Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

17th ANNUAL MEETING OF OECD SENIOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS

ANNOTATED AGENDA

OECD Conference Centre, Paris
2-3 March 2017

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Michel Prada, President, Public Sector Accounting Standards Council (Conseil de normalisation des comptes publics), France.

For further information, please contact Delphine MORETTI
Tel.: +33 1 45 24 99 80 -- Email: delphine.moretti@oecd.org

JT03409580

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.
17th Annual Meeting of OECD Senior Financial Management Officials

OECD Conference Centre, Paris
2-3 March 2017

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Thursday, 2 March 2017

9:30-9:45 Welcome by Chairman and OECD Secretariat
Delegates’ Introduction

9:45-11:30 SESSION 1 – Report on Standard-Setting Activities

• International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB)
  Ian CARRUTHERS, Board Chair, will present the IPSASB’s overall strategy and work programme.
  John STANFORD, Technical Director, will provide a progress report on the Board’s on-going work on promulgating standards and guidance.

• Public Interest Committee (PIC)
  Jón R. BLÖNDAL, OECD Secretariat and the Co-Chair of the Public Interest Committee, the oversight body for the IPSASB, will report on its recent areas of work.

• International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)
  Mary TOKAR, Board Member, will present the Board’s overall strategy and work programme.

• EUROSTAT
  Alexandre MAKARONIDIS, Head of Unit, Quality Management and Government Accounting, Eurostat, will update Delegates on general developments with regard to the introduction of European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS).

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:00 SESSION 2 – Developments in Individual Countries

This session is designed for Delegates to present specific accrual developments in their respective countries, allowing participants to exchange information on recent reforms and providing a useful opportunity for Delegates to keep up to date with developments.

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break
14:30-16:30 SESSION 3 – The Future of Government Fiscal Reporting

Despite significant changes in budgeting and accounting practices, including the adoption of accruals, and the increase of government resources dedicated to reporting, concerns are still expressed by users, in particular parliaments, on the usefulness and understandability of government fiscal reports. This session will discuss how governments can address these concerns.

Delphine MORETTI, OECD Secretariat, will present preliminary findings and recommendations of an upcoming OECD study on rationalizing and simplifying fiscal reporting in the public sector, drawing on four case studies conducted with inputs from a wide range of stakeholders (parliaments and parliaments’ budget offices, ministries of Finances, independent fiscal institutions and supreme audit institutions).

Following the lead presentation, Alan GREENSLADE (First Assistant Secretary, Department of Finance, Australia) and Vikki LEWIS (Senior Finance Advisor, HM Treasury, United Kingdom) will present recent initiatives to simplify and streamline financial statements in their respective countries. Finally, Scott BELL (Senior Staff Accountant, United States Treasury Department) will present the evolution of the federal financial management in the United States.

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:00 SESSION 4 – Accruals at 25; Accruals at 10: Lessons Learned from New Zealand and France

The session will discuss lessons learned by governments who were early adopters of accruals – what has gone well, areas where practices have evolved based on lessons learned along the way, and what benefits have been delivered by reforms.

This session will also highlight that the adoption of accrual accounting has generated important change of emphasis in finance and accounting functions, from compliance controls and year-end financial reporting to developing internal controls, displaying data to the public and analysing balance sheets to inform public debates on impacts of fiscal policies and the country’s financial position.

Presentations will be delivered by Angela RYAN (Principal Accounting Advisor, Treasury, New Zealand) and François TANGUY (Division Chief, Accounting Directorate, Finance Ministry, France).

18:00 Reception
Friday, 3 March 2017

9:30-10:30  SESSION 5 – Measuring Productivity in the Public Sector: Role of Accounting Systems
Measuring and improving productivity in the public sector is key to economic growth, as government services make up a sizeable part of GDP and have the potential to increase citizens’ wellbeing. In order to understand how well, or how efficiently, they are carrying out their key functions, governments are dependent on their ability to collect information on what they spend and what they do, and to analyse this information in order to find ways to do it better.

This session will discuss the role that accounting systems have to play into measuring public sector productivity – that is how public accounting systems should be set up to allow reporting the full costs associated with public operations and evaluating the efficiency of individual organisations.

Presentations will be delivered by Thomas MÜLLER MARQUÈS-BERGER (Chair of the IPSASB’s Consultative Advisory Group and Public Sector Group of the Fédération des Experts-comptables Européens – FEE), Russell CAMPBELL (Minister-Counsellor, Economy, Australian Delegation to the OECD) and Yasuyuki SAKA (Director, Public Accounting Office, Budget Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan).

10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30  SESSION 6 – Challenges with Reporting Debt in the Public Sector
Despite the wide adoption of accrual accounting by governments, reporting and measurement of public debt still vary greatly as highlighted in last year’s OECD Accruals Survey. Remaining challenges include the narrowness of debt definition in certain cases (for example, one-third of OECD countries do not report PPP-related liabilities on their balance sheet) and differences in evaluation methods used by governments around the world. Improvements of reporting practices in this area are much needed as public debt features prominently in political debates on sustainability of public finances.

The session will discuss the approaches that are currently used in OECD countries for evaluating public debt and issues with these practices. It will also discuss how reporting on public sector leases could be improved.

Presentations will be delivered by Tim IRWIN (Expert), David BEAN (Director of research and technical activities for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board – GASB) and Giovanna DABBICCO (National Statistics Institute, Italy).

12:30-13:00  SESSION 7 – Report by the OECD and Future Work Programme
This session is designed to update participants on current and future projects by the OECD in the field of accrual accounting and budgeting. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

13:00  Closing by Chair and OECD Secretariat
MEETING INFORMATION

Registration Form
All Delegates must complete the registration form and return it to the Secretariat (helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org) ahead of the meeting.

Meeting Location
The meeting will take place at the Conference Centre at OECD Headquarters located at: 2, rue André-Pascal in the 16th arrondissement (district) of Paris. The closest metro station is “La Muette” on line 9 or “Bou lainvilliers” or “Henri Martin” on line C of the RER. More information on getting to the OECD can be found at: http://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/gettingtotheoecd.htm

Security and Badges
Please be advised that OECD Headquarters is a secure complex. Badges can only be issued to registered Delegates, and a passport or national identity card is required in order to receive a badge. Delegates must go to the main entrance and pass through the security checkpoint in order to pick up badges. Please allow up to 20 minutes to complete these formalities.

Wi-Fi Internet Access and Business Centre
The OECD Conference Centre features complimentary Wi-Fi Internet Access throughout its facilities. There is also a Business Centre located in the Conference Centre offering complimentary desktop computers with standard Microsoft Office software, Internet connections and printers.

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

Cocktail Reception
All Delegates are invited to a cocktail on the evening of the first day of the meeting, Thursday 2 March 2017 at 18:00.