WHAT IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week builds on the increasing involvement of countries in the Eurasia region in the work of the OECD and in several OECD platforms, networks and bodies, as well as on the region’s growing importance to the members of the OECD. The objective is to create an opportunity to further strengthen relations between the countries of the Eurasia region and the OECD, and to raise the visibility of co-operation between them on a broad spectrum of issues relevant to the region’s competitiveness and social progress.

WHERE WAS EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week 2017 was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the first time the event has been organised in a Eurasia country. This location reflects the growing relationship between the OECD and Kazakhstan, which co-chaired the OECD Central Asia Initiative from 2013 through 2016, and is now engaged in an OECD Country Programme involving numerous projects, adherence to OECD instruments and enhanced participation in OECD bodies. OECD Eurasia Week took place at the Rixos Almaty Hotel, 506/99, Seifullina Avenue, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

WHO WAS THERE?

OECD Eurasia Week brought together high-level representatives from Eurasia countries, OECD member countries, academia, business, international partner organisations, and civil society.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

Upon registration to OECD Eurasia Week, bilateral meetings between the OECD and Eurasia Partner Countries were scheduled on Monday, 23 October. For further information, please send an email to Gabriela.Miranda@oecd.org and Orla.Halliday@oecd.org.

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian was provided during Eurasia Week.

---

OECD EURASIA WEEK CONTACTS:

Mr. William Tompson  
Head of the OECD Eurasia Division  
william.tompson@oecd.org

Mr. Wouter Meester  
Project Manager  
wouter.meester@oecd.org

Ms. Alena Frid  
Policy Analyst  
eurasiaweek@oecd.org

Ms. Jennifer Doherty  
Project Assistant  
eurasiaweek@oecd.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>&lt;br&gt;23 October</td>
<td><strong>OECD BILATERAL MEETINGS &amp; REGISTRATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT</strong> <em>Rixos Centre</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>WELCOME COCKTAIL</strong> <em>Rixos Centre</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;24 October</td>
<td><strong>OFFICIAL OPENING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>MINISTERIAL PANEL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>REGIONAL DIALOGUE LUNCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;Central Asia&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 1&lt;br&gt;<strong>REGIONAL DIALOGUE LUNCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;Eastern Partnership&lt;br&gt;Brasserie&lt;br&gt;<strong>STEERING COMMITTEES</strong>&lt;br&gt;of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme (for governments and POs only)&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM OPENING PANEL</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM SPEED NETWORKING SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt;for Businesses and Governments&lt;br&gt;Lotus and La Lezar areas&lt;br&gt;<strong>CULTURAL EVENT</strong>&lt;br&gt; (hosted by Kazakhstan, by invitation only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong>&lt;br&gt;25 October</td>
<td><strong>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE (EASTERN PARTNERSHIP)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Monitoring of Armenia – Supporting SME Competitiveness&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>THEMATIC SESSION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Investment Promotion and Business Linkages in Eastern Europe &amp; South Caucasus&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>EURASIA NETWORKING LUNCH</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lotus area&lt;br&gt;<strong>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE (CENTRAL ASIA)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Peer Review of Uzbekistan – Boosting SME Internationalisation through Better Export Promotion Policies&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;Monitoring of Tajikistan – Enhancing Access to Finance for SMEs and Increasing Export in Agriculture&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>THE OECD KAZAKHSTAN COUNTRY PROGRAMME</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2&lt;br&gt;<strong>EURASIA WEEK CLOSING</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ballroom 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong>&lt;br&gt;26 October</td>
<td><strong>OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>BY SEPARATE INVITATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong>&lt;br&gt;27 October</td>
<td><strong>OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>BY SEPARATE INVITATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>EU CENTRAL ASIA INVEST NETWORKING MEETING</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MONDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2017, 9.00-18.00

