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FIRST MEETING OF NEW OECD WORKING GROUP ON
SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

OECD, 13th-15th October 1993

In recognition of the important role small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play in OECD Member countries -- more than 90 per cent of all enterprises -- a new working party on SMEs has been set up by OECD's Industry Committee. At its first session, the group elected Mr. Ian Donald, of Canada, as Chairman. Composed of delegates charged with industrial policy-making in OECD's 24 Member countries, the working party reports to the Industry Committee and has a mandate to give special attention to:

- enhancing the contribution of SMEs to economic development and structural adjustment;
- the role of SMEs in employment creation, and their effect on the availability of different forms of work (skill levels);
- the effects and implications of globalised economic activities on SME policies;
- how best to secure a suitable environment to maintain and increase the competitiveness of SMEs.

Two days of the current three-day session will be devoted to an expert meeting on the globalisation of economic activities and the development of SMEs. Further information is available from Marie-Florence Estimé, Industry Division, OECD [tel. (33 1) 45 24 94 34; fax. (33 1) 45 24 94 38].

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