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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

12-Jun-2013

English text only

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

**Working Party of Senior Budget Officials**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**9th ANNUAL MEETING OF OECD-CESEE SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS**

**Riga, Latvia  
27-28 June 2013**

*The meeting will be hosted by the Latvian Ministry of Finance. It will be held at the Tallink Hotel in Riga.*

*Chair: Ms. Ivana Jakir-Bajo, Director, State Budget Execution, Ministry of Finance, Croatia*

*Interpretation into Russian will be provided.*

For further information, please contact Knut KLEPSVIK at OECD Headquarters  
Tel: +33 1 45 24 83 32 -- Email: knut.klepsvik@oecd.org

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**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of OECD-CESEE Senior Budget Officials**  
**Riga, Latvia, 27-28 June 2013**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**Wednesday 26 June 2013**

19:00 *Welcome reception at the conference hotel (Tallink Hotel) hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Latvia.*

**Thursday 27 June 2013**

9:00-9:30 Registration

9:30-10:00 **Opening and introductory remarks** by **Ms. Ivana Jakir-Bajo**, Chair, **Mr. Andris Vilks**, Finance Minister of Latvia, and **Mr. Jon Blondal**, Head of the Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD.

10:00-10:30 Delegates' introductions

10:30-11:00 *Group Photo and Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 **Roundtable: Endeavours to restore public finances in the CESEE region**

*The session will focus on how the countries in the CESEE region plan their fiscal path and fiscal consolidation efforts in order to establish a sustainable fiscal position – by shrinking fiscal deficits and curbing public debt. As a basis for the discussion the **OECD Secretariat** will collect a limited set of data and present those at the meeting (e.g. paths of fiscal deficit, gross debt, economic growth, fiscal consolidation volume). **All delegates** are invited to make short informal presentations on their country's consolidation measures at the meeting and to share experiences on fiscal consolidation efforts.*

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-15:15 **Breakout sessions**

**1.A: ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETING: LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE**

*This session is designed to take stock of OECD country experiences with implementing accruals during two decades. The session will focus on two aspects. First, the extent for introducing accruals – specific types of transactions only; use at the agency-level only; or for whole-of-government. Also, should accruals be applied to financial reporting only or to budgeting as well? Second, it will offer a series of practical lessons on concrete steps to implementing accruals. Following an introductory presentation by **Mr. Jon Blondal, OECD Secretariat**, two country delegates will present their country's experience which will feature comments and discussion.*

**1.B: PERFORMANCE BUDGETING – RECENT TRENDS**

*In the past two decades, OECD countries and countries worldwide have sought to develop performance budgeting frameworks as part of broader efforts to improve expenditure control and public sector efficiency and performance. Performance information is being used for a multiple number of reasons, including budget decision-making, agency management, and transparency and accountability purposes. Yet the record of practices commonly labelled as “performance budgeting” is mixed at best. Some countries with long experience in this area appear to be stepping back and taking a more tailored approach. Others use performance information strategically without having adopted performance budgeting. This session will focus on recent trends in performance budgeting and highlight some countries shift of budgetary use of performance information from focus on performance indicators towards evaluations and spending reviews. **Mr. Ian Hawkesworth, OECD Secretariat**, will introduce the subject followed by two country delegates’ presentations and general comments and discussion.*

15:15-15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45-16:00 Report on the Breakout sessions in the plenary session.

16:00-17:15 **Implementing the new set of EU economic and fiscal governance procedures**

*The EU is currently strengthening its economic and fiscal governance by implementing stronger preventive and corrective actions through the Stability and Growth Pact and the Fiscal Compact, designing and adopting a set of minimum requirements for national budgetary frameworks; e.g. quality standards and coverage requirements, a multi-annual perspective and numerical fiscal rules, independent fiscal institutions to monitor compliance, and establishing a surveillance mechanism on macroeconomic and competitiveness imbalances. The session will focus on recent developments in the EU requirements and discuss the progress of implementing the new fiscal framework and practical issues related to implementation, including monitoring and corrective actions. Following an introductory presentation by **Mr. Georges Tournemire, ECFIN**, country delegates will comment and discuss their country’s progress on implementing the EU requirements lead by two prepared presentations.*

18:30 *Evening programme hosted by the Latvian authorities.*  
**Busses will leave from the Tallink Hotel at 18:00.**

**Friday 28 June 2013**

09:00-10:30 **Budget review of Albania**

*The OECD has performed a review of the budget procedures and practices of Albania. This session will consist of a presentation by **Mr. Richard Emery Jr., Review Team member** and former Assistant Director for Budget Review, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), USA on the OECD report on Budgeting in Albania, a presentation by the **Albanian authorities** on the present status and future reforms in their budgeting procedures and practices, and comments by two peer reviewers (country delegates).*

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30 **Best Practices for Budget Transparency**

*Transparency – openness about policy intentions, formulation and implementation – is a key element of good governance. The budget is a government’s single most important policy document, where policy objectives are reconciled and implemented in concrete terms. Citizens in the CESEE region and around the globe are calling on governments to strengthen transparency. Various tools are available to assist governments in this endeavour. The **OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency**, agreed in 2001 by budget directors from OECD countries cover in a practical way i) budget reports; ii) specific disclosures; and iii) processes that should be in place to ensure their integrity. For some years, the International Budget Partnership has published its **Open Budget Index**; the 2013 results were released in February. Among new initiatives to promote fiscal transparency is the **Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)**. This multi-stakeholder group of governments, international and civil society organizations has released, are seeking comment on a set of "High Level Principles on Fiscal Transparency, Participation, and Accountability". Following an introductory presentation by **Mr. Ronnie Downes, OECD Secretariat** country delegates will comment and discuss their country’s progress on budget transparency lead by two prepared presentations.*