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 – 16.00</td>
<td>REGISTRATION AND BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE OECD</td>
<td>Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country delegations with confirmed appointments met with representatives of the OECD Secretariat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All participants were invited to register and collect their badges and PokenSpark devices at either of the two registration tables in the Lobby. OECD officials and Poken staff were on hand to answer questions and assist with orientation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 – 12.30</td>
<td>CITY TOUR OF ALMATY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00 – 15.30</td>
<td>CITY TOUR OF ALMATY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants who were not in bilateral meetings had the option to take either of the two scheduled bus tours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.00 – 18.00</td>
<td>PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT HOSTED BY EBRD*</td>
<td>Rixos Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The pre-conference event explored the drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth in transition economies. Moreover, it focused on the critical role of the private sector in promoting equitable access to training and skills, including gender equality, in partnership with policy makers and other stakeholders.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.00 – 21.00</td>
<td>WELCOME COCKTAIL</td>
<td>Rixos Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants were invited to an informal cocktail to welcome participants to Eurasia Week, co-organised by the OECD and Kazakhstan and hosted by the city of Almaty.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*see page 11 for more information

4 | Page
Most Eurasia countries have begun to recover from the series of external shocks that hit the region in 2014–15, and many grew more strongly than expected last year. Nevertheless, the recovery is in its early stages and faces strong headwinds. Ensuring a return to strong, sustained growth following the end of the commodity boom will require further reforms. In particular, policymakers in Eurasia are devoting increased attention to improving framework conditions for business to enhance competitiveness, stimulate investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, and, ultimately, support the growth and diversification of their economies. This session considered the challenges faced by Eurasia countries when harnessing economic openness and competitiveness.

PANELISTS:

- **H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- **H.E. Ms. Lilia Palii**, Secretary General of the Government, Moldova
- **H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Mastoor**, Minister of Economy, Afghanistan
- **Ms. Dana Meager**, Deputy Minister of Finance, Slovak Republic
- **Dr. István Mikola**, Minister of State for Security Policy and International Co-operation, Hungary
- **Mr. Luc Devigne**, Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service

The session was moderated by **Mr. William Tompson**, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD.
Many EESC countries have expressed interest in good international policy practices to support their economic reform plans. The lunch provided an opportunity to have a moderated discussion focusing on the question of how to steer the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus region back on a growth trajectory.

After opening remarks of H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD, the six EESC partner countries addressed the theme. Interventions included those of: H.E. Mr. Dimitry Kumsishvili, First Vice Prime Minister of Georgia; H.E. Ms. Lilia Palii, Secretary General of the Government of Moldova and Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments of Armenia.

Moreover, representatives from partner organisations (including EBRD, EU, ETF, ITC and UNECE) were given the opportunity to provide their comments and suggest specific policy solutions. All participants were encouraged to engage in the open discussion.

The session was moderated by Mr. Dominique Menu, BNP Paribas Representative in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.
TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2017, 15.15-19.00

15.30 – 16.35
OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM
OPENING PANEL: Improving Competition in Eurasia to Foster Productivity and Economic Growth

Competition is one of the main drivers of competitiveness. Competition encourages firms to be more efficient, creates a wider choice for consumers and helps reduce prices and improve quality. Competitive markets ultimately affect the very fabric of business behaviour, private-led innovation and economic growth. This interactive panel looked at how competition can stimulate productivity and contribute to wider economic growth in Eurasia.

SPEAKERS
- Mr. Frédéric Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee and professor of Economics at ESSEC Business School in Paris.
- H.E. Mr. Zhenis Kassymbek, Minister of Investments and Development, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Mr. Petr Gandalovic, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the OECD
- Mr. Yuriy Terentyev, Chairman of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, Ukraine
- Dr. Wolfgang Heckenberger, Senior Advisor on Competition and Head of Siemens Competition Group, Siemens AG

The session was moderated by Ms. Natalia Khanjenkova, Managing Director for Central Asia and Russia, EBRD.

16.45 – 18.45
OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM
BUSINESS SPEED-NETWORKING (Networking with Eurasia governments upon request)

Business speed-networking provided an opportunity for senior business executives to meet high-level policy-makers from Eurasia countries and other senior business executives of businesses active or interested in the region. These meetings aim to facilitate quick exchanges of information and sharing of business needs, potentially leading to new business relationships.

