.travail.gouv.fr

**Mme Sylvie ESPARRE**

Directrice  
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du territoire  
Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale  
(DATAR)  
1, avenue Charles-Floquet  
75343 Paris cedex 7

Tel : +33 (0)1 40 65 12 34  
Fax : +33 (0)1 43 06 99 01  
Email : sylvie.esparre@datar.gouv.fr

**M. Vincent FOUCHIER**

Directeur délégué en charge de la coordination du SDRIF  
Institut d'Aménagement et d'urbanisme de la région d' Île de France

15, rue Falguière  
75740 Paris cedex 15

Tel : +33 (0)1 53 85 78 48

Fax : +33 (0) 1 53 85 7907

Email : [vincent.fouchier@iaurif.org](mailto:vincent.fouchier@iaurif.org)

**Mme Laurence GUILMOTO**

Adjointe au chef de bureau  
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du territoire  
SG/DMAT/SDAT/BARAT  
75000 Paris

Tel : +33 (0)1 40 07 26 72

Fax : +33 (0)1 40 66 73

Email : [laurence.guilmoto@interieur.gouv.fr](mailto:laurence.guilmoto@interieur.gouv.fr)

**M. Arnaud HEMERY**

Adjoint  
Secrétariat Général des Affaires Européennes (SGAE)  
Secteur OCDE  
2, BD DIDEROT  
75572 PARIS CEDEX 12

Tel : +33 (0)1 44 87 10 57

Fax : + 33 (0)1 44 87 10 99

Email : [arnaud.hemery@sgae.gouv.fr](mailto:arnaud.hemery@sgae.gouv.fr)

**M. Pierre-Yves MAUGUEN**

Chargé de la Cellule Etudes et Indicateurs  
Ministère délégué à la recherche et aux nouvelles technologies  
Direction de la technologie  
1, rue Descartes  
75231 PARIS CEDEX 05

Tel : +33 (0)1 55 55 89 60

Fax : +33 (0)1 55 55 81 88

Email : [pierre-yves.mauguen@technologie.gouv.fr](mailto:pierre-yves.mauguen@technologie.gouv.fr)

**M. Bernard MOREL**

Chef du Département de l'action régionale  
Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques  
18, bd Adolphe-Pinard  
75675 Paris Cedex 14

Tel : +33 (0)1 41 17 55 77

Fax : +33 (0)1 41 17 69 07

Email : [bernard.morel@insee.fr](mailto:bernard.morel@insee.fr)

**M. Dominique SCHMITT**

Directeur général des collectivités locales  
Préfecture  
2, place des Saussaies  
75008 Paris  
France

Tel : +33 (0)1 49 27 49 27

**Mme Martine SOHM**

Chargée de mission  
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur  
et de la Recherche  
SD/SDIDT  
21, rue Descartes  
75 231 PARIS cedex 05  
France

Tel : +33 (0)1 55 55 88 68

Fax : +33 (0)1 55 55 89 29

**M. Pierre VOILLERY**

Représentant Permanent Adjoint  
Délégation Permanente  
5 RUE OSWALDO CRUZ  
75016 PARIS  
France

Tel : +33 (0)1 43 17 57 30

Fax : +33 (0) 1 43 17 58 02

Email : pierre.voillery@diplomatie.gouv.fr

**Germany / Allemagne**

**Mrs. Gesa MIEHE-NORDMEYER**

Regional Economic Policy in the EU  
Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology  
Scharnhorststrasse 34-37  
BERLIN

Tel : 0049 1888 615 6223

Fax : 00 49 1888 615 7087

Email : Gesa.Miehe-Nordmeyer@bmwi.bund.de

**Dr. Gerhard THISSEN**

Deputy Head of Division  
Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and  
Agriculture (BMVEL)  
Rochusstr. 1  
D-53123 BONN

Tel : 0049-228-5293330

Fax : 0049-228-5293447

Email : gerhard.thissen@bmvel.bund.de

**Greece / Grèce**

**Mrs. Calliope PACHAKI**  
Research Fellow  
KEPE - Center of Planning & Economic Research  
Agriculture & Rural Development  
22, Hippocratous St.  
GR-10680 ATHENS

Tel : 00 30 210 36 27 321  
Fax : 00 30 210 36 30 122  
Email : [ptonikid@kepe.gr](mailto:ptonikid@kepe.gr)

**Mr. George PAPAGEORGIOU**  
Economic Analyst  
Bank of Greece

Tel.: +30 23 10 59 10 95  
E-mail: [svyiria-thes@bankofgreece.gr](mailto:svyiria-thes@bankofgreece.gr)

