

MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Calendar of Events: 2011 (past and forthcoming)

Name	Objective of meeting/event	Date	Location
MENA-OECD Energy Task Force	The Task Force on Energy and Infrastructure participated to the Green Growth Strategy workshop of the OECD. The purpose of the workshop was to review OECD's latest work on the Strategy's Synthesis Report and to seek feedback to ensure that it is a genuinely useful tool to support countries' transition to greener economies.	10-11 February 2011	Paris, France
Working Group II on SME Policy, Entrepreneurship and Human Capital Development	The two-day meeting consisted of (1) a regional conference which covered the theme "Growing Micro and Small Enterprises: Tackling Financing Obstacles in the MENA Region" and developed action-oriented recommendations on supply and demand-side financing; and (2) a closed session which presented an update on recent SME and entrepreneurship policy developments in the MENA region and discussed progress with and proposals for existing and future outputs, including the joint OECD-IDRC regional report on how to further promote the development of early stage (young) enterprises.	22-23 February 2011	Casablanca, Morocco
Workshop on the Regulation and Supervision of Private Pensions	The meeting explored tools used by OECD members on how to improve pension supervision and their application to the MENA region.	1-2 March 2011	Amman, Jordan
4 th meeting of the Working Group on Infrastructure Finance in Iraq	The Working Group reviewed progress on international feasibility studies and investor presentation documents for six priority infrastructure projects and focused on PPP financing mechanisms.	26-28 March 2011	Amman, Jordan
1 st meeting of the Working Group on Investment Zones in Iraq	The Working Group focused on defining an Investment Zones Strategy for Iraq and on corresponding draft investment zone regulations to be issued under the 2006 Investment Law. It also discussed concrete steps for the implementation of a first pilot investment zone.	29-30 March 2011	Amman, Jordan
5 th Meeting of the Energy Task Force	The Task Force launched the work programme for 2011 of the Energy Task Force to identify means to spur investments in the renewable energy sector in MENA. It includes the development of business case studies, and two in-depth studies focusing on best practices regarding PPPs in the energy sector and energy incentives in the MENA region.	1 April 2011	Paris France

2011

Working Group IV on Corporate Governance: 3 rd meeting of the Task Force on State-owned enterprises	The focus of this meeting was primarily on issues related to nomination and functioning of SOE boards and the treatment of stakeholders (particularly in the privatisation context). The meeting also examined the initiative of the Moroccan government to launch a corporate governance code specifically for SOEs.	5-6 April 2011	Casablanca, Morocco
Regional Conference on investment policies of the GCC member countries	The Conference discussed how to translate economic diversification strategies into sound international investment policies and presented the findings of a stocktaking report on "Assessing Investment Policies of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council"	5 April 2011	Abu-Dhabi, UAE
Workshop of the UNEP Business and Industry global dialogue: "On the road to Rio +20"	Members of the Energy Task Force were invited to participate in the workshop that focused on solutions to strengthen the role of the private sector in the transition to a Resource Efficient and Green Economy.	10-11 April 2011	Paris, France
PSD/CFE Workshop on Policies for SME and Entrepreneurship Financing	The aim was to exchange information among OECD and non-OECD countries on similarities and differences in environments and policies for SME and entrepreneurship development. The meeting discussed good policy practices and explored whether they may be transferable across countries and regions. It focused in particular on framework conditions and general challenges for SME finance; the strengths and weaknesses of credit guarantee schemes; obstacles to financing for women entrepreneurs; and the development of quantitative and policy indicators on SME finance.	20 April 2011	Paris, France
SIDA Project Presentation: "Risk assessment in the MENA region"	Preliminary results of a study on "Risk assessment in the MENA region" were presented to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, in addition to the Women Business Forum and Integrity Network activities.	3 May 2011	Stockholm, Sweden
Third Edition of the Women's Tribune on "Women's Engagement in Governance"	The OECD-MENA Women Business Forum participated in this Women's Tribune event, which focused on enhancing women's participation in governance.	5-8 May 2011	Essaouira, Morocco
MENA-OECD Business Integrity Network: Conference on Private Sector Integrity in GCC	The meeting was co-organised with the US Commerce Department's Commercial Law Development Programme and focused on GCC countries covering integrity policies applied in three selected sectors.	10-11 May 2011	Doha, Qatar
MENA-OECD High Level Consultation	This high level consultation allowed for discussing the impact of recent events in the Middle East and North Africa on the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Investment for Development and provide input to its future orientation. It brought together key governmental contact points from MENA and OECD countries, civil society representatives, and business stakeholders.	16 May 2011	Paris, France
Seminar on Women in Private Equity: New Frontiers for the MENA Region	The seminar explored mechanisms for improving the provision of entrepreneurial finance for women entrepreneurs, with an emphasis on measures to encourage women to enter careers in the private equity industry. Participants discussed the role of academic institutions, mentorship programmes and social media in facilitating women's participation in the private equity industry. It was organised by Venture Catalyst Private Equity Partners, with the support of the OECD-MENA Women's Business Forum.	23 May 2011	Paris, France

