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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

**OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS
Third Annual Meeting**

ANNOTATED AGENDA AND REGISTRATION FORM

**Stockholm, Sweden
28-29 April 2011**

The meeting is hosted at the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm.

The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Anna Kinberg Batra, MP, Chair of the Finance Committee, Swedish Parliament.

For further information, please contact Lisa VON TRAPP at OECD Headquarters
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3rd MEETING OF OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Wednesday, 27 April 2011

from 19:00 *Welcome Cocktail*

Thursday, 28 April 2011

8:30-9:00 **Registration**

9:00-9:15 **Opening by the Chair and OECD Secretariat
Delegates' Introductions**

9:15-9:30 **Welcome Address**

- Ms. Anna Kinberg Batra, MP, Chair of the Committee on Finance

9:30 – 11:00 **The role of Parliament in the Approval and Oversight of Fiscal Stimulus Packages and Strategies to Reduce Fiscal Deficits**

As the full onset of the financial crisis was being realized at the start of 2009, many countries decided to pursue aggressive fiscal stimulus. In addition to monetary and regulatory efforts, most countries pursued discretionary fiscal stimulus through a combination of spending and tax mechanisms. There are legitimate questions about the effectiveness of fiscal stimulus. Keeping in mind that any test of the impact of stimulus relies crucially on the counterfactual of what would have happened had there not been a stimulus, have these policies been successful? How quickly did tax and spending measures hit the real economy and did benefits reach those most in need? What was the relative effectiveness of tax cuts versus spending in stimulating domestic demand? Has fiscal stimulus damaged longer-term fiscal conditions? What approaches has parliament used to monitor execution of stimulus packages and what has been the role of parliamentary budget officials in supporting them?

Political debate has moved swiftly on from the need for a fiscal stimulus to a recognition that fiscal deficits have grown substantially and need to be reduced. The new OECD report on *Restoring Public Finances* notes that in many OECD countries, fiscal deficits and debt are large and fiscal consolidation is inevitable. How quickly should deficits be reduced and how can they be reduced? What are the various requirements, instruments, institutional arrangements, and timing issues being considered in OECD countries and how are parliaments playing a role in these discussions?

Following lead presentations, by **Mr. Bob Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), United States, and **Dr. Marc Shattenmann**, Senior Officer, Budget

Committee Secretariat, German Bundestag, the floor will be opened for Delegates to discuss current debates and experiences in their own countries.

11:00-11:30 ***Coffee Break***

11:-30-13:00 **Committee Structures for Budget Approval and Oversight**

This session will examine the potential impact of committee structures on the budget approval and oversight process. Several broad models exist (with some variations across parliaments) for committee involvement in the budget process. The Budget/Finance Committee may be the sole budgetary decision maker. Alternatively, a more hierarchical model may exist where sectoral committees make recommendations to the Budget/Finance Committee which coordinates their input and may also set them binding ceilings. In others, budgetary decision making is decentralized giving sectoral committees the responsibility for considering appropriations for each respective sector. What are the relative strengths and weaknesses of such models? How might these models effect public spending and fiscal discipline? In addition, how might committee structure impact how parliament plays its oversight role throughout the fiscal year?

Following a lead presentation by **Mr. Joachim Wehner**, the floor will be opened for Delegates to discuss current debates and experiences in their own countries.

13:00-14:30 ***Family Photo and Luncheon***

14:30-15:30 **Keynote Address: Repairing the Budget Contract: Balancing High Expectations and Low Trust**

- Prof. Allen Schick

15:30-18:00 **Roundtable on Recent Parliamentary Budgeting Developments**

This session is designed for Delegates to make informal presentations and exchange information on recent budgeting and public expenditure developments and reforms in their countries from a parliamentary perspective. Participants at this year's meeting are invited to speak briefly on recent developments and reforms that may be of interest to others. Given constraints on time, participants may also wish to provide short, written statements to supplement their presentations.

Special time will be allocated during this session to countries that did not participate in last year's meeting in order for them to profile their respective parliamentary budget institutions.