Pre-scheduled meetings with policy-makers lasted 15 minutes, encouraging focused discussions. Due to high demand, priority for pre-scheduled meetings were given on a first-come, first-served basis upon registration to Eurasia Week.

20.00 - 22.00
CULTURAL EVENT AND DINNER By invitation only

Hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan
Venue: Abay Restaurant, Kok Tobe Hill

*see page 11 for more information
The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable** was established in 2013 as a joint platform between OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer reviews on competitiveness reform implementation. The Roundtable was chaired by H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD.

- Opening remarks by the **Chair**
- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Petros Sourmelis, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission
- Opening Statement by Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Armenia
- Discussion of key recommendations on connecting Armenian agribusinesses to global value chains:
  - OECD Secretariat and Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Armenia
  - Prof. Richard Pomfret, Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide (lead reviewer)
  - Open discussion
- Discussion of key recommendations on linking multinational enterprises to Armenian SMEs:
  - OECD Secretariat and Mr. Hovhannes Azizyan, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments, Armenia
  - Mr. Declan Murphy, Director, Strategy Partners Ireland (lead reviewer)
  - Open discussion
- Final remarks by the **Government of Armenia**

**SPEAKERS**

- Ms. Mathilde Mesnard, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- Ms. Yulia Kovaliv, Head of Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine
- Mr. Aleksandre Papashvili, Senior Investor Advisor, Enterprise Georgia
- Mr. Declan Murphy, Director, Strategy Partners Ireland

**MODERATOR:** H.E. Mr. Aleksander Surdej, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD
### EURASIA NETWORKING LUNCH

**Location:** Lotus area  
**Duration:** 12.15 – 13.30

### OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

#### PEER REVIEW OF UZBEKISTAN

**Ballroom 2**  
**Time:** 13.30 – 15.00  
**Theme:** Boosting SME Internationalisation through Better Export Promotion Policies

- Opening remarks by the Chair
- Welcoming remarks by Ms. Anja Nagel, Head of Sector Global Initiatives, DG DEVCO, EU Commission
- Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Nodir Otajonov, Deputy Prime Minister, Uzbekistan
- Overview of key recommendations:
  - OECD Secretariat and Mr. Mubin Mirzaev, First Deputy Minister of Economy, Uzbekistan
  - Mr. Wilhelm Berg, Senior Export Promotion Expert, Germany (reviewer)
  - Prof. Richard Pomfret, Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide (reviewer)
- Open discussion followed by final remarks from the Government of Uzbekistan

### Coffee

**Duration:** 15.00 – 15.15

### OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

#### MONITORING REVIEW OF TAJIKISTAN

**Ballroom 2**  
**Time:** 15.15 – 16.45  
**Theme:** Enhancing Access to Finance for SMEs and Increasing Export in Agriculture

- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Maciej Madalinski, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Tajikistan
- Opening Statement by Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Discussion of key recommendations on enhancing access to finance for SMEs:
  - OECD Secretariat and Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
  - Ms. Diana Russu, SMEs and Migration Expert, Moldova (reviewer)
  - Ms. Aleksandra Lange, Labour Migration Expert, Poland (reviewer)
  - Open discussion and final remarks by Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Discussion of key recommendations on increasing export in agriculture:
  - OECD Secretariat and Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
  - Mr. Philippe Yvergniaux, Export Promotion expert, Business France (reviewer)
  - Mr. Narmuhan Sarybaev, CEO of Agrarian Credit Corporation, Kazakhstan (reviewer)
  - Open discussion and final remarks by Mr. Saidrakhmon Nazrizoda, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Tajikistan
- Closing remarks by Mr. Johannes Stenbaek-Madsen, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Kazakhstan
- Final remarks by the Chair

### Coffee

**Duration:** 16.45 – 17.00
Kazakhstan is one of the three countries to benefit from an OECD Country Programme, a whole-of-country and whole-of-OECD policy dialogue platform involving analytical reviews, capacity-building projects, adherence to OECD legal instruments and enhanced participation in OECD Committees and other OECD bodies. Launched in January 2015, the Programme supports Kazakhstan’s long-term reform agenda on critical issues, including civil service reform, public sector integrity, the rule of law, social policy, and diversified and sustainable economic growth. Policy-makers from Kazakhstan discussed the impact of the Programme, describing how engagement with the OECD has affected policy processes and how OECD work has been reflected in national strategic development plans and documents, as well as the possible regional spill overs which could be envisaged.

