

DRAFT AGENDA



# OECD EURASIA WEEK 2018

OECD Eurasia@10:

**DRAWING THE LESSONS, SHAPING THE FUTURE**

**OECD EURASIA** Competitiveness Programme

**19-21 November 2018**

OECD Conference Centre

Paris, France

 **@OECD Eurasia**

[www.oecd.org/eurasia](http://www.oecd.org/eurasia)

## ■ WHAT IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

**OECD Eurasia Week** is the annual high-level event organised by the **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme**. It offers an opportunity to further strengthen relations between the countries of the Eurasia region and the OECD, to raise the visibility of co-operation between them on a broad spectrum of issues relevant to the region's economic and social progress, as well as to discuss the challenges ahead and lessons learnt. OECD Eurasia Week builds on the increasing involvement of countries in the Eurasia region in the work of the OECD through a variety of platforms, networks and bodies, as well as on the region's growing importance to OECD members.

## ■ WHERE IS OECD EURASIA WEEK 2018?

Marking the tenth anniversary of the creation of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, the event will be held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris:

**2, rue André-Pascal  
75016 Paris,  
France**

Simultaneous interpretation in **English and Russian** will be provided during Eurasia Week.

## ■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

OECD Eurasia Week will bring together high-level representatives from the thirteen countries of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, OECD member countries, academia, the business community, key international partner organisations, and civil society.

## ■ REGISTRATION

Participation in OECD Eurasia Week is **by invitation only**. For logistic and security reasons, **registration is mandatory**. To register and for further queries, please contact the OECD Secretariat at [grs.eurasia@oecd.org](mailto:grs.eurasia@oecd.org)

## ■ OECD EURASIA WEEK 2018 CONTACTS:

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## ■ OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

# OECD EURASIA WEEK 2018

## OECD Eurasia@10: Drawing the Lessons, Shaping the Future

19-21 November 2018  
OECD Conference Centre – Paris, France

SUNDAY 18 November	MONDAY 19 November	TUESDAY 20 November	WEDNESDAY 21 November
ARRIVALS OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE EURASIA REGION	<b>OFFICIAL OPENING</b>	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Monitoring review of Kazakhstan	<b>MINISTERIAL SESSION</b> Drawing the Lessons, Shaping the Future  With OECD Secretary- General
	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Peer review of Afghanistan	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Monitoring review of Ukraine	
	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Peer review of Azerbaijan	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Monitoring review of Ukraine	<b>CLOSING OF EURASIA WEEK</b>
	<b>NETWORKING LUNCHES</b>	<b>REGIONAL WORKING LUNCHES</b>	
	<b>EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE</b> Monitoring review of Georgia	<b>STEERING COMMITTEES</b> of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme	DEPARTURES OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE EURASIA REGION
	<b>THEMATIC SESSION</b> Shaping the Future through Gender Policies	<b>THEMATIC SESSION</b> Economic Integration & Connectivity	
	<b>RECEPTION</b>	<b>RECEPTION</b> OECD Eurasia@10	

Monday, 19 November 2018

9.00 – 14.15

9.00 – 9.15

Registration and Welcome Coffee

9.15 – 9.30

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF OECD EURASIA WEEK 2018**

Room CC1

**Gabriela Ramos**, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa to the G20

9.30 – 11.00

**OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE**

Room CC1

**Afghanistan Peer Reviews: Boosting private sector development and entrepreneurship policies**



The [OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable](#) was established in 2013 as a joint platform between OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer and monitoring reviews on competitiveness reform implementation. The Chair of the Roundtable is **Ingrid Brocková**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OECD, and the Vice-chair is **Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD.



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Opening by **Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD and Vice-chair of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

Opening statement by **Abdullah Abdullah**, Chief Executive, Afghanistan

Remarks by **Micha Ramakers**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

Peer review introduction by **Mustafa Mastoor**, Minister of Economy, Afghanistan

OECD Secretariat: overview of key recommendations

Comments by peer reviewers:

- **Tuna Şahin**, Vice President, KOSGEB, Turkey
- **Kenan Bağcı**, Acting Director, SESRIC-OIC

*Open discussion*

Discussant: **Jean-Sébastien Roure**, Senior Officer, International Trade Centre

Final remarks by **Zuhoruddin Shirzada**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, Afghanistan

11.00 – 11.15

*Coffee*

11.15 – 12.45

**OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE**

Room CC1

**Azerbaijan Peer Reviews:** Driving diversification through strengthened entrepreneurship  
Linking domestic suppliers with foreign investors