**Dr. Prodromos-Ioannis PRODRONIDIS**  
Research Fellow  
Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE)  
22, Ippokratous Str.  
Athens 106 80

Tel : +30.210.3676412  
Fax : +30.210.3630122  
Email : [pjprodr@kepe.gr](mailto:pjprodr@kepe.gr)

**Hungary / Hongrie**

**Dr. Andrea IVÁN**  
Senior Advisor  
Prime Minister's Office  
National Office for Territorial Development  
Hattyu u. 14, H-1015 Budapest

Tel : 00 36 1 441 7146  
Fax : 00 36 1 441 7142  
Email : [ivan.andrea@meh.hu](mailto:ivan.andrea@meh.hu)

**Mr. Tamás VÁRNAI**  
Third Secretary  
Permanent Delegation  
140, avenue Victor-Hugo  
75116 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 53 65 65 00  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 47 55 80 60  
Email : [tamas.varnai@delhongrie-ocde.fr](mailto:tamas.varnai@delhongrie-ocde.fr)

**Italy / Italie**

**Mrs. Laura RAIMONDO**  
Director  
Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances  
Unita di Valutazione degli Investimenti Pubblici  
Via Nerva 1  
00187 Rome

Tel : 00 39 06 47 61 90 72  
Fax : 00 39 06 47 61 90 37  
Email : [laura.raimondo@tesoro.it](mailto:laura.raimondo@tesoro.it)

**Japan / Japon**

**Mrs. Flavia TERRIBILE**  
Head of the International Office  
Ministry of Economy and Finance  
Department of Development Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 97  
00187 Rome  
Italy

Tel : 00 39 06 47 61 87 39  
Fax : 00 39 06 47 61 88 65  
Email : flavia.terribile@tesoro.it

**Mr. Takayuki HARA**  
Advisor  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT)  
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku  
100-8918 Tokyo

Tel : 813 52 53 84 05  
Fax : 81-3-3216-5115  
Email : hara@marunetu.co.jp

**Mr. Atsushi KORESAWA**  
Senior Deputy Director  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT)  
Policy Division, City and Regional Development Bureau  
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki  
Chiyoda-ku  
100-8918 Tokyo

Tel : 81 3 5253 8398  
Fax : 81 3 5253 1586  
Email : koresawa-a2eh@mlit.go.jp

**Mr. Mototsugu OCHIAI**  
Research Associate  
Rural Development Planning Commission  
Baji-Chikusan-Kaikan Bldg, 5F  
Chuo-ku  
Shinkawa, 2-6-16  
104-0033 TOKYO

Tel : 00 81 3 32 97 5641  
Fax : 00 81 3 3297 5543  
Email : m\_ochiai@rdpc.jp

**Mr. Tetsuya SHIMOMURA**  
Deputy Director for International Co-operation  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport  
Chiyoda-ku  
2-1-3 Kasumigaseki  
100-8918 Tokyo

Tel : 81 3 5253 8315  
Fax : 81 3 5253 1562  
Email : shimomura-t2qx@mlit.go.jp

**M. Toshihiro TSUJIHARA**

Deputy Director-General  
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport  
National and Regional Planning Bureau  
2-1-2 Kasumigareki  
Chiyoda-ku  
100-8918 Tokyo

Tel : +81 3 52 53 80 57  
Fax : +81 3 52 53 17 07  
Email : tsujihara-t2r8@mlit.go.jp

**M. Ryuji YOKOZAWA**

Section Chief  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries  
Rural Development Bureau, Rural Area Policy Planning  
Department  
1-2-1 Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki  
100-8950 Tokyo

Tel : +81 (3) 3502 5946  
Fax : +81 (3) 3595 6340  
Email : ryuujy\_yokozawa@nm.maff.go.jp

**Korea / Corée**

**Mr. Dong-Ho KANG**

Manager  
Jeju Free International City development Center  
Land Research Institute

**Mr. Tae-Hyun KIM**

First Secretary  
2/4 rue Louis David  
75016 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 44 05 20 58  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 47 55 86 70  
Email : thkim04@mofat.go.kr

**M. Ki-Hwan KIM**

Senior Fellow  
Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade  
Research Center for Balance National Development

**Mr. Seong-Bo KO**

Deputy Director  
Ministry of Construction & Transportation  
Regional Development Policy

