

AGENDA

FOURTH MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY



15 December 2010 ♦ Paris, France

*Spurring growth of renewable energies in MENA
through private-sector investment*

Venue : OECD Conference Centre
Room CC16
2 rue André Pascal
75016 Paris
France

2:30pm - 5:30pm

Organised by the MENA-OECD Investment Programme

Objectives of the MENA-OECD Business Council

The purpose of the MENA-OECD Business Council, initiated by the MENA-OECD Investment Programme, is to create a policy advocacy forum for senior business leaders from the MENA region and OECD countries. The Business Council provides its members with an opportunity to dialogue with policy makers on issues related to improving the business climate, and offer a unique opportunity for leaders to network with peers. Key activities of the Business Council include:

- ◆ **provide policy makers with recommendations on reform priorities** to improve MENA and OECD business climates;
- ◆ **strengthen the public-private dialogue** through high-profile debates between business and government leaders;
- ◆ **generate new business opportunities and foster sector-specific contacts** between the regions through regular contact and dialogue between high-level decision-makers;
- ◆ **foster exchange and learning** in areas such as leveraging technology for business, competitive clusters, or responsible business conduct.

The fourth meeting of the Task Force on Infrastructure and Energy

Following the successful official launch of the **MENA-OECD Business Council** in November 2009 at the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference in Marrakech, and in view of the strong mandate given to the task forces of the Business Council at the second meeting of the Council in Paris in May 2010, the **fourth meeting of the Task Force on Infrastructure and Energy will take place on 15 December 2010** in Paris, building on the three successful meetings already held in April, July and October. **This meeting will focus on preparing the work programme for 2011 and the key points of the Position Paper** to be presented the next day to the MENA-OECD Investment Programme's Working Group 1 on Investment Policies and Promotion.

For information, the Working Group 1 on Investment Policy and Promotion of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme helps MENA countries to develop open and transparent investment policies and effective investment promotion strategies and activities through multi-stakeholder dialogue, experience-sharing and capacity-building in the region, with the support of OECD countries and other partners. Participants in the Task Force meeting are also invited to join the MENA – OECD Investment Programme's Working Group 1 Meeting which will be held over two days on December 15 and 16, and members are advised to attend the presentation of the Position Paper which will take place on 16 December 2010 during the session 2 of the Working Group 1 meeting (9 AM – 12:30 AM).

The OECD will host the meeting of the Energy Task Force at its Paris headquarters at 2 rue André Pascal 75016 Paris, France, on December 15 from 2: 30 pm to approximately 5: 30 pm at the Conference Centre, Meeting room CC16.

Meeting of the Task Force on Infrastructure and Energy

15 December 2010

2.30pm	Start Minutes of last meeting, present and apologies Presentation by Ania Thiemann: Key outcomes from Cancun
2.45pm- 3.30pm	Presentation by Ms Maria Argiri , Energy Analyst from the International Energy Agency, of the World Energy Outlook for 2011 with a special focus on MENA. Followed by question & answer session.
3.30pm-4pm	Coffee break
4pm-4.45 pm	Discussion of the Position Paper and its presentation the next day at the meeting of Working Group 1
4.45pm- 5.30pm	Work programme for 2011 and new mandate for the Task Force

Reminder: the structure of the MENA-OECD Business Council

General membership criteria and advantages:

Business Council members lead or take part in the ongoing work of the Task Forces, participate in meetings, provide their input and views into the Business Council's work, and benefit from the Business Council's network of connections. Other advantages of membership include:

- Effective access to a group of country leaders and business peers in order to promote priority reforms and generate business;
- Higher impact on reform through the collective response of business interests from both MENA and OECD countries;
- Greater international visibility of main obstacles affecting the business climate in the MENA region;
- Access to the latest OECD work on policies that impact the business community;
- Invitation to key OECD events.

Membership of the MENA-OECD Business Council is open to MNEs, SMEs as well as business associations as long as they met the following **dual criteria**: i) be a senior member (CEO, partner, director, vice president) of a company with operations in either MENA or OECD country maintaining substantive business activities or having an interest in the MENA region and ii) willingness to engage in projects of the Business Council at different levels of its activity (Board, Task Force leadership or membership, etc.).

