Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

ANNOTATED AGENDA

36th ANNUAL MEETING OF OECD SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS

Rome, Italy
11-12 June 2015

The meeting is hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance. The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Julian KELLY, Director General, Public Spending and Finance, HM Treasury, United Kingdom and Chair of the OECD Working Party of Senior Budget Officials.

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Wednesday, 10 June 2015
from 18:30 Welcome Reception hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance

Thursday, 11 June 2015
9:30-9:45 Opening by Chairman and OECD Secretariat
Delegates’ Introductions

9:45-12:30 SESSION 1 -- State of Public Finances
The Secretariat will present the results of its survey of State of Public Finances in OECD Countries. The report will feature a holistic overview of fiscal consolidation efforts across the OECD and in individual countries, alongside an analysis of the impact of structural budgetary reforms and the relation to broader economic strategy. This report will build upon the earlier analysis in Restoring Public Finances (2011 and 2012 Update) to reflect latest developments.

Following the Secretariat’s presentation, a number of thematic panels will discuss specific issues raised in the report.

The Chair will call a 30-minute Coffee Break during this session

12:30-14:30 Luncheon hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance

14:30-16:00 SESSION 2 -- Budgeting in Italy
The budgeting and public expenditure system of Italy will be reviewed during this session based on a report prepared by the Secretariat. The objective of these reviews is to provide a comprehensive overview of the budgeting process in the respective country and to offer other countries an opportunity to comment on specific budgeting issues in the country under review.

Two countries will act as “lead examiners” for the review.

16:00-16:30 Coffee Break
16:30-18:00  **SESSION 3 -- Framework for the Governance of Infrastructure**

Infrastructure investment is a key public finance issue, albeit a nuanced one. In order to address the pressing issue of how to deliver productive, efficient and well-chosen public infrastructure, the OECD has developed a *Framework for the Governance of Infrastructure*.

Following a presentation of the Framework by the Secretariat, Delegates will be invited to discuss national initiatives in regards to infrastructure investment. Delegates will be asked *inter alia* to reflect on whether an infrastructure “gap” exists in their respective countries.

Infrastructure investment figures prominently in the forthcoming OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM). The work of the Network on Public-Private Partnerships and Infrastructure has anchored SBO’s contribution to this work.

_from 19:00  _Reception and Gala Dinner hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance_
Friday, 12 June 2015

9:15-9:30  Keynote Address
- Mr. Pier Carlo PADOAN, Italian Minister of Economy and Finance.

9:30-11:00  SESSION 4 -- Inclusive Growth

Inclusive growth – policies that can generate growth and jobs, while ensuring that benefits are shared in society – is a primary focus of the OECD’s overall mission. A ministerial-level meeting on public governance and inclusive growth will take place on 28 October 2015 in Helsinki, hosted by the Finnish authorities, to discuss these issues.

Following a presentation by the OECD Secretariat, Delegates will be invited to discuss how budgeting and public expenditures systems can contribute to inclusive growth. It offers an opportunity to discuss complex, multidimensional policy issues, deal with trade-offs, identify synergies among policy options as well as respond to challenges for public governance. It also relates to the capacity to look at reforms throughout the policy cycle – the different stages of design, implementation and evaluation – in pursuit of shared objectives.

11:00-11:30  Coffee Break

11:30-13:00  SESSION 5 -- Budget Reforms and the Economic Crisis

The economic crisis provided a “stress test” for many budgeting and public expenditure reforms introduced in recent years, including decentralization, performance and results initiatives, and accrual accounting and budgeting practices.

Following a presentation of a background report, Delegates will be invited to share their experience on how these reforms were impacted by the crisis and the implications for future reform efforts.

13:00-14:30  Luncheon hosted by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance

14:30-15:30  SESSION 6 -- Emerging Budgeting Issues

This session is designed for Delegates to deliberate emerging budget issues in an informal yet structured manner. The Chairman will propose a set of topics for discussion to launch the discussion.
15:30-16:00  SESSION 7 -- Future Work Programme

The Secretariat will provide a general report on activities since the last meeting of the Working Party, including an update on the work of each of the SBO subsidiary bodies.

Delegates will then be asked to identify future work priorities for the OECD’s Programme of Work in the area of budgeting and public expenditures, and indicate their interest in particular studies.

The Secretariat will also report on the conclusions of the In-Depth Review of the Public Governance Committee, including the Working Party of Senior Budget Officials.

16:00  Closing by Chairman and Secretariat
GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Format of Discussion
Each session will open with one or more lead presentations. These should be no more than 15-20 minutes in length. This will be followed by several rounds of questions and comments by Delegates. Please limit each intervention to no more than 5 minutes in order to foster discussion.

Venue - Meeting Location
The meeting will take place at the Comando Generale della Guardia di Finanza (Sala d’Onore), Piazza Mariano Armellini, Rome.

Accommodations
The Italian authorities have made pre-reservations at several hotels in Rome. Please urgently make your hotel reservation via the link below, as Rome will host a major international event during the week of 8-12 June and most hotels will be fully booked.

grupposymposia.onlinecongress.it/OcseBudgetRoma2015

Transportation to and from the meeting venue will be provided by our hosts.

Registration Form
All Delegates need to complete the registration form and return it to the Secretariat. Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass.

Hospitality
The Italian Ministry of Finance invites all Delegates to a Welcome Reception on the eve of the meeting, Wednesday, 10 June, from 6:30 p.m. at CAFFÈ DELLE ARTI, via Antonio Gramsci 73, Rome.

The Italian authorities invite all Delegates to a Reception and Gala Dinner at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, Thursday, 11 June, from 7 30 p.m. at PALAZZO TAVERNA, Via Monte Giordano, 36, Rome.

Transportation to and from the events will be provided.

Spouses are welcome to join Delegates at the above social events.

Please confirm your attendance at these events by completing the appropriate “Social Activities” box on the registration form.

All Delegates are also invited to luncheons on both days of the meeting.

Entry Formalities
Delegates are advised to confirm any necessary visa requirements for entry in to Italy.

Documentation
Background documents will be available for all substantive sessions of the meeting. The documents will be distributed electronically to all registered Delegates prior to the meeting.

Simultaneous Translation
Simultaneous translation between English and French, the OECD’s two official languages, will be available throughout the meeting.