OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, 15-16 May 2002

Ministers from OECD countries will meet in Paris on 15-16 May 2002 to review the outlook for the world economy and policy challenges relating to trade, governance, development and the environment. Their discussions will follow on from the OECD Forum 2002 on 13-15 May, which will bring together representatives of civil society, business and labour with government ministers and leaders of international organisations.

The 2002 Ministerial, under the chairmanship of Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, is an integral part of a series of high level meetings this year, including the UN Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, the G8 Summit in Kananaskis and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

On May 15, OECD ministers will hold consultations with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD. They will then review prospects for the economic recovery that is now spreading to most of the OECD area and consider what measures are needed in order to promote growth and reduce unemployment. They will also focus on the implications of terrorism for world prosperity.

OECD ministers will discuss the need for improved corporate governance to protect the interests of citizens and businesses. They will also consider ways of more effectively combating financial crime and bribery to ensure integrity and transparency in the international economy.

On May 16, ministers will discuss the OECD’s contribution to the new round of international trade negotiations, to the follow-up to the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey and to the forthcoming Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. They will meet with ministers from a number of non-OECD countries (1) and later with ministers representing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (2).

OECD ministers will consider how best to build on the commitments and agendas launched at Doha and Monterrey. They will discuss ways of improving policy coherence across a broad range of areas including trade, agriculture, investment and development co-operation, in order to achieve their development goals. In the afternoon of May 16, OECD ministers and agency heads responsible for development issues will participate in a High Level Meeting of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee to focus on targets for reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015.

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(1) Invited countries are: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, and Uganda.
(2) Invited countries are: Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa.

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Further information and details of planned media briefings can be found on the OECD’s website at: http://www.oecd.org/subject/mcm/2002. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and OECD Secretary-General Donald J. Johnston will hold a pre-ministerial news conference at 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday 8 May at the International Press Centre in Brussels and a closing news conference at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday 16 May at OECD headquarters in Paris.

To register for the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and the DAC High Level Meeting, journalists are invited to contact the OECD’s Media Relations Division (tel. [33] 1 45 24 97 00 or news.contact@oecd.).