OECD LAUNCHES ADVISORY GROUP ON PRIVATISATION
IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

An informal high-level consultation on recent developments and trends in the area of privatisation in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, and Poland, ended at the OECD with the creation of an OECD Advisory Group on Privatisation in these and other Central and Eastern European countries. The Group will meet twice a year, bringing together officials in charge of privatisation in these countries, as well as experts in the field from OECD countries and from other international organisations.

The OECD Centre for Co-operation with European Economies in Transition (CCEET) attaches high priority to privatisation-related activities, in the context of its work programme and its related "Partners in Transition" (PIT) initiative, which focuses on economic co-operation with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (CSFR), Hungary and Poland.

In September 1991, the CCEET organised, in co-operation with the Polish Ministry of Privatisation, a seminar on "Methods of Privatisation of Large Enterprises", which took place in Pultusk, Poland. The seminar and subsequent contacts with representatives of Central and Eastern European countries demonstrated the need for a concrete and focused approach to privatisation problems, including a regular exchange of experience and information on privatisation developments between Central and Eastern European countries; such an exchange could significantly contribute in the shaping and implementation of privatisation policies.

As a follow-up to the Pultusk seminar, the CCEET organised an informal high-level consultation on recent developments and trends in the area of privatisation in the CSFR, Hungary and Poland in Paris, on 7th February 1992. Participants in the meeting included, on the side of the three PIT countries, heads of privatisation agencies or ministries, parliamentary commissions as well as high-level officials in the above government bodies.
It was agreed to establish an OECD Advisory Group on Privatisation, which will bring together, representatives of government agencies in charge of privatisation in the PIT as well as in other Central and Eastern European countries, privatisation experts from the OECD member countries and representatives of international organisations active in this field.

The OECD Advisory Group on Privatisation will provide a framework for the regular exchange of experience between Central and Eastern Europe privatisation practitioners, make it possible for the latter to benefit from privatisation experience in OECD countries, serve as a forum for the discussion of important privatisation issues and create a permanent network of contacts and exchange of information. The Group will supervise a periodical publication on privatisation trends and issues.