



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTION DES ECHANGES
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(see List of Addressees below)

TD/ECD2004.091

Paris, 8 June 2004

Dear Mr. Rich,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 3 June 2004. I am pleased that you and a number of other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will participate in the 25 June meeting that will be held at the OECD.

I would just like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points raised in your letter, with a view to avoiding any possible misunderstanding, and perhaps you would distribute this letter to those on behalf of whom your letter was written.

As had been foreseen in our letter dated 24 March, there was no discussion on the issue of renewable energy during the April 2004 session of the ECG; for that reason, as we had indicated, a consultation later in the year seemed more appropriate. We mentioned November 2004 being a likely date because of the certainty of the scheduled ECG session; however the views of the ECG were needed.

Accordingly, your request for a meeting was further discussed in the ECG in late April and Members decided to hold such a consultation whenever possible, and to devote a full day for this meeting, as you had earlier requested. Purely for logistical reasons, given the constraints for holding such a one-day session in November back-to-back with the formal ECG meeting, it happened that the only date available for the meeting in a suitable room (large enough) was the 25 June. We forewarned Sebastian Godinot of this date by an e-mail on 13 May (we did not receive any indication of any difficulty) and followed this with the formal invitation to you and to many other CSOs by letters on 24 May.

We would not characterise this process as either irregular or non-transparent: there have been regular meetings with Civil Society Organisations on an annual basis over the last years and when you asked for consultations both in February and in March, we gave a clear explanation as to why it was felt that such a meeting may be better held later in the year.

Regarding the number of participants from CSOs, in total 26 CSOs have been separately invited - as listed in the OECD Secretariat's e-mail message dated 27 May to you and all the other invitees - and we envisage and look forward to a wide range of interests being represented. I recall that last year the number of participants from NGOs totaled around 28 and this year there will be seating capacity for a similar number; I apologise if this was not sufficiently clear, there was no intention from our side to restrict NGO participation to only 7 -10 people.

.../...



As to your specific requests regarding more systematic consultation of CSOs at each semi-annual session of the ECG and more consultations at the national level, I will of course forward to the ECG Members your letter, and leave it to the Members to consider such requests.

I hope this clarifies the reason why the date of the meeting is now at the end of June. I look forward to a productive meeting and in order to prepare it in the most efficient way, I would invite you to meet with me at 9.00 a.m. on 25 June before the Consultation is opened.

Yours sincerely,

for: Mr. Mike ROBERTS

Vice-Chairman of the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees
and of the Participants to the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits

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