

Paris, 22-23 January 2013

A detailed, golden-brown geometric pattern with intricate interlocking lines and floral motifs, characteristic of Islamic art, set against a dark background.

«Regulatory Quality for competitiveness
and inclusive growth »

Agenda

8th Meeting of the Working Group IV MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Organised by the MENA-OECD Governance Programme in cooperation with the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

Meeting venue: Ministry of Economy and Finance of France
Conference Centre Pierre Mendès

mena-governance@oecd.org
www.oecd.org/mena/governance

Background Information

Regulatory quality is a key state lever and essential to enhance inclusive growth and competitiveness. The current transition in the MENA region highlights the necessity of improving the clarity and efficiency of regulations and creating a public administration that is conducive to quality public services and economic growth.

This first meeting in France of the Working Group (WG) IV on Public Service Delivery, Public Private Partnerships and Regulatory Reform of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme aims to define the operational plan of the WG to support regulatory reform in the region and support the Deauville Partnership. It brings together high level delegates from MENA as well as OECD countries and draws upon the expertise of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee.

The objective of this meeting is to deepen a common understanding about issues related to regulatory policy in the countries of the MENA region and the OECD, as well as to offer a forum to exchange experiences, ideas and best practices. A special focus of the meeting will be to discuss the preliminary findings of the OECD Progress Report on the Implementation of Regulatory Policy Principles in the MENA region. The report constitutes the first MENA review of its kind, developed in line with the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance adopted by the Council of the OECD in March 2012, and the Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality.

The main topics to be discussed during this meeting are:

- i) The recent progress in regulatory reform based on the OECD Report on Regulatory Policy in the Middle East and North Africa
- ii) Success factors for the review of the existing stock of legislation, to remove the most obsolete and unnecessary ones and simplify the lives of small and medium enterprises
- iii) The work programme of the WG IV and the contribution of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme to the objectives of the Deauville Partnership

DAY 1 : Tuesday 22 January 2013

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Session

Opening Remarks :

- **H. E. Mrs Ambassador, Mrs Pascale Andréani**, Chair of the OECD External Relations Committee, Permanent Representative of France
- **Mr. Rolf Alter**, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Mr. Hichem Hammi**, Chief of Staff of the Minister Delegate in charge of Governance and Embezzlement Cases, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia, Chair of the Working Group IV of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mrs. Fiorenza Barazzoni**, Director General, Office of the Diplomatic Advisor, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy, co-chair of the Working Group IV of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

9:30 – 10:45

Session 1 : Recent progress in regulatory reform: challenges of creating an environment conducive to inclusive growth

Chair: Mr. Charles-Henri Montin, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Ministry for Economics and Finance, France

Excessive and ill-devised regulations impose high costs on businesses and citizens in the MENA region. The OECD Report on Regulatory Policy in the Middle East and North Africa assesses progress in the implementation of a common framework for design and implementation of a high quality regulatory reform policy in MENA countries.

This session will invite the participants to explore and debate the preliminary results of the report. The report constitutes the first MENA review of its kind, developed in line with the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance adopted by the Council of the OECD in March 2012, and the Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality, endorsed by MENA countries in November 2009. The aim is to support MENA countries to integrate principles of good regulations into policy actions for inclusive growth.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Faisal Naru**, Senior Economist, Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Mrs. Asma Sehiri Laabidi**, Government Legal and Legislative Advisor, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia
- **Mr. Alaa Kotb**, Legal Counselor to the Minister, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt
- **Mrs. Elisabeth Kristensson**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Enterprise, Communication and Energy, Sweden

10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	Session 2 : Recent progress in regulatory reform: challenges of creating an environment conducive to inclusive growth (cont'd)
<p><i>Chair: Mr. Charles-Henri Montin, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Ministry for Economics and Finance, France</i></p> <p>Participants will continue the discussions about the findings of the report. The session will conclude by issuing recommendations for the endorsement of the preliminary results of the MENA-OECD Report on the progress in implementing the principles of the Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality.</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Khalil Karaje, Deputy Minister of Justice and Mr. Amer Shaheen, Director General of Legal Unit Affairs, Legal Unit Affairs, Office of the President, Palestinian Authority • Mr. Mohamed Hammoumi, Legal advisor, Head of the Government, Morocco • Mr. Anthony Miller, Assistant Director, Better Regulation Executive, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, UK 	
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3: Improving transparency: which regulatory tools?
<p><i>Chair : Mrs. Asma Sehiri Laabidi, Government Legal and Legislative Advisor, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia</i></p> <p>Transparency is a core issue of increasing priority for encouraging and enabling sustainable development and inclusive growth in the MENA region. This raises the question which regulatory tools are appropriate and most effective to improve the fight against corruption. The session will examine different regulatory oversight mechanisms in facilitating public participation, access to justice and implementing methods for quality control.</p> <p><i>Speakers :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mohamed Cherif Belmihoub, Professor, Director, National Management School, Ministry of Higher Education, Algeria • Mr. Pascal Petitcollot, General Secretariat of the Government, France • Ms. Melis Atamer, Expert, Ministry of Economy, Turkey • Mrs. Miriam Allam, MENA-OECD Governance Programme 	
15.30 – 16:00	Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