Tel : 00 82 2 2110 8147  
Email : wearecosmos@naver.com

**M. Hyeon-Joo LEE**

Ministry of Construction & Transportation  
National Territory Policy Committee

**M. Tae-Hoon LEE**

Deputy Director  
MOFE  
Regional Economic Policy Division

**Luxemburg / Luxembourg**

**Mr. Sang-Hyeop SHIM**  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Energy  
Balanced National Development Policy Division

**M. Claude LUTTY**  
Conseiller de Direction première classe  
Ministère de l'Économie  
19-21 bd. Royal  
L-2914 LUXEMBOURG

Tel : 00 352 478 6713  
Fax : 00 352 22 26 70  
Email : [claude.lutty@eco.etat.lu](mailto:claude.lutty@eco.etat.lu)

**Mexico / Mexique**

**Ms. Leticia DESCHAMPS**  
President  
INCA  
San Lorenzo 1151  
Esq. Cuauhtémoc  
C.P 03310 Mexico D.F

Tel : + 52591830199  
Email : [ldeschamps@inca.gov.mx](mailto:ldeschamps@inca.gov.mx)

**Ms. Lourdes MELGAR PALACIOS**  
Minister  
Permanent Delegation  
8, rue de Berri  
Paris  
France

Tel : (+33) 1.56.59.29.14  
Fax : (+33) 1.45.63.03.63  
Email : [lmelgar@delegamexocde.org](mailto:lmelgar@delegamexocde.org)

**Mr. Claudia SALGADO LOZANO**  
Deputy General Director of International Relations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
General Coordination of Plan Puebla Panama  
Av. Paseo De La Reforma 175, Piso 11,  
Col. Cuauhtémoc, Deleg. Cuauhtémoc  
C.P. 06500 Mexico-City

Tel : (+52) 55 91 59 32 10  
Email : [csalgadol@sre.gob.mx](mailto:csalgadol@sre.gob.mx)

**Mr. Sergio SOTO PRIANTE**  
Chief of Unit of Micro-Regions Strategy  
SEDESOL  
Paseo de la Reforma 51, piso 12 Col Tabacalera  
06030 Mexico D.F.

Tel : (+52) 55 53 28 50 00 Ext. 54950  
Fax : (+52) 55 53 28 50 00 Ext. 54950  
Email : [ssoto@sedesol.gob.mx](mailto:ssoto@sedesol.gob.mx)

**Dr. Roberto VILLARREAL GONDA**

Jefe de la Unidad de Políticas Sociales y Desarrollo Regional  
Oficina de la Presidencia para las Políticas Públicas  
Presidencia de la Republica  
Constituyentes 161  
Mexico, DF

Tel : (+52) 55 50 91 15 34  
Fax : (+52) 55 55 15 70 24  
Email : rvillarreal@presidencia.gob.mx

**Netherlands / Pays-Bas**

**Mr. Tom LEEUWESTEIN**

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations  
DGOB  
PO Box 2001  
NL-2500 THE HAGUE EH  
Netherlands

Tel : 00 31 70 302 6468  
Fax : 00 31 70 302 6131  
Email : tom.leeuwestein@minbiza.nl

**Ms. Gerda ROELEVELD**

Programme manager  
Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment  
Directorate General for Spatial Planning  
Rijnstraat 8  
2515 XP The Hague Netherlands

Tel : 0031 70 339.3373  
Fax : 0031 70 339.1180  
Email : gerda.roeleveld@minvrom.nl

**M. Ancel VAN ROYEN**

Counsellor  
Délégation Permanente  
Agriculture  
12-14, rue Octave-Feuillet  
PARIS, France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1. 45 24 99 71  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1. 45 24 99 38  
Email : ancelsan.royen@minbuza.nl

**Mr. Michel VISSER**

Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations  
Directorate-General for Kingdom Relations and Governance  
Local & Regional Governance and Europe  
PO BOX 20011  
2500 EA THE HAGUE

T. +31(0) 70 426 6938  
F. +31(0) 70 426 7668  
E. michel.visser@minbzk.nl



**Norway / Norvège**

**Mr. Pål Erik HOLTE**  
Deputy Director General  
Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development  
Akersgt. 59  
P.O. Box 8112 Dep.  
Oslo  
N-0032  
Norway

Tel : 0047 22 24 70 10  
Fax : 0047 22 24 27 38  
Email : pal-erik.holte@krd.dep.no

**Poland / Pologne**

**Ms. Renata CALAK**  
Deputy Director  
Ministry of Economy and Labour  
Department of Structural Policy Coordination  
Warsaw  
Poland

Tel : +48 22 693 43 04  
Email : calak@mg.gov.pl

**Mr. Roman CHMIELEWSKI**  
Counsellor to the Minister  
Ministry of Regional Development  
Department of Regional Policy  
ul. Wspolna 2/4  
WARSAW

Tel : +48 22 693 58 52  
Fax : +48 22 693 42 90  
Email : romchm@mgip.gov.pl

**Mr. Stefan KRECISZ**  
Counsellor  
Permanent Delegation  
136, rue de Longchamp  
75116 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 56 28 58 91  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 56 28 94 66  
Email : stefan.krecisz@oecd.pologne-org.net

**Mrs. Magdalena ZAGRZEJEWSKA FIEDOROWICZ**  
Ministry of Economy and Labour  
Department of Structural Policy Coordination  
CSF Managing and Monitoring Unit  
Plac Trzech Krzyzy 3/5  
00-507 Warsaw

Tel : +48 22 639 48 21  
Fax : +48 22 693 40 87  
Email : magdalena.zarzejewska-fiedorowicz@mg.gov.pl

**Portugal / Portugal**

**Mme Ana DELGADO**

Ministère de L'environnement et de l'Aménagement du  
Territoire  
Direction Générale de l'Aménagement du Territoire et du  
Développement Urbain  
Campo Grande, 50  
1749 - 014 Lisboa Portugal

Tel : +351 21 782 50 00

Fax : +351 21 782 50 03

**M. Pedro LIBERATO**

Conseiller  
Délégation Permanente  
10 bis rue Edouard Fournier  
75116 Paris France

Tel : +33 1 45 03 31 00

Fax : + 33 1 45 03 22 03

Email : pedro.liberato@ocde-portugal.com

**Mr. Vitor ROLO DOS SANTOS**

Consellor  
Ministère de l'Environnement, Aménagement du Territoire et  
du Développement Régional  
Direction Générale du Développement Régional  
Rua S. Juliao - 63  
P-1149-030 LISBOA

Tel : 00 351 21 881 40 00

Fax : 00 351 21 881 11 11

Email : vitor.rolodgdr.pt

**Slovak Republic / République Slovaque**

**Ms. Danica KOSTOLNA**

Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the  
Slovak Republic,  
Prievozska 2/B  
825 25 Bratislava 26

Tel : +421 2 58317 401

Fax : +421 2 58317 578

Email : kostolna@build.gov.sk

**Mrs. Lubica SABADOSOVA**

Ministry of Construction and Regional Development  
Dep. of Strategies and Programming  
Prievozska 2/B  
825 25 Bratislava 26

Tel : +421 2 58317 392

Fax : +421 2 58317 578

Email : sabadosova@build.gov.sk

**Mr. Martin SZENTIVÁNY**

Second Secretary  
Permanent Delegation  
28, avenue d'Eylau  
75016 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 56 26 50 96  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 56 26 50 92  
Email : szentivany@oecd-sr.com

**Spain / Espagne**

**Mr. Vicente FLORES REDONDO**

Counselor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Permanent Delegation of Spain to the OECD  
22, Avenue Marceau  
75008 Paris  
France

Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 44 43 30 19  
Fax: + 33 (0) 1 44 43 30 18  
E-mail: agric-esp@wanadoo.fr

**M. Juan María LÓPEZ-AGUILAR**

Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Delegation of Spain to the OECD  
22, Avenue Marceau  
75008 Paris  
France

Tel.: + 33 (0) 1 44 43 30 05/06  
Fax: + 33 (0) 1 44 43 30 13  
E-mail: juanmaria.lopezaguilar@mae.es

**Sweden / Suède**

**Mr. Leif BYMAN**

County Director  
Uppsala County  
Sweden

**Mr. Anders CARSTORP**

City of Stockholm, Executive Office  
Chief Financial Officer  
City Hall, SE-105, 35 Stockholm,

Tel: +46 8 508 29 292  
Fax: + 46 8 508 29 695  
Email: anders.carstorp@stadshuset.stockholm.se

**Mr. Johan DANIELSSON**

Secretary-General  
Council for the Stockholm-Mälars Region  
Se-105 35 Stockholm

Tel : +46 8 508 293 81  
Fax : + 46 8 508 295 58  
E-mail: johan.danielson@malardalsradet.se

**Mr. Peter EKLUND**

Head of Division  
Södermanland County Administrative Board  
Stora Torget  
611 86, Nyköping

