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Labour/Management Programme

OECD - TUAC JOINT SEMINAR ON LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Belfast, N. Ireland, 24-25 June 1999

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**OECD -TUAC JOINT SEMINAR ON
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**In Co-operation with Laganside Corporation, Belfast
And with the support of the OECD Labour/Management Programme**

**to be held on
Thursday 24 and Friday 25 June 1999**

**Belfast, Northern Ireland
United Kingdom**

DESCRIPTIVE NOTE AND PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION

The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the Territorial Development Service (TDS) of the OECD are holding a joint seminar on Local Partnerships and Regional Development in Belfast, Northern Ireland. This is being held with the support of the OECD Labour/Management Programme for 1999 and in co-operation with Laganside Corporation, Belfast.

BACKGROUND

Over the past twenty years various regions and districts in OECD countries facing similar structural change have shown different outcomes in terms of economic regeneration, employment and living standards. Whilst there is no single blue-print for successful regeneration, a common feature of many experiences has been the development of local partnerships between public and private sectors, business and trade unions, education and research institutions, local government and community organisations. Partnerships provide a framework for co-ordination between efforts to overcome social and environmental problems, and programmes of investment leading to job creation.

Several OECD and TUAC meetings have been held on this theme: in Bonn in 1988¹; Schwerin in 1992²; and under the OECD Labour/Management Programme³ in 1996. Work on local development partnerships forms a central part of the OECD LEED Programme within the Territorial Development Service and the work programme of the newly formed OECD Committee on Territorial Development Policy.

The government of the United Kingdom has established a series of Regional Development Agencies, which include trade union as well as business representation. Interest has been expressed on the government and union side in organising a seminar to assess the experiences of other OECD countries with local partnership and trade union involvement in regional development.

Given the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement and the opportunities this presents for the new Assembly in Northern Ireland to promote regional development. This is a particularly appropriate moment to hold such a seminar in Belfast. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions, their Northern Ireland Office and the British TUC have all expressed strong support.

¹ "Problems and Opportunities in Restructuring Industrial Regions" - TUAC - Bonn 1988.

² "Industrial Restructuring and Employment in Central and Eastern Europe" - TUAC - Schwerin 1992.

³ "The Role of Trade Unions in Local Development" - OECD Labour/Management Programme 1996.

DOCUMENTATION

Independently the OECD's Territorial Development Service has been invited by Laganside Corporation in Belfast to undertake an evaluation of the Corporation's accomplishments in infrastructure-led development and regeneration over the last ten years, and to consider how these efforts can benefit Belfast in years to come. The OECD will therefore be presenting the initial findings of this evaluation to the seminar in Belfast. A discussion paper will also be sent in advance to participants.

PARTICIPANTS

Some eighty participants are expected to attend the seminar, including: trade union representatives from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain, and other OECD countries; interested OECD government officials; representatives of local government; the OECD; relevant international institutions (EU and ILO); and employer and business representatives.

Governments interested in attending should inform Mr. Josef Konvitz, Head of the Urban Affairs Division, Territorial Development Service, OECD (Tel. 33.1.45.24.97.47, Fax. 33.1.45.24.85.63, e-mail: josef.konvitz@oecd.org) of the names and titles of their representatives. Trade union organisations wishing to attend should inform the TUAC Secretariat (Tel. 33.1.47.63.42.63, Fax. 33.1.47.54.98.28, e-mail: tuac@tuac.org).

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The venue will be the British Telecom Riverside Tower, 5 Lanyon Place, Belfast. During the Seminar a visit is planned to the area which has been developed by Laganside. A block booking has been made at The McCausland Hotel, 34-38 Victoria Street, Belfast BT1 3GH (Telephone: (44-1232) 220200; Fax: (44-1232) 220220) at the preferential rate of £75 per night including breakfast for a single room and £110 for a double.

Several community events (the Belfast Carnival and the Laganside Festival) are taking place during the weekend immediately following the seminar (27-28 June) and the preferential hotel rate is available for participants wishing to stay over the weekend.

REVISED PROGRAMME
British Telecom Riverside Tower
5 Lanyon Place, Belfast BT1 3BT

Wednesday 23 June 1999

Arrival of Participants

Thursday 24 June 1999

9.00 - 9.30 Registration of Participants

9.30 - 10.15 **Opening Session**

Chair: Bernard Hugonnier, Director, Territorial Development Service, OECD

Speakers: Lord Dubs, Minister for Agriculture and the Environment, N. Ireland
Tony Hopkins, Chair, Laganside Corporation
John Evans, General Secretary, TUAC

10.15 - 11.15 **Session One: The Role of Partnership in Local Development**

Round Table discussion on key features of successful regional development partnerships (social cohesion, skilled labour force, research and education infrastructure, entrepreneurship)

Chair: John Monks, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress (TUC)

Panellists: Paul Cullen, Chair, OECD LEED Directory Committee, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Ireland
Werner Sengenberger, International Labour Office
Patricia O'Donovan, Deputy General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
George Mackey, Director, Belfast Regeneration Office
Dr. Graham Gudgin, Economic Adviser to the First Minister (Designate)

11.15 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 12.30 Discussion continued

12.30 - 13.45 Buffet lunch at the Conference Centre

13.45 - 15.45 **Session Two: Review of the Experience of Laganside since 1989**
Presentation of the OECD Review

Chair: John Simpson, Journalist, Belfast

Speakers: Mike Smith, Chief Executive, Laganside Corporation
Josef Konvitz, Head of Urban Affairs Division, OECD
Peter Hunter, RIBA, Architect and Laganside Advisor
Greg Clark, EURADA/Greater London Enterprise
Jeremy Harbison, Deputy Secretary Urban Regeneration, Department of the Environment

Discussion

Thursday 24 June 1999 (continued)
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Session Three: Laganside's achievements

- 15.45 - 18.00 Coffee followed by Visit to sites within the Laganside area
- 18.30 - 20.00 Reception: Belfast City Hall, Donegal Square. Host: Belfast City Council

Friday 25 June 1999

- 9.00 - 9.15 Report of the first day's discussion
- 9.15 - 11.00 **Session Four: Experiences from OECD Countries**
- Chair: Richard Caborn, Minister for Regions, Regeneration and Planning, U.K.
- Speakers: Irina Orssich, Investitionsbank, Berlin
 John McWilliam, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Greenwich
 Dale Medearis, Environment Protection Agency, United States
 Jack Joyce, President Emeritus, International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers
 (BAC), Vice-President AFL-CIO, United States
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15 - 12.15 Discussion continued
- 12.15 - 13.30 Buffet lunch at the Conference Centre (Press briefing)
- 13.30 - 15.30 **Session Five: Realising Participation**
- Chair: Paavo Saikkonen, Chief Inspector, Finnish Ministry of Labour
- Panellists: Marie Therese McGivern, Belfast City Council
 Frank Gaffikin, Urban Institute, Belfast
 Inez McCormak, UNISON and Vice President of Irish Congress of Trade Unions
 Greg Clark, EURADA/Greater London Enterprise
 Fabio Terragni, President, North Milan Agency for Development
- 15.30 - 16.00 **Concluding Session**
- John Evans, General Secretary, TUAC