

ESTONIA: Dinner “The Political Economy of Reform” (agenda item 5)

Madam Chairman,

Secretary-General,

Colleagues,

My country, Estonia, has successfully and comprehensively reformed its economy during the past 15 years.

The driving force behind the reforms has been the wish to make the economic system of our country more liberal, transparent and less burdensome for the individuals and enterprises. As you may know Estonia was the first country to implement the flat tax system, which now has been implemented in many countries, and has helped Estonia to attract investments. What helped us to carry out these unusually radical and rapid reforms in the nineties was the unanimous support of the public, who well understood that the previous system was bound to fail.

As a future member of the OECD Estonia is be happy to share our experience of economic reforms with both OECD member countries and other interested parties.

Estonia is also looking forward to co-operating with the experts of various OECD committees. Membership of the OECD will give us the possibility to learn from the experiences of other countries and seek advice from the world’s leading specialists. We hope that in the future, as a member of this organisation, the possibility of referring to a neutral analysis carried out by the OECD will help us both to increase the public awareness of the necessary adjustments and contribute to economic policy debates.

I am looking forward to Estonia’s fruitful co-operation with the OECD in this question.