OECD, ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON PRIVATISATION

São Paulo, Brazil, 29th and 30th March 1994

Participants from OECD Member countries and Dynamic Non-Member Economies from Asia and Latin America (DNMEs) are to hold an informal workshop on privatisation on 29th-30th March in São Paulo. The meeting is being held in the context of the OECD’s informal dialogue with DNMEs, which comprise Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Hosted by the Brazilian Government, the workshop constitutes the first of the informal dialogue meetings to be held in Latin America.

Around 50 high-level participants from the governmental, private and academic sectors will attend the workshop. The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Mofarrej Hotel in São Paulo (telephone: 55 11 253 5544; telefax: 55 11 287 9137).

A press conference will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 30th March at the Sheraton Mofarrej Hotel

The discussion will focus on four main areas. The first encompasses general policy issues of rebalancing the public and private sector, such as: which companies to privatise, which methods to use, the social consequences and how to sequence privatisation with other economic reform measures. Legal and institutional aspects will be the second area of discussion: these include the legislative framework for privatisation and the institutional apparatus needed to implement it. Thirdly, financial aspects of privatisation will come into focus, i.e. the modalities of using the capital markets for privatisation purposes, tender offer techniques as well as enterprise restructuring and corporatisation issues. Finally, the meeting will focus on the role of foreign direct investment in privatisation and the benefits and problems related to a high level of foreign participation in the process will be discussed.

The OECD launched its dialogue with Asian DNMEs in 1989. The fact that the DNMEs are the most important outside economic partners of the OECD Membership called for an integration of these economies into the OECD’s analysis and policy-oriented discussions and, hence, for the development of avenues for consultations between the OECD and these economies. Four Latin American countries have been included in the dialogue since 1993.