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

Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

10th Annual Meeting of CESEE Senior Budget Officials

**Den Haag, Netherlands
26-27 June 2014**

*The meeting is hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Finance.
It is chaired by Peter van den Berg, Director of Budget Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands.*

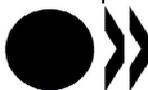
Interpretation into English, Russian and Serbo-Croatian will be provided.

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10th Annual Meeting of OECD-CESEE Senior Budget Officials
The Hague, the Netherlands, 26-27 June 2014

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Wednesday 25 June 2014

9:00-12:00 PEFA workshop.

15:00-17:00 Pempal conference.

18:00-19:30 OECD SBO CESEE - **Welcome reception** at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel.

Thursday 26 June 2014

9:00-9:30 Registration.

9:30-9:45 **Opening and introductory remarks** by **Mr Peter van den Berg**, Chair, and **Mr Ronnie Downes**, Deputy Head of the Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD.

9:45-10:00 **Welcome speech** by **Mr Jeroen Dijsselbloem**, Dutch Minister of Finance.

10:00-10:30 Delegates' introductions.

10:30-11:15 **SESSION 1 - Perspectives on "10 Years of Budget Reform in CESEE Countries"**

Mr Mitja Gaspari, former Minister and Central Bank Governor of Slovenia, will present the perspectives upon the main trends and *themes of budget reform in the 10 years since the inception of the CESEE SBO, informed by the analytical project on this subject.*

Mr Dirk-Jan Kraan of the IMF (formerly of OECD) will provide a reflection on progress achieved and future priorities for budget reform, in advance of general discussion.

11:15-11:45 *Coffee break*

11:45-12:45 **SESSION 2 - Budget Practices and Procedures – Results of the 2013 OECD / PEMPAL Survey**

The session will present the findings of the 2013 Budget Practices and Procedures Survey, which was conducted in collaboration between the OECD and PEMPAL. The results, compared against the corresponding results for OECD countries, provide another perspective on the major themes of current budgeting practice and reform efforts. After an initial joint presentation by **Mr. Joung Jin JANG** of the OECD Secretariat and by **Ms Deanna AUBREY** of the PEMPAL Secretariat, representatives of **Turkey** and the **Russian Federation** will respond by focusing on topical themes arising from the Survey results.

12:45-14:00 *Lunch*

- 14:00-15:30 **SESSION 3 – PARALLEL SESSION 3.a:**
Managing Multi-Year Allocations for National Development
- Ms Irena Valkova** of the Czech Ministry of Finance will introduce the range of issues and challenges that can arise in the context of managing multi-year projects for infrastructural, environmental and social development, with particular regard to issues of resource availability, planning and performance. Discussion will also be informed by other country-specific presentations by **Poland** and **Austria** and will address the role of a multi-year fiscal framework, the treatment of unspent allocations (including from the perspective of managing EU funds), and prioritisation and appraisal of capital investments.
- 14:00-15:30 **SESSION 3 - PARALLEL SESSION 3.b:**
Effective Parliamentary Oversight and Accountability
- In several OECD countries, the role of parliament is evolving beyond the formal function of ratifying the government's draft budget, towards a more proactive engagement in policy formulation, in holding government to account for policy execution and development, and in promoting greater participation by citizens. Traditional tools of accountability, including internal and external audit, are also being deployed in more creative ways. Following an initial presentation from **Ms Lisa von Trapp** of the **OECD Secretariat**, discussion will be informed led by country presentations by **Croatian, Kyrgyz** and **Austrian** representatives respectively and will focus upon identification and sharing of good practices.
- 14:00-15:30 **SESSION 3 - PARALLEL SESSION 3.c:**
Strategic Planning and the Annual Budget
- Mr Ronnie Downes** of the **OECD Secretariat** will outline some of the key challenges arising in coordinating the annual budget within the strategic planning framework of government, as well as effective approaches for managing the issues arising. Two countries from the region, namely **Estonia** and **Albania**, will outline their experiences, in advance of an interactive discussion among all delegates.
- 15:30-16:00 *Coffee break*
- 16:00-16:30 **Report on the Parallel Sessions**
- The reports from the Parallel sessions will be discussed and considered in the plenary session.
- 16:30-17:15 **SESSION 4 - OECD draft Principles of Budgetary Governance**
- Mr Ronnie Downes** of the **OECD Secretariat** will present the recent work on developing Principles of Budgetary Governance, which seek to draw together the lessons of the past decade and more from the SBO and its various networks, including the CESEE SBO. Following this presentation delegates are invited to participate in a general discussion on the key aspects and identifying the thematic areas for future focus by the OECD.
- 17:30 **Closing of D 1** by Chair **Mr Peter van den Berg**.
- 19:00 Evening programme hosted by the Dutch authorities. This includes a group photograph.

