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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF THE OECD PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY NETWORK
AGENDA**

**OECD Conference Centre
Paris, 27 - 28 June 2013**

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Supporting a Policy-making Process Conducive to Trust

Today, restoring trust is at the forefront of government's reform agendas. Available data indicate a serious erosion of trust in government and public institutions. Trust in government is necessary for decisive and effective reforms, and creates conditions for stakeholders buy-in. A solid foundation of trust for effective policy making matters particularly in the current context of economic recovery, where structural reforms involve difficult and unpopular choices and the confidence of citizens and markets is critical to foster economic and social development.

These factors point to the urgency of addressing the credibility of the institutions involved in policy making and strengthening the underlying institutional conditions shaping the policy making process. Growing concerns of undue influence and capture in the public decision-making process, particularly in relation to lobbying practices, are leading governments to explore how to enhance transparency and integrity in lobbying and thus safeguard the public interest and ensure a level playing field among all stakeholders.

Following the OECD Public Governance Committee Symposium "Trust in Government for Better Policy Outcomes", the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on "Jobs, Equality and Trust" agreed on the imperative of building a policy-making process conducive to trust through transparency, openness, integrity and inclusiveness. Ministers welcomed the Agenda on "Trust in Government: Evidence, Policies and Decision Making" and called on the OECD to develop a strategy on trust, building on existing OECD work on integrity in areas such as open government and ensuring fairness in policy making, including in the area of financing for political campaigns.

As an immediate follow-up, the OECD Public Sector Integrity Network will:

1. Host the OECD Forum on Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying, bringing together high-level officials from the Executive and Legislative branches of government, the private sector and civil society for a dialogue on challenges and lessons learned in enhancing transparency and integrity in lobbying for better policy-making. The Forum will discuss progress made in implementing the OECD Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying, adopted by OECD countries in 2010.

Background document: Data to Support the Policy Debate, GOV/PGC/ETH(2013)5

2. Discuss in the second part of the meeting a comprehensive approach to restore trust in the public decision-making process that can further guide future work of the Network and the Public Governance Committee.

Background documents:

- Overview Paper on Jobs, Equality and Trust [C(2013)33/REV1]
- Trust in Government: Evidence, Policies and Decision-Making, A Forward-Looking Agenda [C(2013)51/REV1]
- Investing in Trust: Leveraging Institutions for Inclusive Policy Making [GOV/PGC(2013)2]
- Measuring Trust in Government: Exploratory Results and Methodological Considerations [GOV/PGC(2013)1/ANN1]
- Data to Support the Policy Debate [GOV/PGC/ETH(2013)5]

27 June 2013 – Room CC13

Forum on Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying

09:00 *Registration and coffee*

High-Level Policy Dialogue

09:30 **Welcome remarks: How to win back trust in the process of policy making?**

Restoring trust is at the forefront of government’s reform agendas in OECD countries. The OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on “Jobs, Equality and Trust” on 29-30 May reaffirmed countries’ commitment to rebuilding trust in governments, markets and institutions, combating corruption, promoting open government, and ensuring transparency in policy making.

A forward looking agenda on trust necessarily needs to consider how to pursue informed decision making while also safeguarding the public interest and ensuring a level playing field among all stakeholders. Lobbying practices fall squarely at the heart of this concern. The opening remarks will set the scene for the global policy debate on transparency and integrity in lobbying, as an essential component of open, informed and inclusive public decision making.

- Mr. Pier Carlo Padoan, OECD Deputy Secretary General and Chief Economist
- Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration

10:00 **High-Level Roundtable. From design to implementation: Lessons learned from the trenches**

Experience shows that regulating lobbying has proven difficult due to its complex and sensitive nature. Yet, more and more countries are making efforts to set up rules or guidelines to channel the benefits of lobbying and mitigate the risks through increased transparency. Although some countries have managed to introduce rules or guidelines, implementing them and measuring the impact remains a challenge.

