

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT SECRETARY-GENERAL

REPORT OF THE DEAN TO COUNCIL

Wednesday, 30 November 2005

I am pleased to inform the Council that the appointment process for the nomination of a new Secretary-General has been concluded successfully and that we have reached a consensus to nominate Mr. Angel Gurría as the next Secretary-General of the OECD as from 1 June 2006 for a period of 5 years.

This process started on 30 March 2005 with an invitation to Member countries to nominate candidates until 15 July 2005, based on the common understanding by heads of Delegations (HOD) of 24 March 2005 on the modalities for the selection of the next Secretary-General. In that understanding, we defined the following benchmarks for identifying and evaluating candidates:

- Broad international experience and proven leadership ability, for example in the government, in order to provide strategic direction to the OECD and to enhance the competence and global influence of the Organisation;
- Substantive experience in the OECD's core economic areas and the ability to engage with the broad range of the Organisation's work; and a firm commitment to the OECD's core objectives;
- Proven management skills;
- Ability to represent the OECD at the highest level with governments, other stakeholders and academic institutions;
- First rate communication skills with media;
- Fluency in one of the two official languages, English or French, and the readiness to work quickly to achieve a good operational ability in the second language, if necessary.

The response to the invitation to nominate candidates was very successful and allowed Member countries a choice among six outstanding candidates. The high stature of the candidates has been confirmed by the Hearings HOD conducted on 3-4 October 2005 which were the first step in the selection process and proved to be very useful.

The Procedures agreed by HOD on 9 September 2005 mandated the Dean and the two facilitators, Ambassador Jocelyne Bourgon (Canada) and Ambassador Peter Brückner (Denmark) to proceed subsequently through a process of consultation with a view to narrowing the field of candidates and ultimately arriving at a consensus on the choice of the new Secretary-General. This process worked well and led us into a final round with two candidates of exceptional stature and standing, Mr. Marek Belka and Mr. Angel Gurría, who both enjoyed broad support among membership.

This final round provided a clear result. It showed that Mr. Angel Gurría enjoyed stronger support with regard to both criteria we considered in our assessment. He received the support of a clear majority of Member countries and enjoyed a substantial advantage with regard to the breadth of support across the entire OECD membership.

Based on that assessment and in accordance with our agreed procedures, I and the facilitators recommended in our report to HOD of 25 November 2005 to initiate the procedure to appoint Mr. Angel Gurría as the next Secretary-General of the OECD for a period of 5 years, starting 1 June 2006.

As you just heard, Poland decided to withdraw the candidature of Mr. Marek Belka and to join the consensus to appoint Mr. Angel Gurría. I commend the Polish Government and Mr. Marek Belka for this dignified attitude and the high regard for the multilateral co-operation and the spirit on which it is based.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to pay a special tribute to Mr. Belka who received a strong level of support throughout the consultations. He enriched the process with his vast political and economic experience and his strong commitment to the multilateral co-operation. We benefited greatly from his clear views on the future role, challenges and priorities for our Organisation. Through his candidature, he made a significant contribution to the prestige and image of the OECD and we trust that the international community will continue to benefit from his impressive experience and proven leadership.

I would further like to express our sincere thanks to all the candidates – and to their respective Governments and OECD Representatives – for their constructive and dignified attitude which allowed us to conduct this process in such a good corporate spirit. We had in this contest six candidates of great stature, background and experience who made a significant contribution to the standing and image of the OECD.

Let me also note that the guidance and procedures HOD established in March and September 2005 for the conduct of a fair and transparent selection process stood the test and can serve as a model for future appointments. Yet procedures and guidelines are only as good as the people who apply them and in this respect, I would like once again to recognise the commitment to success and to good corporate governance which animated all of us.

We benefited in this process also from the usual efficient and dedicated support of Mr. Roger Harmel and his collaborators, for which I would like to sincerely commend them.

My final thanks go to my two facilitators in this delicate process – Jocelyne Bourgon and Peter Brückner – who assisted and advised me with high integrity, great dedication, broad experience and great skill and accepted to share the responsibility for the process with me. I thank them most sincerely for perfect teamwork.

I propose that we proceed now to the appointment of Mr. Angel Gurría.

(Copies of this statement will be made available to media through the OECD website).