SUMMARY RECORD

15th Session of the Territorial Development Policy Committee
held on 29-30 June 2006

The Summary Record of the 15th Session of the Territorial Development Policy Committee is submitted to
delegates for APPROVAL

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JT03218368

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Mr. Fabrizio Barca, TDPC’s Chair was replaced by Mr. Sandy Baruah, TDPC Vice-Chair, on the second day, 30 June.

**Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda**

1. The Committee approved the Agenda of the 15th Session of TDPC.

**Item 2: Approval of the Summary Record of the 14th Session**

2. Mr. Prodromidis, Greece, referred to the comments made by Greece at the TDPC’s 14th Session, which were not mentioned in the Summary Record. He expressed concern about some of the references made to the agricultural policy effectiveness in the report on “The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance”. The Committee took note of this remark and the Summary Record was approved.

**Item 3: Election of the Bureau**

3. The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the procedure for the Bureau Election. Following the resignation of Ms. Marilyn Kapitany (Canada) and Mr. Bernard Morel (France), three proposals were received for the nomination of Ms. Johanne Béchard, Canada, Mr. P. Prodromidis, Greece and Ms. Sylvie Esparre, France, the Committee approved the enlargement of the Bureau, which is composed as follows:

   Chair: Mr. Fabrizio Barca (Italy)
   Vice-Chairs: Mr. Wolf-Dietrich Huber (Austria)
               Ms. Johanne Béchard (Canada)
               Ms Sylvie Esparre (France)
               Mr. John Prodromidis (Greece)
               Mr. Takayuki Hara (Japan)
               Mr. Roberto Villarel Gonda (Mexico)
               Mr. Sandy Baruah (United States)

**Item 4: Reports by Territorial Development Policy Committee (TDPC) and Working Party Chairs and Remarks by the Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV)**

4. Mr. Fabrizio Barca, TDPC Chair, introduced the Agenda of the Committee’s 15th Session and reported on the latest developments since the 14th Session of the TDPC. Then, the Working Party Chairs briefed delegates on the outputs of each group, described ongoing and future projects and reported on the
discussions held in their respective session on the contribution of their work to the expected outputs of the TDPC over the next biennium. Mrs Margaret Clark, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas (WPRUR) announced the group’s forthcoming 8th Session, due to take place in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK) back to back with the annual OECD international conference on Investment Priorities for Rural Development, from 18-20 October 2006, kindly hosted by the Scottish Executive, UK. Mr. Takayuki Hara, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas (WPURB), reported on the outcome of the Working Party’s 8th Session, held in Bilbao, Spain, on 5-6 June, back to back with a Local Workshop organized by the Association of Local Governments of the Basque Country (EUDEL). Mr. Dev Virdee, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators, described the outcome of the 12th Session of the Working Party held the day before the TDPC meeting, on 28 June.

**Item 5: TDPC Programme of Work 2007/8**

5. The Committee discussed and approved the general orientation of the proposed work programme for the next biennium, which builds on the results of the 2005-6 work programme and consolidates significant progress and increased visibility since the High-level Meeting of the TDPC in 2003. This evolution can be seen with regard to the work on the two main pillars of TDPC work -- regional competitiveness policies and multi-level governance -- where the current emphasis on analysing policy instruments is complemented in 2007-8 with an effort to address the impact that these policies are having in regions. This proposed Programme of Work integrates work on rural development and urban policy, and reflects the evolution of the two working parties and the important horizontal reports that have been finalised in both fields in 2006, setting the scene for analysis of more specific themes that have emerged over the course of that work. In addition, in the context of a stronger emphasis on measurement, the work on territorial indicators will be closely co-ordinated with the policy analysis to assess the effects of policies on regional competitiveness and to diagnose comparative advantages and regional strategies.

6. During the discussion, numerous countries intervened (Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, United States). In particular, the debate emphasised that competitiveness and innovation remain key concerns for delegates. The Committee supported the proposed emphasis in the next PWB on measuring innovation capacity and evaluating the outcomes from innovation policies. A strong link was made between the activity on measuring regional innovation and the overall aim of the Committee to understand better the reasons behind the different performances of regions. In addition, the Committee expressed strong support for more work to develop the analytical framework. Regarding governance issues, a better understanding of how to improve the performance of sub-national units in delivering services was also strongly supported by delegates. Other specific comments concerned suggestions to include more emphasis in the PWB overall on how to strengthen the linkages between urban and rural areas to ensure that the effects of policies on all sides are taken into account. Also, Japan mentioned the mutual benefits of co-operation between the TDPC and AGR Committees and suggested including mention of this in the work programme. Finally, several delegates raised the important issue of migration, suggesting that the Committee could reflect on how to further develop work in this area in close co-operation with other Directorates. The Secretariat stressed that future activities would depend on an assessment of available resources. The Chair suggested to come back to this issue after assessing the achievements of the work, as described in the activity concerning policies to valorise the skills of immigrants in urban areas.

