

**PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE
OECD EURASIA PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM**

**OECD Workshop:
Challenges for Private Sector Development in the
Black Sea and Caspian Region**

**11 March 2010, 9.30 to 12.30
Istanbul, Turkey**

Draft Agenda

**Venue:
Elite World Hotel**

With the support of

Background

Launched in 2008, the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme is a regional programme that aims to contribute to economic growth in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia through close co-ordination and co-operation with governments, the private sector and civil society. The objective of the programme is to improve the competitiveness of participating countries by encouraging regional dialogue and supporting policy design and implementation that would lead to a more dynamic business climate.

To further foster regional dialogue with the private sector, the OECD is supporting the creation of the “**Eurasia Private Sector Forum**”, bringing together business intermediary organisations, such as chambers of commerce and intraregional associations, from the Eurasia region specifically to discuss challenges for private sector development. This would help the OECD gain insights on policy barriers for business activities and to identify priority areas for governments to address. The Forum could also discuss any other issues of interest to its members, hence enhancing regional co-operation.

Objective

The objective of the Eurasia Private Sector Forum is to:

- Ensure private sector needs at both national and sector levels are adequately addressed in the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme;
- Align with the direction of OECD policy initiatives and recommendations;
- Contribute to the OECD policy indicators including Policies for Competitiveness survey;
- Encourage regional interaction between business actors in OECD and non-OECD countries to better enable them to feed into the policy-making process.

To coincide with the **UBCCE General Assembly meeting in Istanbul on 11-12 March 2010**, OECD is holding a workshop on ‘Challenges for Private Sector Development in the Black Sea region’ to:

- Discuss challenges for Private Sector Development with OECD experts and consultants
- Discuss objectives, setting and format of an OECD Eurasia Private Sector Forum including mandate and scope of activities;
- Develop a business statement which would be delivered to Ministers of Economy from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and other related countries on the occasion of the OECD Ministerial meeting on 14 and 15 October 2010, Prague, Czech Republic.

For information, please contact Mr. Murat Zongur at mzongur@ubcce.org or Mr. Daniel Quadbeck at daniel.quadbeck@oecd.org.

Participants

The meeting will bring together private sector representatives and other key partners from the Black Sea region. Experts from the OECD Secretariat and consultants from the region will be present at the meeting.

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09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcoming Remarks

- **Mr. Colm Foy**, Co-ordinator Black Sea and Central Asia, OECD Development Centre
- **Mr. Murat Zongur**, Secretary General, UBCCE
- **Mr. Orhan Aytemiz**, Director, General Industries, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank

09.45 Presentation of OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme and pre-identified policy barriers to Private Sector Development in the Black Sea region

- **Mr. Barrie Hebb**, Economist, OECD
- **Mr. Daniel Quadbeck**, Policy Analyst, OECD

10.15 Challenges for Private Sector Development in the Black Sea region

Chairs:

Mr. Colm Foy, OECD

Mr. Murat Zongur, UBCCE

Tour de table

All participants are kindly asked to present the business perspective on policy barriers that limit the prospects for entrepreneurship across the region.

- What type of policy barriers do private enterprises face in the Black Sea region?
- Are private enterprises constrained by a burdensome regulatory environment or does the government offer a business-friendly environment (e.g. by providing a stable, predictable, non-discriminatory, and transparent regulatory framework and/or by providing support and facilitation services to emerging networks and clusters of firms)?
- Did governments introduce protectionist measures to trade and investment as a response to the crisis and do these measure affect entrepreneurship in the Black Sea region?
- Do private companies have access to a well-educated work force or is there a skills gap that limits access to human capital? Do governments enhance the competitiveness of the labour market through the development of TVET systems and continuing education and training?
- Do private companies have access to innovative sources of financing, such as venture capital and micro-finance facilities? What is the cost of financing? How do collateral requirements and/or the lack of a functioning cadastre system limit access to finance, especially for SMEs?
- How does the transport infrastructure limit or foster the prospects for increased intra- and inter-regional trade with, for example, the EU, the CIS, Central Asia and South Asia?

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11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 Discussion and finalisation of draft Business Statement

A draft version of a business statement is circulated in advance and should be discussed and finalised during this session. The Statement would be delivered by business representatives to Ministers of Economy from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine and other related countries on the occasion of the OECD Ministerial meeting on 14 and 15 October 2010, in Prague, Czech Republic.

12.00 Objectives and format of an OECD Eurasia Private Sector Forum

The objective of the Eurasia Private Sector Forum is to align with the direction of OECD policy initiatives and recommendations and to ensure that private sector needs at both national and sector levels are adequately addressed in the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme. The Private Sector Forum can contribute to the OECD policy indicators through the Policies for Competitiveness survey and, potentially, through task-force meetings specialising on key sectors or specific topics, such as 'Responsible Business Conduct', 'Enterprise Financing' or 'Women's Entrepreneurship'.

Nomination of a chairing organisation for 2 years

12.15 Concluding Remarks

12.30 Lunch

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