The Chair will call a 30 minute coffee break during this session.

from 19:00 ***City sightseeing tour followed by Gala Dinner***

Friday, 29 April 2011

9:00-10:45 Parliamentary Budget Offices and Fiscal Councils – New Institutions and Challenges

Since the last meeting of the PBO Network several new institutions were set up or are in the process of being set up. The United Kingdom established the Office for Budget Responsibility in May 2010 to make an independent assessment of the public finances and the economy for each Budget and Pre-Budget Report. The Australian Parliament recently concluded hearings on setting up a Parliamentary Budget Office. These new institutions may struggle to assert their independence. Budget cuts imposed on the Hungarian Fiscal Council have effectively abolished it and both the Swedish Fiscal Policy Council and the Canadian Parliamentary Budget Officer have been threatened with budget cuts following critical analysis.

This session will be chaired by **Prof. Lars Calmfors**, Chair, Swedish Fiscal Policy Council. Following lead presentations by Prof. Lars Calmfors, Chair, Swedish Fiscal Policy Council, **Mr. Robert Chote**, Chair, Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and **Mr. George Kopits**, former Chair of the Hungarian Fiscal Council, the floor will be opened to a general discussion among Delegates.

10:45-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15-12:30 The Impact of Parliamentary Budget Offices

During discussions last year, Delegates expressed an interest in specific case studies that demonstrate the impact of the work of Parliamentary Budget Offices. Following a lead presentation by **Mr. Bob Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), United States, on the impact of CBO analysis on the debate on the United States new health care legislation, the floor will be opened to a general discussion among Delegates.

12:30-14:00 *Luncheon followed by a guided Tour of Parliament Building*

14:00-15:30 Interim Reporting Practices and Legislative Oversight in OECD Countries

Timely and useful data are critical to legislative oversight. Countries differ in terms of the content, format, and frequency, of interim reports, as well as the interpretive support available to the legislature when scrutinizing such reports. A key aspect of several stimulus/recovery packages has been additional public interim reporting on spending, outputs and anticipated results. Most prominent among these is the US government's recovery.gov Web site. This session will look at the current practices and emerging trends regarding interim reporting practices by OECD governments to the legislative branch and the public. It will consider whether differences in reporting requirements are correlated with differing uses of the data by legislatures, and whether more robust reporting requirements coincide with greater in-year legislative review and decision-making.

Following a lead presentation by **Mr. Kevin Page**, Parliamentary Budget Officer, Canada, the floor will be opened for Delegates to discuss current debates and experiences in their own countries.

15:30 – 16:00 Report by the OECD Secretariat

This session is designed to update participants on current and future projects by the OECD in the field of budgeting and public expenditures. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

16:00 Closing by Chairman and OECD Secretariat

MEETING INFORMATION

Meeting Location

The meeting will take place at the Swedish Parliament (*Sveriges Riksdag*) in central Stockholm.

Registration Form

All Delegates must complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat ahead of the meeting.

Entry Passes

Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates, and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass. These entry formalities can be completed prior to the Welcome Cocktail on 27 April or the opening of the meeting on 28 April.

Simultaneous Translation

Simultaneous translation between English and French, the OECD's two official languages, will be available throughout the meeting.

Welcome Cocktail

All Delegates (and spouses) are invited to a Welcome Cocktail on the eve of the meeting, Wednesday, 27 April at 19:00. It will take place in the West Wing of the Parliament Building.

City Sightseeing tour followed by Gala Dinner

Following the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, Thursday, 28 April, all Delegates (and spouses) are invited to a City Sightseeing tour by coach followed by a Gala Dinner at the Restaurant Solliden on the premises of Skansen Open Air Museum. Coaches will pick up the guests at their hotels for the sightseeing tour at 19:00 and drop them at the Restaurant. After the dinner transport back to the hotels will be organized.

Accommodations

The Swedish Parliament has made arrangements with special rates (*prix de faveur*) at two hotels in Stockholm. Both hotels are within walking distance of the meeting venue (see map on next page). Please contact the hotel directly to make reservations. Rooms are limited and reservations should be made by **26 March 2011** in order to guarantee the special rates. Please use the link for the Sheraton Hotel provided on the next page or the attached form for the Rica Hotel.

HOTELS

SHERATON HOTEL (number 1 on the map below)

Tegelbacken 6

10123 Stockholm

Tel. +46 8 412 34 00

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1101147122&key=63F4B>

(Please use the direct link for our group reservation above and click on RESERVE).

