



Réunion du Conseil au Niveau des Ministres

4-5 Juin 2008

Point 6

Questions relatives à la gestion de l'OCDE

SPAIN

Déclaration

M. Alfredo BONET BAIGET

Secrétaire général du Commerce extérieur

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Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level

4-5 June 2008

Item 6

OECD Management Issues

SPAIN

Statement

Mr. Alfredo BONET BAIGET

Secretary-General of Foreign Trade

Statement of the Spanish Delegation on the selection of countries and regions of strategic interest, including for Enhanced Engagement, and on Arab countries of the MENA region and Latin America

Spain recalls that the paragraph IV of the 2007 MCM Resolution on Enlargement and Enhanced Engagement states that the Council will identify selected countries and regions of strategic interest to the OECD and invites the Secretary General to develop recommendations on how to expand relations, including through enhanced engagement. Spain considers that the mandate of the paragraph IV of the 2007 MCM Resolution should be fulfilled before the end 2008.

In this light, Spain considers that the Council should give special consideration to the Arab countries of the MENA region, due to the strategic interest of this area and to the intensity of their relations and activities with the OECD. Within this region, the OECD should offer enhanced engagement programmes to Morocco and Egypt in the first place, taking also into account their economic relevance and reformist policies, and the leadership role played by these two countries in the OECD MENA programme, as well as the new possibilities opened by the SIGMA programme. Jordan could be also considered in the future for Enhanced Engagement.

The interest of some Latin America countries in engaging with the OECD and participating in its bodies and committees could also be taken into account.