This high-level roundtable will serve as a platform to exchange views from principal actors and to reflect on what has been achieved, in particular how they have addressed challenges in designing and implementing rules and guidelines on lobbying.

- Ms. Karen Shepherd, Commissioner of Lobbying, Canada
- Mr. Don W. Fox, Principal Deputy Director of the United States Office of Government Ethics
- Mr. Alex Thomas, Deputy Director, Elections and Parliament Division, United Kingdom Cabinet Office
- Mr. Sebastián Soto, Head of the Legal and Legislative Division of the Ministry of the Presidency, Chile
- Ms. Lyn Trytsman-Gray, Senior Vice President, European Affairs at RTL Group
- Mr. John Evans, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
- Mr. Bernhard Welschke, Secretary General, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC)

Moderator: Mr. Mario Marcel, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate

(A coffee break is scheduled at 11:00)

12:30 *Lunch break*

Focused Discussions

14:00 **Session 1. Creating rules and guidelines on lobbying: How to balance comprehensiveness with feasibility?**

Defining the scope of lobbying activities and creating the appropriate rules and guidelines has proven a challenge in many countries. While a comprehensive scope ensures a level playing field among all interest groups, it may also result in an overwhelming administrative burden. Alternatively, certain countries rely solely on self-regulation by lobbyists.

This session will explore the approaches taken by different countries to find the right balance between the cost and benefit of rules and guidelines on lobbying in order to build a well-functioning system that achieves expected objectives and addresses concerns regarding lobbying.

Questions for discussion

- *What are today's concerns related to lobbying and how could they be effectively addressed?*
- *Is there a set of principles or guiding criteria to inform who or what needs to be covered by lobbying rules?*
- *Under what circumstances is self-regulation by lobbyists the solution?*

The discussion will be launched by speakers from:

- Ms. Aine Stapleton, Principal Officer, Government Reform Unit, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland
- Mr. Adam Bramwell, General Counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, United States
- Mr. Gérard Legris, Coordinator of EP-COM Joint Secretariat of the Transparency Register
- Mr. Thomas M. Susman, Director of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association

15:30 **Coffee break**

16:00 **Session 2. Open Government in the 21st century: What level of transparency in lobbying practices?**

Mechanisms to ensure an informed public decision making and transparency in lobbying practices are critical parts of an open government. However, the debate is still ongoing regarding how much information is needed to shed light on lobbying and effectively address concerns, in particular the risk of bias in the process of decision making.

This session will discuss approaches and measures in place to provide information on lobbying to governments, lobbyists and the public, and will examine supporting mechanisms to allow scrutiny by stakeholders and strengthen trust in the decision making process.

Questions for discussion

- *What level of transparency in lobbying practices is necessary and feasible?*
- *What information on lobbying is meaningful to disclose?*
- *How can information on lobbying be disclosed and made public in a cost effective manner?*

The discussion will be launched by speakers from:

- Dr. Thomas Schoditsch, Ministry of Justice, Austria
- Dr. Peter Köppl, Vice-President, Austrian Public Affairs Association (OePAV)
- Ms. Marie Thiel, European Parliament Secretariat General
- Mr. Giuseppe Mazzei and Ms. Micol Bertoni, Public Affairs Community of Europe (PACE) Secretariat

18:00 **Cocktail**

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09:00 Session 3. Integrity in public decision making: What safeguards could influence behaviour?

Trust in the public decision making process has decreased in many countries. Citizens' perception of corruption and undue influence by powerful interest groups has a significant impact on trust. Improper interaction, conflict of interest and the revolving door phenomenon between lobbyists and public officials have attracted particular attention.

This session will share experiences on what measures have proven efficient in providing proportionate responses to address these concerns. This session will also highlight the shared responsibility to promote standards of conduct and professionalism among public officials and lobbyists.