Tel : +46 155 26 40 21  
Fax : + 46 155 26 71 25  
Email : peter.eklund@d.lst.se

**Mr. Roland ENKVIST**

Project Manager  
Stockholm County Council

**Mr. Dag LARSSON**

County Council Commissioner  
Stockholm County Council

**Mr. Sverker LINDBLAD**

Research Fellow, Regional Analyses  
Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth  
Analysis  
Lilieholsvägen, 32  
STOCKHOLM, SE-11786

Tel : +46 8 681 9100  
Fax : + 46 8 681 9118  
Email : sverker.lindblad@nutek.se

**Mr. Olle LUNDGREN**

Director/Senior Advisor  
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications  
Stockholm 10333

Tel : 46 8 805 30 73  
Fax : 46 8 20 31 27  
Email : olle.lundgren@industry.ministry.se

**Mr. Sven-Inge NYLUND**

Regional Planning Director  
Stockholm County Council

**Ms. Margareta OLOFSSON**

Vice Mayor,  
Social Service Division  
City Hall, Ragnar Ostbergsplan I,  
SE-105 35, Stockholm

Tel +46 8 508 29 100:  
Fax: +46 8 508 29 985  
Email: margareta.olofsson@stadhuset.stockholm.se

**Mrs. Marika AF WINKLERFELT**  
Director  
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications  
Jakobsgatan 26  
S-103 33 Stockholm

Tel: +46 8 405 36 84  
Fax: + 46 8 411 93 48  
Email : Marika.Winklerfelt@industry.ministry.se

## **Switzerland / Suisse**

**M. Christian SCHERRER**  
Conseiller  
Délégation Permanente  
28, rue de Martignac  
75007 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 49 55 74 57  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 45 51 01 49  
Email : christian.scherrer@eda.admin.ch

**M. Rudolf SCHIESS**  
Chef de Secteur  
Secrétariat d'Etat à l'économie (seco)  
Effingerstrasse 27  
CH-3003 BERNE

Tel : 00 41 31 322 28 20  
Fax : 00 41 31 322 27 68  
Email : rudolf.schiess@seco.admin.ch

## **Turkey / Turquie**

**Mr. Ömer BILEN**  
Planning Expert  
State Planning Organisation (SPO)  
Necatibey cad.108  
Yücetepe  
06100 Ankara

Email : obilen@dpt.gov.tr

**Mr. Sevki EMINKAHYAGIL**  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Delegation  
9, rue Alfred Dehodencq  
75116 Paris  
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 42 88 50 02  
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 45 27 28 24  
Email : [sevki.eminkahyagil@mfa.gov.tr](mailto:sevki.eminkahyagil@mfa.gov.tr)

## **United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni**

**Ms. Margaret CLARK**  
Director  
Commission for Rural Communities  
(a division of the Countryside Agency)  
20<sup>th</sup> floor, Portland House, London  
SW1E 5RS

Tel : +44 20 7932 5804  
Fax : +44 20 7932 5841  
Email : margaret.clark@countryside.gov.uk

**Mr. Robin MORTIMER**

Head, Rural Economics and Strategy Division  
DEFRA  
Room 209, Ergon House  
Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 2AL

Tel.: +44 207 238 6444

E-mail: robin.mortimer@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**Mr. Dev VIRDEE**

Deputy Director  
Office for National Statistics  
Regional & Local Division  
B4/11  
London  
SW1V SW1V 2QQ

Tel : +44 207 533 5790

Fax : +44 1 633 652648

Email : dev.virdee@ons.gov.uk

**United States / Etats-Unis**

**Mr. Dennis ALVORD**

Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 7816  
Washington D.C. 20230

Tel : 00 1 202-482-4320

Fax : 00 1 202-482-0995

Email : dalvord@eda.doc.gov

**Sandy BARUAH**

Chief of Staff and Acting Assistant Secretary  
US Department of Commerce  
Herbert Clark Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW, Suite 7800  
Washington  
DC 20230

Tel : +1-202-482-5081

Fax : +1-202-273-4781

Email : sbaruah@eda.doc.gov

**Dr. Mark DRABENSTOTT**

Vice President and Director  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City  
Center for the Study of Rural America  
925 Grand Blvd  
64198 Kansas City MO

Tel : +1 816-881-2697

Fax : +1 816-881-2199

Email : mark.drabenstott@kc.frb.org

**Mr. Stephen MORRISON**  
Advisor for Commercial Affairs  
Permanent Delegation  
12, Avenue Raphaël  
75016 CEDEX 16 Paris