Session 4: Reinforcing accountability: what role for regulatory policy?

Chair: Mrs Fiorenza Barazzoni, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Director General, Office of the Diplomatic Advisor, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy.

Another core theme for improved economic growth and competitiveness is public accountability and the rule of law. Participants are invited to exchange country experience on the role of regulatory governance to enhance accountability. Which checks and balances in the system of regulatory governance are available? A special focus of the discussions will be on parliamentary scrutiny and institutional capacities within departments to implement regulatory reform.

Speakers :

- **The Honourable Judge Shuwan**, President of the Kurdistan Regional Government Shura Council, Iraq
- **Mr. Jean-Christophe Geiser**, Legal Counsellor, Federal Office of Justice, Switzerland
- **Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Alhawri**, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen
- **Mrs. Rocío Pérez de Sevilla**, Senior Advisor on Better Regulation, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, Spain

DAY 2 : Wednesday 23 January 2013

9:00 – 12:00

Study visit : State Council, 1 Place du Palais Royal, 75001 Paris

The State Council of France invites the participants to meet and exchange views on the functioning and work of the highest instance of administrative jurisdiction in France.

13:00 – 14:15

Lunch Break at the Conference Centre Pierre Mendès

14:15 – 15:45

Session 5 : Best practices in the examinations of existing legislation to making life easier for SMEs

Chair : Mrs. Asma Sehiri Laabidi, Government Legal and Legislative Advisor, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia

The review of the existing stock of legislation is a priority in the context of the transition process in the MENA region. The objective is to create a more efficient public administration and improve the responsiveness to the needs of citizens and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). During this session, participants will discuss the experience of countries in the MENA region and the OECD to establish environments conducive for SMEs. In addition, the SME action plans prepared within the framework of the Deauville Partnership will be presented.

The session will also show the use of legal databases that facilitate access to justice for citizens and businesses and enhances transparency and a better understanding of the legal process.

Speakers :

- **Mrs. Elodie Beth**, Head of Procurement Unit, Public Sector Integrity Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Mrs. Olfa Soula**, Ministry of Governance and fight against corruption, Prime Ministry, Tunisia
- **Mr. Ibrahim Albesbas**, Director of Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and International Cooperation in Libya
- **Mr. Michel Hainque**, Ministry of Economy and Finance, France
- **Mr. Aly Kane**, Senior Officer, Minister of Economy and Development, Mauritania

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

Session 6 : Future work programme and contributions of the MENA-OECD WG IV to the Deauville Partnership

Chair: Mr. Charles-Henri Montin, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Ministry for Economics and Finance, France

The session will give the opportunity to discuss the progress made by the Working Group, the future programme of work and how it can contribute to the objectives of the Deauville Partnership. The

Deauville Partnership launched in May 2011 by the G8 countries, offers a platform to provide support for MENA countries in the transition process. It is an open platform inviting other countries to take part in the exchange of good practices. Complementary to the MENA-OECD regional dialogue, the recent MENA Steering Group Meeting calls for a stronger collaboration between the Initiative and the Deauville Partnership.

Participants will discuss the priority activities of the MENA Working Group IV and strategies to mobilize resources to contribute to the objectives of the Deauville Partnership. Delegates will also discuss the prospects for using OECD instruments in their national context such as OECD recommendations and standards.

Speakers :

- **Mr. Hichem Hammi**, Chief of Staff of the Minister Delegate in charge of Governance and Embezzlement Cases, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia, Chair of the Working Group IV of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mrs. Fiorenza Barazzoni**, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Director General, Office of the Diplomatic Advisor, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy
- **Mr. Nick Malyshev**, Head of the Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Mr. Charles-Henri Montin**, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV, Ministry for Economics and Finance, France
- **Mr. Carlos Conde**, Head of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

The interventions are followed by a Round Table

Closing speech:

- **H.E. Mr. Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD – co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme