

**GOOD GOVERNANCE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN ARAB COUNTRIES  
INITIATIVE**

**Working Group IV on Public Service Delivery, Public Private Partnerships and  
Regulatory Reform**



**Annotated  
Agenda**

**Special Session of the Working Party  
on Regulatory Management and Reform**

**OECD Headquarters**

**Conferences Centre Room CC 15**

**20 October 2008**

**Paris, France**



## Introduction

The *Special Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform* is an annual meeting held within the framework of the *Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative*. This one day OECD seminar offers a unique opportunity for policy dialogue between delegates from Arab and OECD countries on regulatory reform and administrative simplification issues. This is done under the framework of the *GfD Working Group IV on Public Service Delivery, Public-Private Partnerships and Regulatory Reform*, chaired by Tunisia and co-chaired by Canada, Italy and UK; and in cooperation with the *GfD Working Group II on E-Government and Administrative Simplification*, chaired by UAE (Dubai) and co-chaired by Italy and Korea. Both working groups cooperate intensively especially in the area of administrative simplification.

Regulatory quality and management is one of the core public policy topics for OECD and MENA countries. The objective of this event is to deepen common understanding of regulatory management and reform issues across OECD and Arab countries and provide a forum in which to exchange experiences, ideas and good practices.

Delegates to the *GfD Working Group IV* identified and agreed on the priorities for the second phase of the GfD Initiative during its fourth regional meeting held in Amman, Jordan on 29 April 2008. Delegates to *GfD Working Group II* did the same during its fourth regional meeting held in Tunis, Tunisia on 29 May 2008. This *Special Session of the Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform* is part of the follow up to support the capacity building efforts to meet these priorities.

## Draft Agenda

*Chair of the OECD Working Party on Regulatory Management and Reform: Mr. George Redling, Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Affairs Sector, Treasury Board of Secretariat, Canada*

9.00 – 9.30	<i>Registration</i>
9.30 – 13.00	<b>Session 1. Capacity building for law drafting</b>
<p>Sound law drafting contributes to better quality regulatory environments. A number of principles, including transparency, coherence and clarity, should strengthen executive governments' capacities to produce effective regulatory texts.</p> <p>This policy area has been signaled as a top priority for MENA countries by delegates to the GfD Working Group IV during its regional meeting in Amman on 29-30 April 2008. The aim of the work on this area is to contribute to the improvement of regulatory quality and management.</p> <p>Three elements are considered relevant for law drafting capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law drafting mechanisms to meet clear policy objectives effectively. The support of appropriate institutions has been demonstrated as one of the key elements ensuring this policy's effectiveness influencing how regulation affects economic growth and development.</li><li>• Dissemination of guidelines and manuals for law drafting. These constitute one of the most useful tools to ensure coordination and coherence in a regulatory system.</li><li>• Training efforts for law drafting. Regulatory responsibilities require expertise support. Some countries have established bodies that provide this technical support and training. These centres of expertise contribute to better regulatory management using a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach.</li></ul> <p>There are specific tools that can support the development of these efforts. The use of ICT is one means of supporting law drafting processes and improving government capacities.</p> <p>The OECD Secretariat will present a proposal to undertake a peer learning process on this area of capacity building for law drafting. Delegates are asked to comment on two documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A draft proposal for the project on improving capacities for law-drafting in Arab countries</li><li>• A draft questionnaire for data collection in Arab countries. (Delegates are not asked to reply the questionnaire at this time).</li></ul>	

### **First Round of Speakers (9.30 – 11.00)**

Law drafting and the creation of capacities in:

- Tunisia: **Mr. Kheireddine Ben Soltane**, Juridical Counselor, Prime Ministry.
- Lebanon: **Mr. Choukri Sader**, Head of Department, Department of Legislation and Consultations, Ministry of Justice.
- Jordan: **Mrs. Mais Khlaifat**, Consultant, Legislation and Opinion Bureau.

OECD countries' experiences on the improvement of capacities for law drafting:

- Common law systems: **Mr. Edward Donelan**, Principal Administrator, SIGMA, OECD.
- The case of Switzerland: **Mr. Luzius Mader**, Deputy Director of the Federal Office for Justice, Professor for law drafting in the Institute for Public Administration Studies of Lausanne (IDHEAP), and President of the European Association of Legislation, Switzerland.

11.00 – 11.30

*Coffee break*

### **Second Round of Speakers (11.30 – 13.00)**

- Legislative drafting guidance and training in the European Commission: **Mr. William Robinson**, Coordinator, Legal Revisers Group, Legal Service, European Commission.
- The implementation of e-tools to support law drafting: **Mr. Jean Maia**, Director of Legal Quality, Regulatory Quality Department, General Secretariat of the Government, Prime Ministry, France.
- The role of the Academy of Legislation: **Mr. Chris Moll**, Director, European Academy for Legislation.
- Policy management training in Canada: **Ms. Wendy Sexsmith**, Federal Public Servant-in-Residence, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University, Canada.
- Project proposal for improving capacities for law-drafting in Arab countries: **Mr. Pedro Andres-Amo**, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD.
- Launch discussion on the questionnaire for the project: **Mr. Mazen Hussein**, Project Leader, Ministry of Planning, Palestinian National Authority.