EU4Business

Remarks by **Jeroen Willems**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

Peer review introduction by **Niyazi Safarov**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Azerbaijan

Driving diversification through strengthened entrepreneurship

- OECD Secretariat: overview of key recommendations
- Comments by peer reviewer: **Salvatore Zecchini**, Member of the Bureau of the OECD Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, Italy

Linking domestic suppliers with foreign investors

- OECD Secretariat: overview of key recommendations
- Comments by peer reviewer: **Pavel Chovanec**, Acting Director of the Investment Division of CzechInvest, Czech Republic

*Open discussion*

Final remarks by **Vusal Gasimly**, Executive Director, Centre for Analysis and Communication of Economic Reforms, Azerbaijan

12.45 – 14.15

**NETWORKING LUNCH** (*George Marshall and Roger Ockrent Rooms*)

14.15 – 15.45  
Room CC1

**OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE**

**Georgia Monitoring Review:** SME Development Strategy 2016-2020



EU4Business

Remarks by **Severin Strohal**, Deputy Head of Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

Monitoring review introduction by **Ekaterine Mikabadze**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

OECD Secretariat: overview of key findings of monitoring review

Comments by monitoring reviewer: **Janez Šušteršič**, former Minister of Finance, Slovenia

*Open discussion*

Final remarks by **Ekaterine Mikabadze**, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

15.45 – 16.00

*Coffee*

16.00 – 17.30  
Room CC1

**THEMATIC SESSION: SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH GENDER POLICIES**

The aim of the session is to cast light on the barriers to women's participation in shaping the future of their policies and economies and to discuss how these can be overcome. To that end, the session will take a '**women in work life**' perspective, addressing the most pressing issues for gender equality in both private and public sectors, such as **limited access to jobs especially in senior management positions** (glass ceilings), as well as **wage gaps**. The **scarcity of gender-disaggregated data** is also a barrier to support informed policy-making. The panel discussion will provide a platform to share experiences and examples from Eurasia and OECD countries of policy solutions that support gender equality in public and private working life, as well as to discuss what remains to be done to achieve real gender equality in the region and beyond.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

- **Abdullah Abdullah**, Chief Executive, Afghanistan

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderated by **Elaine Conkievich**, UN Women Representative to Kazakhstan

Country perspectives

- **Valeriy Kovalkov**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Belarus
- **Madina Abylkassymova**, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Kazakhstan
- **Francis Malige**, Managing Director, Financial Institutions, EBRD

OECD perspectives

- **Willem Adema**, Senior Economist, Social Policy Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD
- **Tatyana Teplova**, Senior Counsellor for Gender and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD
- **Mariarosa Lunati**, Head of Entrepreneurship, Productivity and Microdata section, Statistics and Data Directorate, OECD

*Open discussion*

Concluding remarks by **Richard Tarasofsky**, Deputy Director, Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Global Affairs Canada

18.00 – 19.30

**Reception** (*George Marshall and Roger Ockrent Rooms*)

Tuesday, 20 November 2018

9.00 – 14.30

9.00 – 9.30

*Welcome Coffee*

9.30 – 11.00

## OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

Room CC1

**Kazakhstan Monitoring Reviews:** Skills development through occupational standards  
Agricultural co-operatives



Monitoring review introduction by **Madina Abylkassymova**, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Kazakhstan

### Skills development through occupational standards

- OECD Secretariat: overview of key findings of monitoring review
- Comments by monitoring reviewer: **Kieran Quill**, Senior Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom

### *Open discussion*

Remarks by **Madina Abylkassymova**, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Kazakhstan

### Agricultural co-operatives

- OECD Secretariat: overview of key findings of monitoring review
- Comments by monitoring reviewer: **Hagen Henryj**, Research Director of the Ruralia Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland

### *Open discussion*

Final remarks by **Gulmira Issayeva**, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Kazakhstan

11.00 – 11.15

*Coffee*

11.15 – 12.45

## OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

Room CC1

**Ukraine Monitoring Review:** Enhancing competitiveness in Ukraine through a sustainable framework for Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)



Monitoring review introduction by **Taras Tokarski**, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing, Ukraine

OECD Secretariat: overview of key findings of monitoring review

Comments by monitoring reviewers:

- **Elena Gonzalez Sanchez**, Managing Director, National Association of ESCOs (ANESE), Spain
- **Ronny Nilsson**, Senior Adviser to the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation, Sweden
- **Geir Yngve Hermansen**, Senior Adviser in the Department for Climate, Energy, Environment and Research of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Norway

