

**ANNOTATED  
AGENDA**

What role for Government in  
the 21st Century?

Strengthening  
Trust in  
Government

MODERNISING GOVERNMENT





## Meeting of the OECD Public Governance Committee at Ministerial Level

### ANNOTATED AGENDA *Rotterdam, The Netherlands* *27-28 November 2005*

#### Sunday, 27 November 2005

18:00-18:30 Ministers, country representatives and delegation members travel to 'Staal' from the Westin Hotel by bus

**18:30-19:25** **Aperitif at 'Staal'**  
*(Beursplein 33)*

19:25-19:30 Ministers, country representatives and delegation members proceed to the City Hall of Rotterdam on foot

**19:30-22:00** **Welcome dinner at the Burgerzaal of the City Hall of Rotterdam**  
*(Coolsingel 40)*

*Guests will be greeted by the Mayor of Rotterdam. Welcome addresses will be delivered by the Mr. Ivo Opstelten, Mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Alexander Pechtold, Netherlands Minister for Government Reform and Kingdom Relations and Mr. Donald J. Johnston, Secretary-General, OECD.*

#### Monday, 28 November 2005

9:20-9:25 Ministers and country representatives make their way on foot to the Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen, adjacent to the Westin Hotel

**9:30-10:30** **Opening Session (Plenary Session)**  
*Expo Hal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen (Schouwburgplein 50)*

*Ministers and other country representatives will be seated at the main table with two members from their delegation seated behind them. The remainder of the delegation will be in the listening room.*

Welcome by Mr. Alexander Pechtold, Netherlands Minister for Government Reform and Kingdom Relations

Welcome by Mr. Donald J. Johnston, Secretary-General, OECD

Minister Pechtold welcomes participants in the parallel student conference by video-link

Keynote Address by Mr. William Pfaff

*At this point the video-link to the parallel student conference will close.*

Administrative announcements for participants

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

*Foyer Juriaanse Zaal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

**11:00-13:00 Dialogue with Citizens (Two Parallel Groups on the same theme)**

*Rabobank zaal A & B, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

*In order to ensure that there is ample opportunity for Ministers and country representatives to exchange ideas, this session will be organised into two smaller groups. Each country will be represented in one of the groups only.*

**Group 1**

*Minister Ulla-Maj Wideroos, Ministry of Finance, Finland, will chair this group.*

**Group 2**

*Minister Claude Wiseler, Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform, Luxemburg, will chair this group.*

**Round 1: Listening to Citizens**

*Minister Eduardo Romero Ramos, Minister of Public Administration, Mexico, will introduce the theme of the discussion.*

**Round 1: Listening to Citizens**

*Chancellor Annemarie Huber-Hotz, Chancellor of the Confederation, Switzerland, will introduce the theme of the discussion.*

- How can governments improve their capacities to listen to and understand the needs and expectations of citizens? What role for e-government?
- What innovative forms of citizens' consultation mechanisms can be employed?
- How can governments ensure that the results of citizens' consultations reflect the wishes of the whole community and not only those of vocal vested interests who participated in the exercise?

**Round 2: Communications**

*Minister Gregor Virant, Minister of Public Administration, Slovenia, will introduce the theme of the discussion.*

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*Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos, Minister of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralisation, Greece, will introduce the theme of the discussion.*

- How can governments better explain the need for, the potential benefits and the results of reforms? Has this become easier or more difficult in a context of globalisation and an increasing role for supranational institutions?
- How do governments respond to the high expectations of their citizens? How can government best say "no" when necessary?
- How can government communicate with citizens about risks and mistakes?
- Is there a role for the media in improving communications between citizens and governments?

**13:00-13:15 Family photo for Ministers and country representatives**

*Foyer Willem Burger Zaal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

**13:15-14:30 Luncheon for Ministers, country representatives and delegation members**

*Foyer Willem Burger Zaal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

*Ministers and country representatives will be shown to their table by their liaison officer.*

**14:30-14:50 Report on Parallel Sessions (Plenary Session)**

*Expo Hal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

*Ministers and country representatives will be seated at a round table with two members from their delegation seated behind them. The remainder of the delegation will be in the listening room.*

**Report on Group 1**

*Minister Ulla-Maj Wideroos, Ministry of Finance, Finland, will report on the discussions of the group.*

**Report on Group 2**

*Minister Claude Wiseler, Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform, Luxemburg, will report on the discussions of the group.*

**14:50-16:40 Delivering Results (Plenary Session)**

*Expo Hal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

**Round 1: The modernising government agenda**

*This round of discussions will be launched by Mr. Clay Johnson III, Deputy Director, White House Office of Management and Budget, United States and by Mr. Frank Mordacq, Director of Budgetary Reform, France.*

- Is the modernising government agenda providing the right tools for delivering results? What instruments offer the greatest potential? Moving from inputs to outcomes and outputs (results)? New organizational forms (agencies)? A greater “client”-focus? New monitoring and evaluation tools? E-government? Others?
- Can greater citizen choice, effectiveness and efficiency in public services best be achieved by the use of third-party providers (private and voluntary sectors; lower levels of government)? Under what conditions?

**Round 2: Enhancing government capacity**

*This round of discussions will be launched by Mr. O-Ryong Kwon, Vice Minister of Government Administration and Home Affairs, Korea and by Mr. Federico Basilica, Head of Department, Department of the Civil Service, Italy.*

- How can the civil service best be organized and equipped in order to translate political agendas into administrative reality? How can government be organised around problems and not vice-versa?
- Do current policy design and implementation mechanisms adequately integrate risk assessment? Do policy makers take enough notice of empirical evidence?
- What actions need to be taken to reinforce civil service ethics in an environment characterised by decentralisation and managerial flexibility?

16:50-17:15 Coffee Break

*Foyer Juriaanse Zaal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

**17:15-18:00 Closing Session (Plenary Session)**

*Expo Hal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

Minister Pechtold receives the conclusions of the parallel student conference by video-link

Minister Pechtold presents Chair's Statement

*At this point the video-link to the parallel student conference will close.*

Reactions to Chair's Statement

Closing by OECD

Closing by Minister Pechtold

**18:00-18:30 Press Conference**

*Rabobankzaal, Concert and Congress Centre De Doelen*

*Farewell drinks will be served in Foyer Juriaanse Zaal for those not attending press conference.*