### ***Proposed Questions for Discussion***

- How can a balance be found between technical aspects of policy and legal expertise when drafting law?
- What elements are essential in institutional building? Which are common internationally?
- How can public and private training efforts be coordinated?
- What should law drafting guidelines/manuals include to successfully contribute to better law drafting? Which enforcement mechanisms should be put in place?

13.00 – 14.30

*Lunch*

	<b>Session 2. Principles of evidence based approaches to regulatory management and administrative simplification</b>
14.30 – 15.45	<b>Session 2-A: Regulatory Impact Analysis</b>
<p>Evidence based approaches provide solid analytical grounds to examine how regulation affects the economy and the society it rules. In recent years, these have contributed to an improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory management and the business environment they create.</p> <p>The goal of this session is to explore the benefits of applying the foundations of Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and embedding this policy tool into the policy making process. This has been signaled as a key priority for participating Arab countries and recent work has been centred on creating appropriate conditions to prepare for impact analysis implementation.</p> <p>The OECD Secretariat asks delegates to discuss about documentation presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recent OECD publication <i>Building an Institutional Framework for Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA): Guidance for Policy Makers</i></li> <li>• A draft handbook on how to implement RIA, addressed to countries that do not systematically apply RIA.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent OECD work on RIA: <b>Mr. Greg Bounds</b>, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD.</li> <li>• Regulatory reform in Egypt and the need for evidence based tools: <b>Mr. Sherif Fawzi Abdel Gawad</b>, Senior Advisor, ERRADA – Egyptian Regulatory Reform Activity, Egypt.</li> <li>• The EU’s Better Regulation Package. Implementation of Impact Assessment : <b>Mr. Manuel Santiago Dos Santos</b>, Senior Advisor, DG Enterprise &amp; Industry, European Commission.</li> <li>• Regulatory Impact Assessment in Norway: <b>Mr. Sjur Eigil Dahl</b>, Senior Advisor, RIA – Unit, Orakel, Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Industry, Norway.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Proposed Questions for Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main benefits of using evidence-based tools in regulatory management?</li> <li>• What are the main constraints limiting the introduction of evidence-based tools?</li> <li>• According to experience, what do countries need to establish a systematic RIA framework?</li> </ul>	
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15 – 17.30	<b>Session 2-B. Administrative simplification</b>
<p>Administrative simplification is one of the main objectives of regulatory reform. The main focus so far has been to improve the regulatory environment for business, citizens and government institutions. Co-operation with GfD Working Group II on e-government and administrative simplification is starting to produce outcomes in terms of the definition of good practices and sharing of experiences in OECD and MENA countries. Some of the barriers to administrative simplification have been identified and productive policy dialogue has been trying to find ways to overcome obstacles.</p> <p>The OECD Secretariat asks delegates to comment on documentation presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcoming Barriers to Administrative Simplification Strategies. OECD and MENA Dialogue: Guidance for Policy-Makers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barriers to administrative simplification strategies: <b>Mrs. Ghada Labib</b>, Regulatory Reform Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt.</li> <li>• Strategy, policy and capacity building to overcome barriers to administrative simplification: <b>Mrs. Dominique De Vos</b>, Deputy General Director, Administrative Simplification Agency, Prime Minister’s Office, Belgium.</li> </ul>	

- Institutional design and supporting tools to overcome barriers to administrative simplification: **Mr. Jeroen Nijland**, Director, Regulatory Reform Group, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Netherlands.
- GfD work on administrative simplification: **Mr. Pedro Andres-Amo**, Policy Analyst, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD.

***Proposed Questions for Discussion***

- How should priorities be set for administrative simplification?
- How can barriers to administrative simplification be effectively overcome?
- How can international co-operation contribute to domestic efforts?

17.30 – 18.00

**Closing Session**

*Closing remarks:*

- *Chair of the GfD Working Group IV:* **Mr. Fethi Bdira**, Head of the Cabinet, Administrative Development, Prime Ministry, Tunisia.
- *Co-Chair of the GfD Working Group IV:* **Mr. Luigi Carbone**, Counsellor of State, Deputy Secretary General, Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Head of the Department for Regulatory Simplification, Executive Chair of the Better Regulation Unit, Italy.
- *Co-Chair of the GfD Working Group IV:* **Mr. George Redling**, Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Affairs Sector, Treasury Board of Secretariat, Canada.
- *GfD National Coordinator for UAE:* **Dr. Ali Bin Obood**, Director General, Civil Service Bureau, United Arab Emirates.
- **Mr. Josef Konvitz**, Head of the Regulatory Policy Division, OECD.