THE OECD’S REVIEW OF FINLAND’S RURAL POLICY

Helsinki, 14th-15th June 1994

The OECD Group of the Council on Rural Development will review Finland’s rural policy at its meeting to be held in Helsinki (Finland) on 14th and 15th June 1994. This review has been prepared by the OECD Secretariat together with a Group of Experts from France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

With its review of Finland, the OECD will be evaluating a Member country’s rural policy for the first time. The OECD Group of the Council on Rural Development was set up in 1991 to formulate and recommend new policies to the 24 Member countries with a view to revitalising rural areas faced with the inexorable decline of employment in the agricultural sector. The Group of the Council is chaired by Mr. Kenneth L. Deavers (United States). In focusing on Finland’s experience, the Group hopes to learn some more specific lessons from the principles set out in its report, What Future for our Countryside? A Rural Development Policy (OECD, 1993), and to assist the Finnish authorities in implementing their rural policy.

For Finland, the review takes place against a threefold background: i) Finland’s entry into the European Union and its impact especially on agricultural employment; ii) rapidly increasing unemployment which soared from 4 per cent in 1990 to 18 per cent in 1993; iii) the need to maintain balanced regional development in a country of 337 000 km² located at the periphery of Europe and with a harsh climate.

A press conference will be held on Wednesday 15th June 1994 at 12h00 at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Eteläesplanadi 16, Helsinki (Finland).

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