12:30-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-15:15 **Breakout sessions**

**2.A: BEST PRACTICE FOR IMPLEMENTING A MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK**

*On the backdrop of the global financial crisis several OECD countries have taken the opportunity to make amendments to its medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) and expenditure ceilings and forecasts. A medium-term perspective on fiscal planning is also an EU requirement as well as a best practice recommendation from international organisations and academics. This session will highlight recent trends in using MTEFs, expenditure ceilings and baseline forecasts and how to implement the framework to achieve sustained fiscal discipline. **Mr. Dirk-Jan Kraan, IMF representative, South-Eastern Europe** will highlight essential features of MTEFs followed by two country delegates’ presentations and general comments and discussion.*

**2.B: MODERN IT SYSTEMS IN USE IN BUDGET DEPARTMENTS AND TREASURY**

*This session is designed to highlight efficient use of modern IT budget and treasury systems in OECD and CESEE countries. There has been a development towards more integration of system modules and towards changes to automation. The session will study pro et cons of system integration and focus on pre-requisites for successful implementation of modern IT systems, consequences for staffing and procedures, as well as what it takes to maintain the system. The presentations are based on country experiences. **Mr. Erik Hammer, Agency for the Modernisation of Public Administration, Denmark** will deliver an introductory presentation followed by two presentations by country delegates and general comments and discussion.*

15:15-15:45 *Coffee break*

15:45-16:00 Report on the Breakout sessions in the plenary session.

16:00-16:30 **Programme of Work – ongoing and future work related to the CESEE SBO Network**

- Updating the OECD Budgeting Practices and Procedures Database

*The OECD Budgeting Practices and Procedures Database is being updated every four to five years – with a comprehensive survey in 2012-13. The overarching objective of the survey is to provide a publically-available, internationally comparable set of data that will allow for the analysis and benchmarking of good budgeting practices over time. The **OECD Secretariat** will present a brief overview of the survey and preliminary results and may provide background information for extending the coverage of the database to the CESEE region in cooperation with the PEMPAL network.*

- Programme of Work

*Following an introduction by **Mr. Jon Blondal**, Head of the Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, OECD, the delegates are invited to indicate their interest in particular studies on the future programme of work.*

16:30 **Closing remarks** by **Ms. Ivana Jakir-Bajo**, Chair, **Mr. Andris Vilks**, Finance Minister of Latvia, and **Mr. Jon Blondal**, OECD.

17:30 *City tour hosted by the Latvian authorities.*

## GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

### Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at Tallink Hotel Riga, 24 Elizabetes, Riga LV-1050, Latvia.

Tel: +371 6709 9760

Website: <http://ceseeriga.lv>

### Accommodations

The Latvian authorities have negotiated special rates at the conference hotel. Please fill out the online booking form: <http://ceseeriga.lv/hotel-booking/>

*Single room: 82 € per room per night*

*Double room: 92 € per room per night*

*This includes breakfast and taxes.*

### Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting. Entry passes can only be issued to the registered Delegates.

### Hospitality

The Latvian authorities invite all Delegates to a **Welcome Reception** on the eve of the meeting (Wednesday, 26 June at the Tallink Hotel at 19:00 pm).

The Latvian authorities invite all Delegates to a **dinner** at the Ethnographic Open Air Museum at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting (Thursday, 28 June). Buses will leave at 18:00 from the Tallink hotel.

The Latvian authorities invite all Delegates to a **walking city tour** at the conclusion of the second day of the meeting (Friday, 28 June at 17:30 pm).

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

Please confirm your attendance at these events by completing the appropriate "Social Activities" boxes on the attached registration form. All Delegates are also invited to luncheons on both days of the meeting. These will take place at the Tallink Hotel.

### Entry Formalities

Delegates are advised to confirm any necessary visa requirements for entry in Latvia.

### 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 Russian will be available throughout the meeting.



**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of OECD-CESEE Senior Budget Officials**  
Riga, Latvia, 27-28 June 2013

## **Meeting Registration Form**

Please return the completed form for each participant to Lyora Raab:  
[lyora.raab@oecd.org](mailto:lyora.raab@oecd.org) or fax: +33 1 44 30 63 34

Mr. [ ]      Mrs. [ ]      Ms. [ ]

NAME (in block letters please): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FACSIMILE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Social Activities**

**Wednesday 26 June – Welcome Reception** at the Tallink Hotel

person(s) will participate

**Thursday 27 June – Dinner** at the Ethnographic Open Air Museum

person(s) will participate

**Friday 28 June – City Tour**

person(s) will participate

### **Accommodation**

For the above-mentioned event, I have made my hotel reservation...

at the Tallink Hotel: <http://ceseeriga.lv/hotel-booking/>

at another Hotel \_\_\_\_\_

### **Meals**

Special requests, allergies, etc. \_\_\_\_\_