Comments by **Volodymyr Buchyk**, Head of the strategic development department, State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving, Ukraine

### *Open discussion*

Final remarks by **Taras Tokarski**, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing, Ukraine

Closing remarks by **Ingrid Brocková**, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the OECD and Chair of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable

13.00-14.30

**REGIONAL WORKING LUNCHES** – upon invitation only

(George Marshall and Roger Ockrent Rooms)



*Sponsored by the Visegrad Group*

Tuesday, 20 November 2018

14.30 – 18.15

14.30 – 16.00  
Room CC1

**STEERING COMMITTEES MEETING OF THE OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME**  
(For Government representatives of Eurasia and OECD countries and partner organisations)

The **OECD Secretariat** will present the main outcomes, activities envisaged for 2018-19, and the updated governance of the Programme.

The Central Asia Initiative Steering Committee Co-chairs:

- **Rupert Schlegelmilch**, Ambassador of the European Union to the OECD
- **Zamirbek Askarov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan

The Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative Steering Committee Co-chairs:

- **Anna Brandt**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD
- **Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD

The Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable Chair and Vice-chair:

- **Ingrid Brocková**, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the OECD, Chair
- **Aleksander Surdej**, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD, Vice-chair

**Ivita Burmistre** is Chair of the OECD External Relations Committee and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to the OECD

16.00 – 16.15

*Coffee*

16.15 – 18.15  
Room CC1

**THEMATIC SESSION: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND CONNECTIVITY**  
in collaboration with the International Transport Forum (ITF)



Improving connectivity within Eurasia is one of the great challenges facing the region, given limited access to the sea, long distances to major markets, and infrastructure constraints. The project *Enhancing Connectivity in Central Asia*, carried out in collaboration with the International Transport Forum and financed by the Government of Kazakhstan, offers governments in Central Asia analysis and recommendations on how to tackle pressing connectivity issues. This session will discuss three central aspects of connectivity in Eurasia: i) policies and infrastructure for better regional connectivity; ii) national freight policies; and iii) transport planning and governance.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

- **Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan

**PANELLISTS**

- **Zamirbek Askarov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan
- **Azim Ibrohim**, Deputy Prime Minister, Tajikistan
- **Nodir Otajonov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Uzbekistan
- **Baigalmaa Gochoosuren**, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, Mongolia
- **Hassan Soroosh**, Director General of Economic Co-operation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan
- **Ekaterina Miroshnik**, Director, Head of Infrastructure, Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, EBRD
- **Jari Kauppila**, Head of Statistics and Modelling, ITF
- **Nicolas Wagner**, Analyst and Modeller, ITF
- **Olga Petrik**, Analyst and Modeller, ITF

Moderated by **William Tompson**, Head of the Eurasia Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

Concluding remarks by **Luc Devigne**, Deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, European External Action Service

19.00

**Reception** OECD Eurasia@10 – upon invitation only

*Sponsored by the Government of Kazakhstan*

Wednesday, 21 November 2018

9.00 – 12.00

9.00 – 9.15 *Welcome Coffee*

9.15 – 11.50 **MINISTERIAL SESSION: DRAWING THE LESSONS, SHAPING THE FUTURE**  
Room CC1

This session aims to gather insights into the economic lessons learnt from both OECD and Eurasia countries over the last ten years, and the economic and social factors that should shape the next ten years' policy agenda.

Keynote speeches:

- **Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, OECD
- **Abdullah Abdullah**, Chief Executive, Afghanistan
- **Zamirbek Askarov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Kyrgyzstan
- **Azim Ibrohim**, Deputy Prime Minister, Tajikistan
- **Nodir Otajonov**, Deputy Prime Minister, Uzbekistan
- **Peter Burian**, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, European External Action Service

Ministerial Panel:

- **Ajmal Ahmady**, Senior Advisor to the President, Afghanistan
- **Lilia Palii**, Secretary General of the Government, Republic of Moldova
- **Timur Suleimenov**, Minister of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- **Maciej Lang**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- **Peter Wagner**, Head of the Support Group for Ukraine, European Commission
- **Andreas Schaal**, Director of OECD Global Relations

*Open discussion*

Moderated by: **Mathilde Mesnard**, Deputy Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

11.50 – 12.00 **CLOSING OF OECD EURASIA WEEK**  
Room CC1

**Andreas Schaal**, Director of OECD Global Relations



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 Kyrgyzstan, 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 (EESCI)**: Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, the EESCI 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.



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Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Latvia



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