PROVISIONAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE 97TH SESSION

Contact: Pat Chardome, Committee Secretary,
Tel. (33.1)4524.9191, Fax (33.1).4524.9098,
Email: pat.chardome@oecd.org

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The Committee ADOPTED the Draft Annotated Agenda.


Referring to Item 14C (Quebec Seminar on “Human and social capital and sustained growth and development”), paragraph 69, the Portuguese delegate requested that the fifth sentence be replaced with the following text:

“La délégue portugaise souligne l’importance de la contribution de cette activité pour l’objectif stratégique, défini au Sommet de Lisbonne, d’atteindre une croissance économique saine et durable, avec de plus nombreux et de meilleurs emplois et un cohésion sociale, un objectif auquel le Portugal, qui présidait l’union européenne au premier semestre, attache beaucoup d’importance.”

[The Portuguese delegate underlined the important contribution this activity can make to the strategic objective defined by the Lisbon Summit to achieve healthy and lasting economic growth, with more and better employment and social cohesion. This issue is a priority for Portugal which Chaired the European Union during the first semester.]

The Committee APPROVED the Summary Record, taking into account the change requested by the Portuguese delegate.
ITEM 3: REVIEW OF LABOUR MARKET AND SOCIAL POLICIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Issues for Discussion [DEELSA/ELSA(2000)7]
Tables and Charts [DEELSA/ELSA(2000)8/ANN]

On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

NOTED the review report by the Secretariat;

RECOMMENDED its derestricion for publication under the responsibility of the Secretary-General, in the light of the Committee’s discussion and written comments to be supplied by the Russian Authorities within a three-week deadline;

NOTED the proposal by the Head of the Russian delegation that the Secretariat present the Review Report and its recommendations at a Seminar to take place shortly in Moscow, with the participation of Russian political decision-makers and academics; and

NOTED that a follow-up review would take place in the committee in due course.


On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

SUPPORTED the horizontal project on health;

RECOGNISED the need to establish an ad hoc group to supervise the work of the horizontal project across all the participating directorates;

EXPRESSION strong support for the proposed work on indicators of system performance and on assessment of overall performance, as well as determinants of system performance;

NOTED initial country interest in making a financial contribution to the horizontal project as a whole or certain elements of it, including long-term care aspects;

NOTED the expressions of support by several countries for an initial Conference to help launch the horizontal project.

REQUESTED the Secretariat to avoid any duplication with work being carried out by the WHO;
ITEM 5: ORAL STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR, including progress report on CO-OPERATION WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Committee:

NOTED the reports on:

- Update of the 1996 report on “Trade, Employment and Labour Standards” and the proposal by the French delegation to include in future work a study on links between child labour, economic growth and employment, to which they would be prepared to make a financial contribution;
- Fourth General Assembly of INES, Tokyo, 11-13 September and the proposal to involve ELSAC in future work on adult skills and competences and to elect two ELSAC delegates to serve on the INES Steering Group [DEELSA/ED/CD(2000)16];
- OECD/UK Ministerial Conference on “Best practices in tackling poverty and social exclusion: An opportunity for all” and the wish expressed by many delegates that the proceedings of the conference be published;
- Forthcoming conferences on: i) “Gender Mainstreaming: Competitiveness and Growth”, OECD Paris, 23-24 November; ii) G8 Labour Ministers meeting, Turin, 10-11 November; iii) Finding resources for lifelong learning”, Ottawa, 7-8 December;
- Review of labour market and social policies in the Baltic states and preparations for the ELSAC review in Autumn 2001;

NOTED the report by the Vice-Chair (UK) on the ELSAC Bureau meeting with BIAC to discuss: i) OECD horizontal work on growth and sustainable development; ii) The Prague PES conference; iii) OECD horizontal work on health; and iv) The update of the 1996 report on “Trade, employment and labour standards”.

ITEM 6: EVALUATION OF THE ELSA COMMITTEE BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


On the proposal of the President, the Committee:


NOTED comments made on the 12 Recommendations and, in particular, the concerns expressed by many delegates with regard to Recommendation 4 on the broad scope of ELSAC’s mandate and nature of representation at meetings, and Recommendation 8 on the proposal to convene a high-level policy group; and

REQUESTED the Secretariat to prepare a first draft of ELSAC’s Response to the Recommendations for comment which would be handled by the committee’s EDG.
ITEM 7: PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2001-2002

A. Proposal for a +3 and -3 per cent in the 2001 budget [DEELSA/ELSA/ED(2000)3]

On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

NOTED the proposals for the +3 and -3 per cent options prepared by the Secretariat in line with the committee’s decision at its Spring 2000 meeting; and

NOTED the concern expressed by some delegations with regard to the proposed suppression of Activity 1.3 on Trade, FDI and Labour Standards.