OECD Global Forum (50 th anniversary)	The MENA-OECD Investment Programme was involved through a press conference, the session on economic empowerment of women, the workshop on green growth, and the session on women private equity.	24-25 May 2011	Paris, France
Business Climate Development Strategy – Morocco: Launch of the publication	The publication was launched in Rabat during a high-level conference, chaired by the Minister of General Economic Affairs (Chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme). The conference presented the findings of the business climate assessment of Morocco and discussed a roadmap for reforms.	8 June 2011	Rabat, Morocco
Consultation on Private Sector Integrity	The Consultation provided private sector representatives an opportunity to exchange views and prepare for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. Private sector representatives had the opportunity to develop a common position on good practices regarding public-private dialogue and private-to-private consultations in the area of corruption prevention. They also launched the MENA-OECD Business Integrity Network which will be tasked with sharing private sector integrity measures and tools.	8 June 2011	Rabat, Morocco
Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on “Putting Anti-corruption Commitments into Practice: Transparency, Participation and the Rule of Law”	Under the High Patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI of Morocco, this dialogue between senior representatives from government, business and civil society in Arab and OECD countries provided substantive contributions to the current movement towards ensuring that roadmaps for reforms in Arab countries are developed through participatory approaches. It focused on developing concrete anti-corruption measures and integrating them in wider efforts to promote good governance and development. It also prepared participants for the discussions at the fourth session of the Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, which will be hosted in Morocco in October 2011.	9-10 June 2011	Rabat, Morocco
5 th Corporate Sustainability Forum on “Enhancing Transparency and Fighting Corruption”	This Forum will provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of transparency and responsible investment as pillars for corporate sustainability. Other topics to be discussed include the role of company boards in oversight of environmental, social and governance risks, respect of labour rights, among others. It is organised by the Egyptian Institute of Directors and the Egyptian Corporate Responsibility Center, with the support of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme and other partners.	20-21 June 2011	Cairo, Egypt
11 th OECD Roundtable on Corporate Responsibility preceded by the the annual meeting of the National Contact Points	The 2011 Roundtable provided the first occasion to discuss the results of the update of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and to start work on reinforcing their role as a leading international instrument for the promotion of responsible business conduct. Four MENA countries (adhering and candidate countries) were represented.	29 June 2011	Paris, France
1 st Meeting of the Taskforce of MENA Stock Exchanges for Corporate Governance	The objective of this new taskforce is to share good practices among MENA stock exchanges and capital market regulators and their OECD counterparts in raising corporate governance of listed companies. The aim of the meeting was to constitute the Taskforce and launch initial discussions on topics of priority for regional stock exchanges and regulators in relation to advancing corporate governance. The OECD presented preliminary results of a questionnaire disseminated to all regional exchanges in April 2011.	5 July 2011	Paris, France

