ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING OF EDUCATION MINISTERS
2-4 APRIL 2001

(Note by the Secretariat)

Corrections to minor typographical errors in schedule and in title in paragraph 8.
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING OF EDUCATION MINISTERS
2-4 April 2001

(Note by the Secretariat)

1. The attached document proposes the arrangements for the meeting of Education Ministers to be held on 2-4 April 2001.

2. There are two elements in this programme not discussed previously:

   − a joint consultation with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) proposed to be held early in the afternoon on Monday 2 April; and

   − a Forum on Information and Communication Technology and Education proposed to be convened between the consultation with BIAC and TUAC and the dinner with which the ministerial meeting will commence on Monday 2 April.

3. The attached document includes a specific agenda for the ministerial meeting that takes account of discussions in previous meetings of the Education Committee and the CERI Governing Board. The final arrangements for the meeting, including agenda and documentation have to be approved by the OECD Council.

4. The Education Committee and the CERI Governing Board are invited to:

   − REVIEW the proposed agenda and to RECOMMEND any changes that might be made to it.

5. The Education Committee is invited to:

   − RECOMMEND to the Council the names of Ministers to be appointed as Vice-Chairs for the meeting.
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2-4 April 2001

Proposal for a Forum on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Education

1. One of the topics considered in earlier meetings of the Education Committee and the CERI Governing Board for discussion by Ministers in an informal setting, over lunch or dinner, was the role of information and communications technology (ICT) and education. It is now proposed that this topic be treated more extensively, but still informally, in a Forum to be held on the Monday afternoon prior to the dinner with which the Ministerial meeting is scheduled to commence.

2. It is proposed that the Forum be opened with a keynote address by a person with an international reputation in the field of ICT who has an informed and interesting perspective on the potential of ICT to transform significant aspects of the educational enterprise. This would be followed by a brief presentation of key aspects of the CERI work on ICT and then invited reactions by two Ministers. It is proposed that this occupy the first of two hours, leaving a full hour for discussion among participants.

3. It is proposed, as well, that representatives of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) be invited to join Ministers and officials in this seminar.

Consultations with BIAC and TUAC

4. In association with each Ministerial meeting, there are consultations with BIAC and TUAC. These are sometimes held separately but both BIAC and TUAC have agreed to hold a joint consultation prior to the proposed Forum in order to limit the time required for the consultation and to enable both the consultation and the Forum to be held in the afternoon on Monday 2 April.

5. All Ministers are invited to participate in these consultations and their value is increased if many do. At least the Chair and Vice-Chairs need to participate. Other countries can be represented by officials if the Minister is unable to arrive in time for the consultation.

Vice-Chairs for the Meeting

6. It has already been agreed by the Council that Ms. Edelgard Buhlman, Minister of Education and Research in Germany will be Chair of the Meeting. There are normally two Vice-Chairs and the Education Committee needs to recommend to the Council the names of Ministers who will fill these roles. The positions were occupied in the previous meetings by:

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DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(2000)17
Proposed agenda for meeting

Monday 2 April 2001

14:00 - 15:30 Consultation
Ministers and Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee

16:00 - 18:00 Forum: Information and Communication Technology and Education
16:00 - 16:30 Keynote address by an invited speaker
16:30 - 16:40 Presentation of CERI work on Information and Communications Technology
16:40 - 17:00 Responses by two Ministers
17:00 - 18:00 Discussion among participants (Ministers, officials, representatives of BIAC and TUAC)

19:30 - 22:00 Dinner

Tuesday 3 April 2001

09:30 - 11:00 Theme 1: Fostering competences for the knowledge economy
11:00 - 11:30 Coffee
11:30 - 13:00 Theme 1 continued

Discussion topic: Trade in education services: benefits and risks
Discussion to be opened by two Ministers, one putting the case for student exchanges as a cultural experience, the other putting the case for the international offering of education services as a legitimate aspect of a country's trade in services.

14:30 - 16:00 Theme 2: Securing the benefits from lifelong learning for all
16:00 - 16:30 Coffee
16:30 - 18:00 Theme 2 continued

19:30 - 22:00 Dinner

Wednesday 4 April 2001

09:30 - 11:00 Theme 3: Developing innovative teaching and learning
11:00 - 11:30 Coffee
11:30 - 12:00 Theme 3 continued
12:00 - 13:00 Finalisation of Communiqué
13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

Discussion topic: Dealing with anti-social behaviour in schools
Discussion to be opened by one or two Ministers who have particular concerns with the issue and who are seeking and trying new policy responses.

14:45 - 15:15 Press conference*

* The precise timing can be determined closer to the event. In the past, the press briefings have sometimes been held later in the afternoon.
Title for the meeting

7. In the previous meetings there was a diversity of views about the suitability of the proposed title for the Ministerial, *Investing in human competence*. Some favoured the proposal, some indicated that they could live with it while not preferring it, and some clearly preferred other options. If the emphasis in the proposed title were to be obtained, it was suggested that ‘human’ could be deleted as redundant in a title for a conference of Education Ministers who would clearly not be considering any other kind of competence. There was also a desire to emphasise inclusion, with the addition of ‘for all’ suggested as an appropriate means for doing this.

8. The title now suggested is *Investing in competences for all*. The title for the 1996 Ministerial meeting was *Lifelong learning for all* and the title for the 1991 Ministerial was *High quality education for all*. Does such repeated use of the phrase ‘for all’ dilute its force to the point where its use again in 2001 should not be considered?

Documentation for meeting

9. The nature of the documentation for the meeting has been discussed in earlier meetings. It is proposed to add to the items already discussed a special *Education at a Glance Highlights* to present statistics and indicators from the OECD Indicators of Education Systems (INES). This means that the total documentation for the meeting is now proposed to be:

- **Issues for Discussion**
  Document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(2000)13 under Education Committee Agenda item 8B and CERI Governing Board Agenda item 4B;

- **Education Policy Analysis 2000**
  Document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(2000)12 under Education Committee Agenda item 8C and CERI Governing Board Agenda item 4C;

- **Education at a Glance Highlights**;

- **Draft Communiqué**
  Document DEELSA/ED/CERI/CD(2000)14 under Education Committee Agenda item 8D and CERI Governing Board Agenda item 4D.