Friday 27 June 2014

THEME: THE NEXT 10 YEARS OF BUDGET REFORM

09:15-09:45 **SESSION 5 - Introductory Remarks: Shaping a Budgetary Reform Agenda**

Mr Jos Nouwt will present his perspective on devising and implementing a vision for reform, building on his experiences as an architect of reform in the Netherlands, and more recently as Project Leader for EU Twinning projects (15 minutes).

Ms Ivana Jakir-Bajo from Croatia will present a “then and now” comparison of the range of budget reform issues facing the region today, relative to the initial meetings of the CESEE SBO, and by reference to broader OECD-wide themes (15 minutes)

09:45-10:30 **SESSION 6 - Parallel SESSIONS 6.a, 6.b, 6.c**

Priorities and Challenges for Future Reform Agenda

Taking cues from the introductory remarks and from the discussion in Day 1, groups of countries and experts will have focused discussion aimed at identifying the priorities for budget and fiscal reform in the region over the coming years, the challenges arising and how these might be addressed.

10:30-11:00 **Report from Break-out sessions**

Rapporteurs from each break-out group will present their key conclusions to the plenary for consideration and discussion.

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:00 **SESSION 7 - Implementing a Reform Agenda – Structure, Sequencing and Challenges**

Representing OECD-SIGMA, **Mr Klas Klaas** will present on their experiences of assisting CESEE countries in reforming public financial management, and the wider public administration environment, including in the context of EU accession. The session will focus upon the elements that make for a successful implementation agenda, and will introduce a discussion on how countries in the region should prepare for the next decade of reform in each of these areas. Representatives of **Austria** and **Montenegro** will contribute their insights in light of experiences gained over recent years.

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-15:15 **SESSION 8 - Programme of Work – Ongoing and Future Work related to the CESEE SBO Network**

Following an introduction by **Mr Ronnie Downes**, Deputy 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 relevant to the CESEE region.

15:15-15:30 **Closing remarks** and reflections by **Mr Peter van den Berg**, Chair.

16:00-18:00 *City walking tour.*

This is optional (approximate number desirable to know in advance though).

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the Ministry of Finance's National Academy for Finance and Economics, **Zeestraat 86-90**, The Hague. It is located opposite the Carlton Ambassador Hotel.

Accommodation

The Dutch authorities have negotiated special rates (€119.00 including breakfast) at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel (www.carlton.nl/ambassador). To benefit from this rate, please contact the hotel indicating group code: **OECD**

Registration Form

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

Hospitality

The Dutch authorities invite all Delegates to a **Welcome Reception** on the eve of the meeting (Wednesday, 25 June at the Carlton Ambassador Hotel at 18:00 hours).

The Dutch Minister of Finance invites delegates to a **Dinner** on the evening of Thursday, 26 June at 19:00 hours at Madurodam. The Group photograph will take place at this event.

The Dutch authorities invite all Delegates to a **walking city tour** at the conclusion of the second day of the meeting (Friday, 27 June, 16:00 to 18:00).

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 meeting venue, i.e. the mentioned National Academy.

Entry Formalities

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

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, Russian and Serbo-Croatian will be available throughout the meeting.