7. The Chair welcomed the announcement made by Poland for a forthcoming OECD Territorial Review to be carried out in 2007.

8. The Committee noted the co-operation with other Directorates in the OECD on activities concerning Regional Innovation Policies in OECD countries’, co-ordinated with STI; the work on Policies to Valorise the Skills of Immigrants in Urban Areas, conducted in co-operation with DELSA; on-going
work with EDU on the Contributions of Higher Education Institutions to Regional Development; and co-operation with AGR regarding Agriculture and Rural Development Policies (OECD Workshop on the Coherence of Agriculture and Rural Development Policies, Bratislava, Slovak Republic, October 2005). Also, TDPC contributes to the horizontal project: The Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government” involving CTP, ECO and GOV.

Global Relations

9. The Committee supported the main focus of the work proposed for 2007-8 with non-member countries, specifically China and Latin America, which could be undertaken with support from voluntary contributions. The Committee also strongly supported proposals to strengthen work on "cross-border regional development strategies", which would include reviews on co-operative networks in the Balkans, the Baltic Sea region and East Asia. The Secretariat noted the request of several countries to include the rural policy dimension in the study of the Balkans in the revised work programme of TDPC.

Regional Development in China:

10. The Secretariat described the OECD China Governance Project [reference documents GOV/TDPC/RD(2006)8 OECD’s China Programme on Public Governance and Territorial Development, GOV/TDPC/RD(2006)9 The China Governance Project and GOV/TDPC(2006)3 Regional Development in China and Multi-level Governance in China: Background Paper] and presented a position paper which gave an overview of the challenges China is facing in terms of regional development. There is a clear significance of TDPC themes for China. The dynamism of China's coastal regions and concern about the limited spill over of growth to inland regions is bringing regional policy to the top of the political agenda. After a year of constructive policy dialogue with the Chinese authorities responsible for regional development issues, discussions are underway for TDPC to engage on a more concerted programme of activities with China and negotiations for a substantial, long-term programme of work, which could lead to a National Review of China in 2008.

11. In addition to the participation of Morocco at the TDPC as regular Observer to the Committee since December 2004, the Committee welcomed the increasing participation of international organisations. Experts attended from the World Bank, UNIDO, the European Commission and the Global Network of Cities. They expressed high interest in the work carried out by the TDPC on regional policy development and stressed their wish to strengthen the link between their institutions and the OECD, to identify complementarities and areas for collaboration. Regarding the great relevance of TDPC work for Latin America the Secretariat emphasised that discussions with governments in the region and with international organisations such as IADB are underway.

Item 6: Regions at a Glance 2007: Table of Contents

12. The Secretariat presented the table of contents and selected extracts of the forthcoming publication, the second in the series of The OECD Regions at a Glance. The first 2005 edition, was very favourably welcomed by the TDPC, the OECD community and the general public. The aim of Regions at a Glance is to illustrate, analyse and compare major territorial patterns and regional trends across OECD member countries. Delegates expressed strong interest in the publication. Specific comments from the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom showed appreciation of the regional focus and the emphasis on transborder patterns, and provided suggestions concerning the emphasis on urban and rural disparities, and communication tools to increase the visibility of the report. The Committee commented on the utility of the report for policy makers, and look forward to receiving the full report for approval at the Committee’s 16th Session.
Item 7: Metropolitan Competitiveness and Governance

Competitive Cities in the Global Economy: Horizontal Synthesis Report

13. The Competitive Cities in the Global Economy report constitutes an important horizontal thematic output (others concern publications such as OECD Regions at a Glance, Building Competitive Regions, and the New Rural Paradigm). The debate that followed the presentation of the report included interventions from Austria, Greece, France, Finland, Italy, Morocco, Norway, The Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Turkey. The Committee praised the Secretariat for the timeliness and quality of the report that capitalizes on the relevant empirical work conducted up to now in the field of metropolitan competitiveness and governance, in particular, drawing on the main conclusions from the series of territorial reviews that have been undertaken in metropolitan regions to date. On the basis of this analysis, recommendations were addressed to policy makers involved in regional and urban development, including national governments. The Committee discussed and approved the report, which incorporated comments previously received by the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas at its 8th Session. It will be published end of 2006 taking into account the comments of the TDPC. The Secretariat asked delegates to send written comments with any corrections by 15 July 2006.