Executive Board:

The Executive Board, made up of not more than 12 members, will be the governing body of the Business Council that will provide strategic orientations for the group. An Executive Board member of the MENA-OECD Business Council fulfils the above-mentioned criteria for members, and in addition should:

- Commit to active participation and delivering of key outputs within the Council's task forces;
 - Commit to personal involvement;
 - Commit to attending two Board meetings per year (either in Paris or in a MENA country)
- The sector and geographic location of companies will be taken into account in order to achieve balanced representation.

Task forces and suggested deliverables

The MENA-OECD Business Council will decide on a limited number of "pilot" projects with the aim of generating concrete deliverables in a set timeframe. In the launch meeting, participants proposed projects that would focus on the following objectives:

- a. Improve access to finance for SMEs in the MENA region
- b. Promote human capital skills development and training through effective public-private partnerships and innovation/business incubators
- c. Foster energy diversification and the use of renewable energies, specifically for oil-producing countries; focusing on clean growth
- d. Promote women's entrepreneurship through the incorporation of women's specific challenges into the MENA-OECD Business Council and the Women's Business Network
- e. Establish guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct

At present, the existing taskforces are:

1. Enterprise Financing Network
2. Infrastructure and Energy
3. Women's Business Forum

In 2010, some of the outputs have included:

- **The MENA 100 Business Plan Competition**

Under the auspices of the MENA-OECD ***Enterprise Financing Network*** task force, three regional projects were selected in 2010. On November 10 in Bahrain the winners received the prestigious MENA 100 award which included a cash prize and business support. In addition, the ***Enterprise Financing Network*** continues to bring together promising MENA entrepreneurs with potential financial backers through its Marketplace, and works on facilitating access to venture capital in the region.

- **The Women's Business Forum country analysis**

The OECD-MENA **Women's Business Forum** will convene for the third time in November 2010 in Beirut to review preliminary results of the country-level inventory of policies, institutions and programmes supporting women's enterprise across the 18 MENA economies. The inventory will showcase policies and programmes to support private enterprise development in the region, and act as a practical guide for women entrepreneurs by providing contacts from government, private sector or NGO agencies where they can access business development services, financing, training, networks and other types of information. Ultimately, the inventory will also help identify existing gaps and lay the groundwork for targeted policy recommendations in the following phase of work. The Conference shall also allow an exchange of innovative ideas on ways to improve access to finance for women entrepreneurs and examine the role of business incubators as drivers for innovation.

- **The Responsible Business Conduct Report**

The task force on ***Responsible Business Conduct***, in co-operation with the Responsible Business Conduct Forum and the Egyptian Institute for Directors, is compiling a report providing case studies and examples of best practices across multinational companies in the area of corporate social responsibility and responsible business conduct with a particular focus on the MENA region. The report will be distributed to members of the Business Council upon publication. Members are invited to contribute case studies of the implementation of Responsible Business Conduct in their companies.

The report will be published in spring 2011.

- The next meeting of the full Business Council in 2011 will present the work and outputs of the three Taskforces. The meeting will take place in late March or early April, venue TBC.

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme was established in 2005 at the request of Middle East and North African (MENA) countries to provide advice on improving the investment policy climate. Facing considerable competition from other regions and a growing pressure from the young workforce, several MENA countries are implementing significant economic and regulatory reforms to increase private sector participation in their economies.

The key objective of the programme is to mobilise private investment – foreign, regional and domestic – as a driving force for economic growth and employment throughout the region. The programme offers a forum for results-oriented policy dialogue bringing together MENA and OECD practitioners. It supports reform efforts of MENA governments to enhance the investment climate by

- ◆ strengthening country capacity for designing, implementing and monitoring investment policy reforms;
- ◆ creating a network of dialogue between investment policy makers from MENA and OECD countries;
- ◆ creating a favourable environment for employment creation through investment climate improvements;
- ◆ assisting ministries and government agencies to co-operate and co-ordinate their work;
- ◆ reinforcing the impact of development initiatives supported by international, regional and bilateral donors.

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