B. Enhancing the Effectiveness of Active Labour Market Policies: Future work
[DEELSA/ELSA(2000)12]

On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

NOTED the request by the Director in his introductory remarks for delegates to begin thinking of possible themes for a meeting of Labour Ministers end 2002/beginning 2003, and the intention of the Secretariat to have a first discussion on the Ministerial at the Spring 2001 Session;

WELCOMED the emphasis in document DEELSA/ELSA(2000)12 on thematic reviews rather than country reviews, as expressed in the discussion of the Programme of Work at the Spring Session;

NOTED initial country interest in participating in the thematic reviews, as follows:

✓ Removing barriers to work for older workers (twelve countries);

✓ Activation of the long-term unemployed (six countries), noting that three speakers indicated they would have preferred “welfare to work”, and three others said that the scope of the proposed reviews should be widened to include the inactive population of working age;

✓ Youth labour market and social policy initiatives (three countries); and

NOTED the additional themes proposed:

✓ Performance measurement of the PES, and
✓ Acquisition and development of skills in the adult population.

REQUESTED the Secretariat to finance this activity from the regular Part I budget and RECOGNISED that, this being the case, only one thematic review could be undertaken.
ITEM 8: HUMAN AND SOCIAL CAPITAL AND SUSTAINED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT


On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

WELCOMED the opportunity to discuss the outline of the Report and NOTED the positive reception given to the concept of “social capital”;

NOTED support for the work and offers of assistance, dialogue and documentation on the subject, especially from the European Commission and the ILO;

LOOKED FORWARD to receiving the full draft report that will be discussed at the November meetings of the Education Committee and CERI Governing Board, and having an opportunity to send the Secretariat written comments on it; and

NOTED that a revised version of the report will be presented to a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau on the growth Ministerial Mandate, to be held at the beginning of 2001.


On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

NOTED the two outlines of work underway in this area,

REQUESTED the Secretariat to prepare draft reports, taking into account the Committee's discussions, and present them at a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau on the growth Ministerial Mandate, to be held at the beginning of 2001.

ITEM 9: LABOUR MARKET POLICIES AND THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE: Results from the Conference held in Prague on 3-4 July [DEELSA/ELSA/PES(2000)19]

On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

NOTED the presentation by Mr. Peter Schwanse, OECD consultant and rapporteur of the Conference;

NOTED that the 18 documents prepared for the Prague Conference, together with the Rapporteur’s Conclusions, are to be published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General.
ITEM 10: THEMATIC REVIEW ON ADULT LEARNING: Progress Report
[DEELSA/ELSA/ED(2000)1]

On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

- **NOTED** the presentation by the Secretariat and comments made on the Progress Report from Belgium, Canada, Italy and Germany;

- **NOTED** that a second round of reviews may take place, should there be sufficient country interest.


On the proposal of the President, the Committee:

- **WELCOMED** the presentation and **NOTED** expressions of country interest in participating in the activity;

- **REQUESTED** the Secretariat to take the following comments and suggestions into account in conducting the activity: i) ensure that the focus is broader than traditional career guidance models; ii) ensure that consideration is given to the needs of youth at risk ii) take into account the potential contribution of employers and enterprises in providing career information and guidance; and

- **NOTED** that the document will be discussed for the first time by the Education Committee at its meeting on 15-17 November and that delegates will be informed by the Secretariat of the main conclusions of that discussion.
ITEM 12: INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION


B. Summary Record of the 23rd Session of the Working Party on Migration  
   [DEELSA/ELSA/WP2/M(2000)2]

The Committee:

NOTED the presentation by the Secretariat on recent and future events;

NOTED the objections voiced by several delegates to the continued treatment of international migration, which results in the activity being placed at the end of the agenda and consequently not being accorded sufficient time to permit presentation and discussion of ongoing work and achievements on the ELSA Committee agenda, and REQUESTED the Secretariat to rectify this in the future.


The Committee NOTED the presentation by Mr. Robert Ley, Head of the Capital Movements, International Investment and Services Division (DAFFE) on the present state of play concerning the OECD Guidelines.

ITEM 14: OTHER BUSINESS

A. Evaluation of the ELSA Committee:

- Synthesis of the replies to the questionnaire completed at the Spring meeting
- Evaluation Form, 97th Session

The Committee NOTED the request by the Secretariat to complete and return to the Secretariat, within two day of the meeting, the Evaluation Form for the present Session.

B. Dates of future meetings

The Committee

NOTED the dates of future meetings: Spring 2001: 21-23 March; Autumn 2001: 22-24 October; and

NOTED the proposal by the Secretariat to hold a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau in January or February 2001 to discuss the three papers on growth [see Item 8].

C. Automatic Declassification of documents

The Committee: NOTED the request to submit objections to the downgrading of documents circulated between 1st January and 31st December 1998 to the Committee Secretariat, Mrs. Pat Chardome [Fax: 00 33 1 45249098, Email: pat.chardome@oecd.org], in writing, by 1st December 2000 at the latest.