Reports on “The case of Milan”; and “The City-region of Newcastle”

14. After the general discussion on the Horizontal Synthesis Report on city competitiveness, the Secretariat presented briefly the two case studies on Milan and Newcastle by highlighting that both areas share a past as industrial cities but are confronted with different challenges. Milan has grown into the core of a wider metropolitan region and its mix of strong industrial SMEs and advanced service firms has enhanced its potential to fuel the Italian economy with technology and innovation. Newcastle is a medium sized metropolitan area which has experienced long term decline as it has undergone a transition from an old industrial region. The ability to develop innovative and adaptive governance arrangements will be important if the region’s growth aspirations are to be realised. Overcoming the negative consequences of fragmentation and rivalry, to build a strategic region which provides necessary critical mass is the challenge. Representatives from both governments underlined the timeliness and the relevance of the case studies. Delegates found the reports very stimulating and offered interesting comparisons with their own countries (including Canada, Germany and the United States). The TDPC approved the reports and the Chair expressed interest in hearing an update on both areas at the next session of the TDPC in November 2006.

Interim reports: Delegates had the opportunity to discuss the two interim reports described below (items 8 and 9). Member countries were very supportive of the work carried out, shared their policy experiences and provided comments and suggestions to the Secretariat. A final version of these reports will be presented to TDPC for discussion and approval in November 2006, incorporating delegates’ comments.

Item 8: A Review of National Clusters Policies: Why are They Popular, Again?

15. The discussion of this interim report included interventions from Finland, the United States, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Greece, France and Belgium. Delegates noted that the report touched on issues that they are struggling with in their countries with respect to supporting clusters. Reaction to the report was positive. Several countries offered suggestions for the final version of the report that would support their respective country efforts. The most commonly echoed suggestions concerned more caution on the risks of strategies and additional information on evaluation and statistical work in this area.
GOV/TDPC/M(2006)1

Item 9: The contributions of Higher Education Institutions to Regional Development: Issues and Policies

16. This study, carried out in co-operation with EDU, aims to provide insight on two aspects: i) the regional dimension of HEI activities and ii) the co-operation between local and regional firms and universities which also contribute to enhance HEI regional engagement. It explores the different contributions that HEI can make in their regions and reviews regional engagement policies and initiatives to improve HEI based territorial governance. Ms. Jaana Puukka, EDU, made a presentation on the contribution of the Programme on Institutional Management of Higher Education (IMHE) to this work. In the debate that followed, several countries intervened, including Denmark, France, Mexico, Norway, The Netherlands and the United States. The Secretariat noted the issues highlighted and questions raised, in particular, concerning how to link HEI regional engagement initiatives with regional competitiveness strategies, and what institutional innovations universities require to connect with regional competitiveness. Other comments concerned the diversification within HEI, moving away from the global perspective; suggestion to look at agriculture, new models of on-line education via internet connection, enhance co-operation among local producers, SMEs, co-operatives, etc, and the HEI; how to move from an academic mind-frame to a more business-oriented one.

Item 10: Other business

17. The Chair highlighted his interest in a draft report on Contracts among Levels of Government: Multi-level Governance of Regional Development, which was submitted to delegates for comments by 15 September.

18. He reminded the Committee of the forthcoming TDPC meetings: the 8th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas will be held in Scotland on 18 October, back to back with an International Conference on “Investment Priorities for Rural Development”, which will be held on 19-20 October, kindly hosted by the “Scottish Executive”. On 29-30 November the TDPC will hold its 16th Session at the OECD Headquarters, preceded by two parallel meetings: the 3rd meeting of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations Across Levels of Government, on 27 November and 28 November, a.m.; and the 13th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators (WPTI) on 27 November p.m. and 28 November, a.m.; back to back with two Experts’ Meetings: 1) an international workshop on “Defining and Measuring Metropolitan Regions”, and 2) a workshop on “The Use of Indicators for Effective Regional Development Policies: Lessons from OECD Country Cases.”
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