Questions for discussion

- *What influences the conduct of public officials and lobbyists in their interactions?*
- *What are the risks to integrity in these interactions? How can they be curbed?*
- *What specific measures proved effective to safeguard the integrity of the decision-making process (e.g. conflict of interest related to the revolving door phenomenon, unbalanced representation in advisory/expert groups)?*

The discussion will be launched by speakers from:

- Rok Praprotnik, Deputy Chief-Commissioner, Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, Republic of Slovenia
- Mr. Wolfgang Rau, Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe
- Mr. Christian Humborg, Managing Director, Transparency International Germany
- Ms. Susanna di Felicianantonio, President, Society of European Affairs Professionals (SEAP)

10:30 Coffee break**11:00 Session 4. Compliance and enforcement: How to make transparency and integrity in lobbying a reality?**

Over the past years, countries have increasingly designed and implemented rules and guidelines on lobbying. Yet, questions on how to achieve compliance remain. Challenges to enforce the regulation in a cost-effective manner are evident and countries still struggle to provide incentives for compliance and to sanction breaches.

This session will explore the drivers for compliance and how to assess the effectiveness of measures to deter and detect breaches of rules and guidelines on lobbying.

Questions for discussion

- *How can the effectiveness of the system be measured?*
- *What specific incentives and sanctions proved effective to support compliance of decision-makers with the rules on their interaction with lobbyists?*
- *What practical incentives can governments provide lobbyists to enhance compliance?*
- *How can lobbyists themselves improve compliance and enforcement?*

The discussion will be launched by speakers from:

- Ms. Karen Shepherd, Commissioner of Lobbying, Canada
- Mr. Don W. Fox, Principal Deputy Director of the United States Office of Government Ethics and Mr. Adam Bramwell, General Counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, United States
- Mr Krzysztof Przemieniecki, Ministry of Interior, Poland
- Mr. José Luis Rufas Quintana, European Parliament Secretariat General
- Mr. Robert Mack, Vice-chair, European Public Affairs Consultancies' Association (EPACA)

12:25 **Concluding remarks**

12:30 **Lunch break**

A Forward Looking Agenda on Trust

14:00 **Session 1. Integrity levers for maintaining trust**

When countries introduce structural reforms to address the consequences of the crises, governments are expected to support informed decision making with effective measures for safeguarding the public interest and ensuring a level playing field among stakeholders. New and traditional integrity policy tools can be leveraged for open, clean and inclusive policy making as a key building block for trust in government. Existing data show strong correlation between integrity and the level of trust.

Building on the call by the OECD Council to build more effective, more transparent and more open institutions to regain the trust of citizens, this session will discuss a comprehensive approach to restoring trust in the public decision making process, that acknowledges its full institutional, political and social dimension, including the role of non-governmental actors (business, civil society, political parties) and the influence they exert on policy and political actors. Such approach builds upon work undertaken by the OECD in areas such as conflict of interest and revolving doors, lobbying and consultation, and offers an opportunity to close the remaining gaps on others, including the role of social media, and the influence of money in decision making.

Participants will be invited to:

1. *share recent initiatives for enhancing trust (e.g. lessons learned in implementation) and to highlight their impact; and*
2. *provide guidance and directions for taking forward a trust-oriented agenda.*

15:15 **Coffee break**

15:30 **Discussion of the Network on future directions for taking forward a trust-oriented agenda.**

16:15 **Session 2. Update on recent activities and next steps**

Briefing by the Secretariat on recent developments in the context of Network activities, in particular on on-going peer reviews and dialogue, including the recent meeting of the OECD Public Procurement Leading Practitioners.

The Secretariat will also present recent data from the forthcoming OECD Government at a Glance publication, integrity module for staff surveys.

Background documents:

- Government at a Glance 2013 chapter on Open and Inclusive Government
- Conclusions of the *OECD Public Procurement Leading Practitioners* meeting

17:00 **Concluding remarks**