

**HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE:
THE CHANGING ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS**

**An International Symposium for Chairpersons of
Parliamentary Budget Committees of OECD Member countries**

**CONFERENCE DECLARATION
Adopted Unanimously**

1. The chairpersons of the Parliamentary Budget Committees of OECD Member countries met on 24-25 January 2001 under the chairmanship of the Honourable Mr. Alain Lambert, Chairman, the Finance Committee of the French Senate. The meeting consisted of presentations from Member countries of the OECD, invited experts, remarks by Mr. Christian Poncelet, President of the French Senate, Mr. Donald Johnston, Secretary General of the OECD, as well as a keynote address by Mr. Luciano Violante, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

2. Delegates agreed that in modern conditions, good governance requires capacity and effectiveness in both the executive and legislative branches of government. Most crucially, this requires an active partnership around the budget -- the major vehicle of both government policy and democratic control. To be effective, parliaments require timely, coherent and credible information from the executive on resources and performance. Several parliaments of OECD Member countries are re-examining their internal organisation and processes for the discussion of the budget. Parliamentary budget processes and policies support sound governance when they promote fiscal responsibility, transparency, a future-orientation, as well as all the financial commitments which are not included in the budget, and when they demand credible information on the nature, cost and impact of public policies.

3. Delegates commended the OECD and the French Senate for this event and encouraged the OECD to strengthen its work with parliaments. Delegates suggested a parliamentary budget information network, bilateral and multilateral exchanges of parliamentary staff, and regular meetings of the chairpersons of parliamentary budget committees of OECD Member countries.

Paris, 25 January, 2001