

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION OF THE OECD GUIDELINES ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES

14 February 2014, OECD Conference Centre, Paris

DRAFT AGENDA

Context and objectives

The OECD Working Party on State Ownership and Privatisation Practices (WP SOPP) will in 2014 review and revise the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises (“SOE Guidelines”). The Guidelines were adopted in 2005 as an internationally-agreed standard on how governments should exercise ownership of SOEs.

The revision will take into account developments since the SOE Guidelines were first adopted and the experiences of the growing number of countries that have taken steps to implement the recommendations. The revision process will include consultations with business and labour representatives, civil society and representatives of OECD’s partner countries.

The objective of the first stakeholder consultation is to solicit advance input on the shape and content of the revised SOE Guidelines. The outcomes of the discussions will inform a first draft of the revised SOE Guidelines for consideration by WP SOPP at its meeting in April 2014.

Format

Consultation discussions will be guided by an issues note (which will be made available to participants prior to the consultation) developed by the WP SOPP Bureau, seeking input on both the general structure of the revised instrument and its thematic chapters. Since the aim is to improve an existing instrument, discussions will be primarily focused on improving the thematic areas addressed in the current SOE Guidelines. Reference will also be made to specific topics which have gained prominence in the OECD’s work on state ownership since 2005.

DRAFT AGENDA

9:00-9:30 **Registration**

9:30-10:00 **Opening remarks**

- *Arto Honkaniemi, Member of the WP SOPP Bureau and Senior Financial Counsellor, Ownership Steering Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Finland*

10:00-10:30 **General structure of the revised SOE Guidelines**

Participants will be invited to provide input and suggestions on the general structure of the revised SOE Guidelines.

10:30-11:15 **The rationale for state ownership**

Participants will be invited to provide input on whether and how the revised SOE Guidelines may be augmented with a specific chapter addressing the rationales behind state ownership.

11:15-11:30 **Coffee/tea break**

11:30-12:15 **The state's role as an owner**

Participants will be invited to suggest improvements to current guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the state as owner.

12:15-13:00 **State-owned enterprises in the marketplace**

The Secretariat will give an overview of recent work conducted by the WP SOPP on maintaining a level playing field for SOEs operating in a commercial marketplace. Participants will be invited to provide input on how the knowledge emerging from this work might be included in the revised instrument.

13:00-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-14:45 **Equitable treatment of shareholders**

Participants will be invited to suggest revisions or additions to current guidance on equitable treatment of shareholders.

14:45-15:30 **Stakeholder relations and sustainable business**

Participants will be invited to suggest revision or additions to current guidance on stakeholder relations, and how to augment the chapter to take into account corporate responsibility and ethics.

15:30-16:15 **Transparency and disclosure**

The Secretariat will provide an update on recent guidance developed by WP SOPP on ensuring adequate transparency and disclosure for SOEs. Participants will be invited to suggest revisions or additions to current guidance on this topic.

16:15-17:00 **The responsibilities of the boards of state-owned enterprises**

The Secretariat will provide an update on recent work conducted by WP SOPP highlighting good practices for professionalising SOE boards. Participants will be invited to suggest improvements to current guidance on this topic.

17:00-17:30 **Concluding session and the road ahead**