EVALUATION OF THE ELSA COMMITTEE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Recommendations

(Note by the Secretariat)
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1. The Task Force mandated for the Evaluation of the ELSA Committee has now completed its work [CE(2000)10]. The recommendations were discussed by the Executive Committee on 7 and 18 July [C(2000)154] and by the Council at its 986th Session on 13 September [C/M(2000)21/PROV].

2. Delegates will find attached the 12 Recommendations, as amended and approved by the Council.

3. The Committee is invited to:
   - Comment on the Recommendations; and
   - Report its reactions on the implementation of the Recommendations to the Executive Committee.
RECOMMENDATIONS

(Including the modifications in light of the Executive Committee discussion, indicated in bold and modifications in light of the Council discussion, indicated in italics)

I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE UNDER REVIEW AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

R1. ELSAC should review the current mandate of the WP on Employment to ensure that it matches the current needs of ELSAC in this area; and consider whether future meetings of the WP should be held before the Spring meeting of ELSAC.

R2. The Secretariat should consult the Committee and make a proposal to Council on the appropriateness of creating a separate WP or group on Health for 2001. It is noted that the costing of such a group on Health will be included in the Secretary-General’s PWB proposed in due course.

R3. The mandate of the WP on Migration should, on expiry, be prolonged for a further five years.

II. POLICY RELEVANCE OF THE COMMITTEE’S ACTIVITIES

R4. Governments should recognise that because of the broad scope of the mandate of this committee and the need for coherence in the work of the OECD, it is important to avoid narrowly sectoral views. Therefore, it would be useful for governments to pay particular attention to the nature of their representation at the Committee to ensure that the views expressed cover the range of views of the government as a whole on the issue under discussion.

R5. The Directorate should consult systematically with the bureau to ensure that the Committee continues to respond promptly to new developments; that the Committee considers the proposal set out in paragraph 19 of this Report; and that the membership in turn recognises its responsibility to flag up new and emerging issues in good time to secure the necessary additional funding.

III. STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONING AND PARTICIPATION

R6. The Directorate and Committee should ensure that a significant proportion of ELSAC’s agenda is allocated to policy debate. The Task Force further recommends that the Secretariat, in consultation with the bureau, should ensure that all procedural issues are, where possible, dealt with through EDGs and Permanent Delegations. The pre-ELSAC meeting of Permanent Delegations (perhaps held closer to the event) should be used to help prepare and focus the discussion and resolve any outstanding procedural issues.

R7. The Secretariat, in consultation with the bureau, should before each ELSAC meeting identify lead speakers for each policy debate.
R8.

There is a need to further develop a coherent and consistent employment and social strategy across OECD countries. Therefore the Secretary General is invited to prepare a proposal regarding the modalities for convening a one-off ad hoc meeting, linked to a specific issue, of a high-level policy group [see also para. 24 of CE(2000)10].

[Furthermore, PUMA should prepare a report on the merits of strong centre-of-government institutions and its implications for committee work at the OECD. This sentence was deleted by the Council]

IV. HORIZONTAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE OECD

R9.

ELSAC, in conjunction with the Directorate, should devise a strategy to enhance its interaction with other committees and directorates in the above areas in order to provide a consistent input into the human and social elements of the triangular paradigm.

V. OUTREACH

R10.

ELSAC should review the basis of its relationship with non-member observers in relation to Committee attendance, input and output. Observers should report on which ideas, coming out of ELSAC, are helping them to formulate their domestic policy and implement it effectively.

In order better to organise its outreach activities with non Member Countries, the Committee should consider the possible Employment, Labour and Social Affairs related elements in the proposed OECD Global Forum [CCN(2000)5/ADD1]

R11.

ELSAC, while consulting the legal service, should review how its interaction with BIAC and TUAC might be further improved, including the possibility of inviting them to attend certain committee debates, while maintaining the possibility to meet without observers as well.

VI. VISIBILITY

R12.

The Task Force strongly supports the preparation by PAC and DEELSA of a communications strategy document to improve public understanding and dissemination of the Directorate’s/OECD’s work. This should be shared with the Committee. The Secretariat should, in particular, consider how best to raise the profile of both its completed and on-going work - beyond the Employment Outlook - in a manner that promotes the OECD as being at the cutting edge of international debate and analysis in employment, labour and social issues.