Single room with breakfast: 1 950 SEK

RICA HOTEL STOCKHOLM (number 2 on the map below)

Slöjdgatan 7

111 57 Stockholm

Tel.+46 8 723 72 00

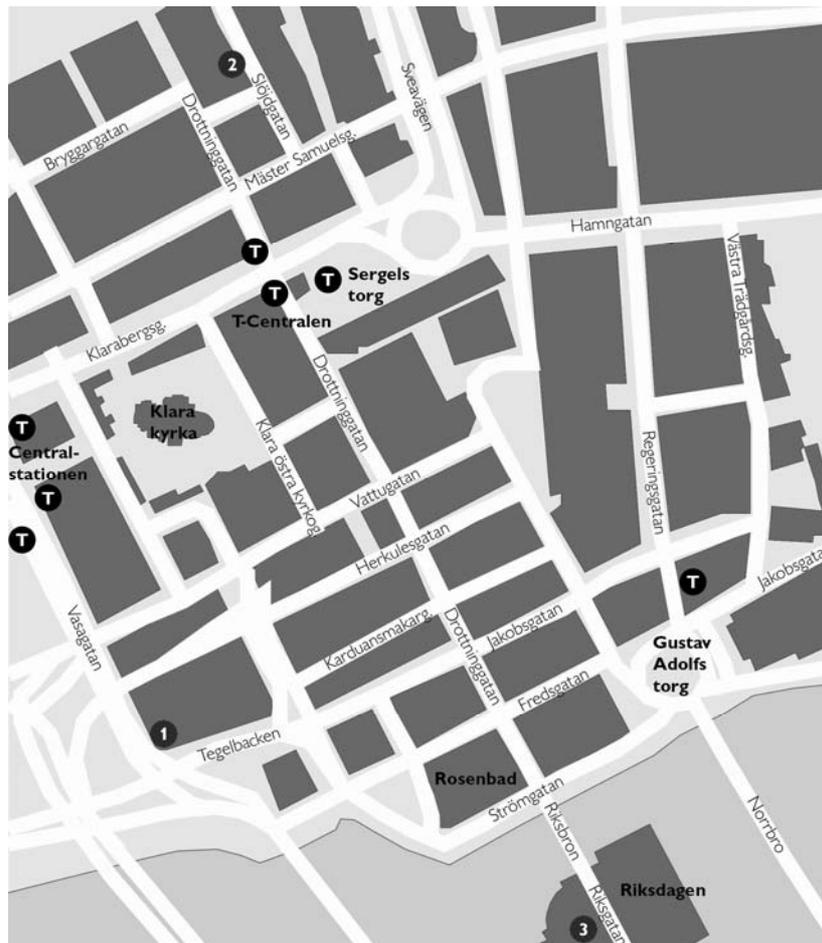
Email: reservations@rica.se

<http://www.rica.se/hotelstockholm>

(See reservation form attached).

Single room with breakfast: 1 595 SEK

Please note that number 3 on the map below is the Swedish Parliament Building. Both hotels are non-smoking.





Rica Hotels

TO: Rica Reservation Center

FAX: +46 8 723 72 79

EMAIL: reservations@rica.se

ROOM RESERVATION VIAB110426S.avrop

Rica Hotel Stockholm **1595 Single room**

I would like to order a room in the chosen hotel above as follows:

Name:.....

Arrival:.....

Departure:.....

Number of rooms/persons:.....

Ph Nr:...../Fax nr:.....

Email:.....

The reservation will be confirmed by fax or email. Last day to register is 26th of March 2011.

Price is in SEK including Vat and breakfast buffet. In case of cancellation, please notify the hotel at the latest 6 pm the day before of arrival.

Please guarantee your booking by your creditcard number:

.....Expdate.....

Name on card:

Confirmation from Rica Hotels Reservation and Customer Service:

Confirmed at:....., arriving:.....departing:.....

Reservation number:..... Booker and date:...../.....



OECD PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET OFFICIALS
Stockholm, Sweden, 28-29 April 2011

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

(TO BE COMPLETED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT)

Mr. [] Ms. []

LAST NAME (please type in BLOCK letters) _____

First Name _____

JOB TITLE _____

ORGANISATION _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

COUNTRY _____

TELEPHONE _____

FACSIMILE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please return the completed form to:

Mrs. Hélène LECONTE-LUCAS

OECD – GOV/BUD

2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16 - France

E-mail: helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org -- Facsimile: +33 1 44 30 63 34