OECD/CEREQ SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF APPRENTICESHIP

Marseilles, France, 12th-14th April 1994

The OECD and the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches sur la Qualification (CEREQ) are to hold a seminar on the future of apprenticeship and other combinations of learning at school and at work in Marseilles from 12th to 14th April. Supported by the French ministries of labour and education, and hosted by the regional authority of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, the seminar will bring together some 150 specialised decision-makers and researchers from 22 OECD countries.

Entitled "Apprenticeship, ‘alternance’ and dual system: dead-ends or highways to the future?", the seminar is part of the OECD Education Committee’s programme on "The changing role of vocational and technical education and training (VOTEC)", its importance is underlined by the crisis in youth employment being experienced by many European countries and the frequently noted mismatch between the skills and competences of young people, on the one hand, and the requirements of the labour market on the other.

The following questions of particular interest will be debated in the seminar: By immersion in the work process, does apprenticeship allow young people to acquire skills which cannot be produced by schools alone? Does or should apprenticeship guarantee young people a job? Should practical apprenticeship in the work environment be reserved to slow learners, or should all young people be given the opportunities for more applied learning? Can and should apprenticeship prepare for university? What are the responsibilities of governments, educators and the social partners in organising open pathways through the education system, including adult education and training? In addressing these and other issues the seminar is expected to come up with answers to some of the most pressing problems in the relationship between education, training and the labour market.
The Marseilles conference is the fourth in a series of VOTEC seminars, earlier ones having been held in Phoenix, Arizona (United States), Sainte-Croix (Switzerland), and Oporto (Portugal). The programme will culminate in a major conference at OECD headquarters in Paris on 28th to 30th November 1994.

Further information is available from:

Marianne Durand-Drouhin, OECD, 2 rue du Conseiller Collignon, 75116 Paris, Tel. (33 1) 45 24 92 83, Fax (33 1) 45 24 90 98;

Claudine Romani, CEREQ, 10 place de la Joliette, 13473 Marseille Cedex 02, Tel. (33) 91 13 28 28, Fax (33) 91 13 28 80.