Meeting in Egypt on Jobs, Growth and Income Distribution: The Role of the Private Sector in the New Reform Agenda	The meeting co-organised with the International Development Research Centre - Canada (IDRC) assess the existing situation in Egypt and discussed new approaches to foster job creation and economic growth through private sector development. A follow-up meeting is scheduled end October.	12 July 2011	Cairo, Egypt
2 nd meeting of the ISMED working group on securing investment in the Mediterranean region	The meeting, organised by the EU, in co-operation with the OECD and MIGA, took stock of the work undertaken by the sub-groups on investment protection and investment guarantees, validated the project and decided on the future workplan.	13 July 2011	Brussels, Belgium
Upcoming events			
6 th Energy Task Force meeting	The meeting will review studies to be presented to the joint Energy Task Force-IEMED meeting in October on best practices in public-private partnerships in the energy sector and energy incentives in the MENA region	23 September 2011	Paris, France
Meeting of OECD-MENA Women's Business Forum Country Taskforces	The meeting will bring together the national task force members who will notably review the 18 draft country reports for the Inventory of Policies, Institutions and Programmes Supporting Women's Enterprise in the MENA Region and exchange experiences on policy areas relevant to women's entrepreneurship development. Topics will include: the way forward for supporting women's entrepreneurship and employment in the MENA region; the importance of non-financial business support services; improving research and gender-disaggregated data collection; building the policy advocacy capacity of businesswomen's associations and other civil society organisations.	27-28 September 2011	Paris, France
Regional Meeting on Business Integrity	The meeting, organised in co-operation with regional partners, will provide government and private sector representatives an opportunity to exchange views on good practices regarding public-private dialogue in the area of corruption prevention. Participants will be invited to join the MENA-OECD Business Integrity Network which is tasked with sharing private sector integrity measures and tools.	End September	Tunis, Tunisia
5 th meeting of the Working Group on Infrastructure Finance in Iraq	The Working Group will review progress on international feasibility studies on priority infrastructure projects for Iraq and focus on PPP financing mechanisms.	October 2011	Istanbul, Turkey
2 nd meeting of the Working Group on Investment Zones in Iraq	The Working Group will discuss the Investment Zones Strategy for Iraq and the draft investment zone regulations to be issued under the 2006 Investment Law. It will also review implementation plans for a first pilot investment zone with the involvement of potential zone developers.	October 2011	Istanbul, Turkey
Meeting of the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa 2011	The OECD has been invited to participate in the WEF MENA 2011 meeting. It will launch a joint preliminary report on competitiveness, including a chapter on investment policies and job creation.	21-23 October 2011	Dead Sea, Jordan

Joint Energy Task Force – IEMED meeting: “The Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum”	The Energy Task Force will present the conclusion of its work, including studies on best practices in public-private partnership in the energy sector and energy incentives in the MENA region, and business cases. Those working papers will provide policy recommendations to spur investments in renewable energy in MENA.	23-25 October 2011	Barcelona, Spain
Conference on Private Sector Development and Employment Creation in Egypt	This conference is a follow-up to the assessment meeting in July and will revisit the findings of the Business Climate Development Strategy of Egypt in light of the transition with a view to foster more inclusive economic growth.	End October	Cairo, Egypt
Meeting of the Task Force on Regional Investment Framework	The meeting is an activity of the Working Group I on Investment Policies and Promotion. Organised in co-operation with the Arab League, it will discuss harmonisation of investment rules in the MENA region, the revision of the Arab League instruments and investment security to promote infrastructure projects (ISMED).	End October	Cairo, Egypt
Conference on Young Entrepreneurs in the MENA Region	The meeting of the OECD Working Party on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises & Entrepreneurship (WPSMEE) will focus on young entrepreneurs in the MENA region.	25-26 November	Paris, France
Meeting on integrity in public procurement for Iraq	The meeting will focus on capacity development for integrity in public procurement for Government of Iraq officials, the private sector, and civil society representatives.	December	Amman, Jordan (TBC)
Workshop on SME policy for GCC countries	The workshop, sponsored by SME Dubai, will address data collection and public-private dialogue for SME policy in the GCC countries.	6-7 December	Dubai, UAE
Steering Group Meeting	The meeting of the Steering Group of the MENA-OECD Initiative for Governance and Investment will give the strategic orientations to the Initiative’s activities, in particular in light with the current political changes in the region.	December 2011 (tbc)	Morocco (tbc)
Working Group I on Investment Policies and Promotion	The Working Group will review FDI trends in the MENA region and assess investment policies and promotion strategies in light of the recent events in the region. It will also report on work undertaken on harmonisation of regional investment frameworks and private sector integrity.	Early 2012 (TBC)	Jordan