Tel : +33 1 45 24 74 37  
Fax : +33 1 45 24 74 10  
Email : morrisonk@state.gov

## **EC / CE**

**M. Antonios PAVLOPOULOS**  
Email : Antonios.PAVLOPOULOS@cec.eu.int

**M. Daniel POPESCU**  
Administrator  
Council of Europe,  
Cooperation for Local and Regional Democracy  
Directorate General I – Legal Affairs  
F-67075, Strasbourg Cedex,

Tel : + 33 0 388413608  
Fax : + 33 0 38841 2784  
Email : daniel.popescu@coe.int

## **Observers / Observateurs**

### **Mesoamerican Region / Région Mésaméricaine**

**Mr. Oscar NUÑEZ**  
Comisionado Adjunto  
Central Bank of Honduras  
Barrio El Centro, 7ma. Avenida Juan Ramón Molina  
Primera Calle  
3165 Tegucigalpa  
Honduras

Tel : (+504) 2 20 72 54  
Fax : (+504) 2 37 37 65  
Email : onunez@bch.hn

**Mr. Marvin TAYLOR**  
Chief Economist  
Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Tel : (+504) 2 40 22 26  
Fax : (+504) 2 40 22 27  
Email : mtaylor@bcie.org

### **Morocco / Maroc**

**M. Mohamed SOUAFI**  
Directeur de l'Aménagement du Territoire  
Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de  
l'Environnement  
4, rue Moulay Ali Chrif  
Rabat  
Morocco

Tel : 212 37 6614 68  
Fax : 212 37 6614 69  
Email : m.souafi@matec.gov.ma

**World Bank / Banque mondiale**

**Mrs. Barbara GENEVAZ**  
Senior Counsellor for the UK and Ireland  
Permanent Delegation  
66, avenue d'Iena  
75116 Paris, France

Tel : + (33-1) 40 69 30 31  
Fax : + (33-1) 40 69 31 71  
Email : bgenevaz@worldbank.org

**Mr. Brian NGO**  
Lead Economist for PRMVP  
World Bank, World Bank Office Paris  
66, avenue d'Iena  
75116 Paris, France

Tel : + (33-1) 40 69 30 31  
Fax : + (33-1) 40 69 31 71  
Email : bngo@worldbank.org

**Ms. Marsha McGraw OLIVE**  
Lead Knowledge and Learning Officer  
The World Bank  
Office of the Vice President for Europe and Central Asia  
United States

Tel : 1 202 473-8148  
Fax : (202) 522-2758

**OECD / OCDE**

**Address**

OECD  
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
2, rue André Pascal  
75016 Paris  
France

**Mrs. Odile SALLARD**  
Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development  
Directorate  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 87 40  
Email : Odile.SALLARD@oecd.org

**Mr. Rolf ALTER**  
Deputy Director, Public Governance and Territorial  
Development Directorate  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 14 10  
Email : Rolf.ALTER@oecd.org

**Mr. Mario PEZZINI**  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 16 62  
Email : Mario.PEZZINI@oecd.org

**Mr. Eiji TORISU**  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 76 94  
Email : Eiji.TORISU@oecd.org

**Mr. Vincenzo SPIEZIA**  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 97 45  
Email : Vincenzo.SPIEZIA@oecd.org

**Mrs. Claire CHARBIT**  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 99 19  
Email : claire.CHARBIT@oecd.org

**Mr. Nicola CROSTA**  
Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 45  
Email : Nicola.CROSTA@oecd.org



**Mr. Andrew DAVIES**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 15 1592

Email : andrew.DAVIES@oecd.org

**Mr. Patrick DUBARLE**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 92 34

Email : patrick.DUBARLE@oecd.org

**Mr. Édouard GUILLERMOZ**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 16 82

Email : edouard.guillermoz@oecd.org

**Mrs. Lamia KAMAL-CHAOUI**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 16 73

Email : lamia.KAMAL-CHAOUI@oecd.org

**Ms. Karen MAGUIRE**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 45

Email : karen.MAGUIRE@oecd.org

**Mr. Brian MCCAULEY**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 13 59

Email : Brian MCCAULEY@oecd.org

**Mrs. Suzanne LEPRINCE**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 81 72

Email : suzanne.LEPRINCE@oecd.org

**Mr. Philip WADE**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 15 90

Email : philip.WADE@oecd.org

**Ms. Ritsuko YAMAZAKI-HONDA**

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 02

Email : ritsuko.yamazaki-honda@oecd.org