SPEAKERS

- Mr. William Tompson, Head of the Eurasia Division, OECD
- H.E. Mr. Timur Suleimenov, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Mr. Zhenis Kassymbek, Minister of Investments and Development, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Ms. Tamara Duisenova, Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Mr. Kanat Bozumbayev, Minister of Energy, Kazakhstan
- H.E. Mr. Erlan Sagadiyev, Minister of Education and Science, Kazakhstan

The session was moderated by Mr. Karim Dahou, Senior Counsellor, Global Relations, OECD

THURSDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2017, 8.30-17.30
Parallel Sessions by invitation only

8.30 – 17.30 EU CENTRAL ASIA INVEST NETWORKING EVENT *

09.30 – 17.30 OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING*

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2017, 9.00-18.30

9.00 – 18.30 OECD GREEN ACTION PROGRAMME MEETING *

*see page 11 for more information
SIDE EVENTS

Monday, 23 October

Pre-Conference Event hosted by EBRD (16.00 - 18.00)

Drivers of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Eurasia: The Role of Private Sector

Nine out of ten jobs are created by the private sector worldwide, making it a major force for economic growth and prosperity. However, misalignment of demand for, and supply of, talent and skills leaves large groups unable to compete for jobs. Skills mismatches have a particularly negative impact on women’s access to gainful employment opportunities.

The event consisted of two interlinked sessions. The first session explored the drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth in transition economies. The second focused on the critical role of the private sector in promoting equitable access to training and skills, including gender equality, in partnership with policy and other stakeholders.

Tuesday, 24 October

Parallel session organised by the OECD Competition Division (16.45 - 19.00) – by invitation only

Competition Advocacy – Be Heard and Seen

This session was chaired by Mr. Frédéric Jenny, Chairman of the OECD Competition Committee and Professor of Economics at ESSEC Business School in Paris. The discussion focused on OECD Recommendations and tools that can be utilised by competition agencies in Eurasia. Topics included: the fight against hard core cartels and bid rigging in public procurement; OECD competition assessments and the Competition Assessment Toolkit (CAT).

Thursday, 26 October 2017

EU Central Asia Invest Networking Meeting (8.30 – 17.30) – by invitation only

The EU Central Asia Invest (CAI) Networking Meeting provided an opportunity for CAI stakeholders and their related business intermediary organisations (BIOs) to exchange knowledge and share experiences and approaches to strengthen the role played by the latter in Central Asia. For more information, please write to: CAEUNetworking@oecd.org.

OECD GREEN Action Programme Meeting (9.30-17.30) – by invitation only

The 2017 Annual meeting of the GREEN Action Programme Task Force brought together Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) and OECD countries as well as partner organisations, NGOs and representatives of private sector. The meeting focused on the improvement of environmental policies in the transition economies of EECCA.

Friday, 27 October 2017

The OECD Green Action Programme Meeting continued on Friday from 9.00 to 18.30.
The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development** (OECD) is a unique forum where governments work together to address economic, social and environmental challenges. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek solutions to common problems, identify good practices and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme** was launched in 2008 to support Eurasia economies in developing more vibrant and competitive markets – both at the national and regional level – in order to generate sustainable growth. The Programme focuses on a comprehensive approach that includes regional dialogue, peer review, definition of reform priorities and assistance in the design and implementation of policies.

The **OECD Central Asia Initiative (CAI):** Co-chaired by the European Union and the Kyrgyz Republic, the CAI was launched in November 2008 and covers Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

The **OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative (EESC):** Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, the EESC was launched in April 2009 and covers the countries of the EU Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

Through both Initiatives, the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme encourages Eurasia countries to align to OECD standards, identify policy barriers to competitiveness and support capacity building in the design and implementation of policies to improve competitiveness.