



ANNUAL MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CENTRES OF GOVERNMENT

**MANAGING THE CRISIS:
FROM RECOVERY POLICIES TO LONG-TERM REFORMS**

30 September & 1-2 October 2009 - Hôtel de Matignon, Paris, France

The global financial, economic and social crisis has abruptly changed the rules for public and private actors. Governments face pressure from all sides and must demonstrate their ability to thoughtfully and rapidly react to events, while rebuilding the confidence of private actors (bankers, investors and consumers). The Centres of Government are at the heart of the action, charged with the task of helping governments respond to the crisis by designing, implementing and following up on policies. They are tackling head-on the tasks arising from the crisis while managing the daily work of co-ordinating government action.

The recent months have required Centres of Government to urgently analyse the situation, propose options, and prepare recovery measures that ensure the solvability of the banking and financial system, support the industrial sectors worst hit by the crisis, and promote employment.

Today, they are involved in implementing these measures and must also advise policy-makers on long term reforms that are either projected or in progress. They confront new and major challenges regarding debt management, budgetary choices, regulations, and the measures necessary to ensure the integrity and transparency of public procedures, particularly in the area of public procurement. At the same time, the crisis has shifted decision-making centres within the Executive, sometimes to the detriment of the Centre of Government. How have Centres of Government marshalled the resources to move forward and equip themselves for the future? How do they manage parliamentary relations, especially when the urgency of decision-making might create tensions? What lessons have been learned from the first months of the crisis with respect to the way the Centres of Government work, their ability to react to events and their performance? Have exemplary practices emerged? How can exchanging experiences permit other countries to benefit from such practices?

The road to a stronger, cleaner and fairer world economy requires policies for recovery and long-term reforms (pensions, health system, labour market, public administration, taxes, growth and environmental protection) within budget realities.

New priorities have emerged and the content of reforms has changed. The crisis has prompted a critical debate on current policies and on the shortcomings of regulatory and control systems. It has also provided fresh insight on economic growth and the environment. How are Centres of Government managing these changed circumstances? What opportunities have been identified? How can they benefit from the opportunities generated by the crisis in order to accelerate the pace of certain reforms and/or implement necessary but possibly unpopular ones?

Centres of Government are at the interface between the administrative and political levels. As such, they are charged with co-ordinating the preparation and implementation of decisions with actors at the central or federal level, and with regional administrations that are just as closely involved in combating the crisis. International co-ordination has intensified since the crisis began, adding an important dimension to the activities of Centres of Government. Thus, they, alongside policy-makers, are among the major actors who can find a way out of the crisis.

To help them in this mission, the 2009 meeting of Senior Officials in charge of Centres of Government has two main objectives:

1. Assess the implications that managing the crisis has for Centres of Government, particularly with respect to their role, the way they operate and the capacities they need to deploy. Participants are asked to share their evaluation of how the initial months of the crisis have impacted Centres of Government and to identify how the OECD might help them in their efforts to adjust. The Secretary-General of the OECD will present the Organisation's responses to the challenges posed by the crisis in which public governance plays a key role.
2. Discuss the challenges that selecting and prioritising measures to stimulate the economy and long-term reforms pose to Centres of Government. How can they take advantage of the opportunities for reform created by the crisis? How can the overall coherence of policies and reforms be ensured? How can the Centres of Government position themselves in an exit strategy to overcome the crisis? How can coherence in actions taken by the central and sub-national authorities involved in measures and reforms be ensured? How can the Centres of Government respond effectively to the unprecedented international co-ordination which has been put in place to combat the crisis?

AGENDA

Wednesday 30 September 2009

20.30 Welcome reception

Thursday 1 October 2009

MANAGING THE CRISIS: FROM RECOVERY POLICIES TO LONG-TERM REFORMS

09.00 **Opening** of the meeting by **Mr. Patrick DEVEDJIAN**, Minister to the Prime Minister, in charge of the Implementation of the Recovery Plan, **Mr Serge LASVIGNES**, Secretary-General of the French Government and **Mr Angel GURRÍA**, Secretary-General of the OECD

09.30-12.30 **Session 1: CENTRES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CURRENT CRISIS**

- *With the participation of Mr. Esko AHO former Prime Minister of Finland (1991-1995) and current Vice-President of Nokia*

12.30-14.30 **Luncheon** hosted by the French authorities

14.30-18.00 **Session 2: SOLVING THE EQUATION: SHORT-TERM MEASURES AND LONG-TERM REFORMS**

- *Report by Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Aart DE GEUS*

18.00 **Conclusions** of the day's discussions by the French Chair

20.00 **Dinner** hosted by **Mr Serge LASVIGNES**, Secretary-General of the French Government

Friday 2 October 2009

09.00-12.30 **Session 3: FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, SOCIAL COHESION – HOW TO MANAGE FROM THE CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT?**

12.30 **Closure** of the meeting by **Mr Serge LASVIGNES**, Secretary-General of the French Government and **Mr Angel GURRÍA**, Secretary-General of the OECD

13.00-14.30 **Luncheon** hosted by the French authorities