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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**

**Draft Agenda: 8th Meeting of OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**11-12 April 2016**

**OECD Conference Centre, Paris, France**

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**Draft Agenda: 8th Meeting of OECD Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
**11-12 April 2016**  
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**MONDAY 11 APRIL 9:00 - 9:30 Registration -- 9:30 - 9:45: Opening by the Meeting Chair and Delegates' Introductions -- 9:45 - 10:00: Welcome Address by Dider Migaud, Premier Président, Cour des comptes & Président, High Council of Public Finance, France**

10:00-10:30    **1.        SESSION 1 –Global financial-macroeconomic risk and the role of IFIs**

William White of the OECD Economic Development and Review Committee will present a keynote address on opportunities for IFIs to provide a challenge to conventional macroeconomic thinking and shed light on economic and financial risk.

**Chair: François Monier**, Secretary General, High Council of Public Finance, France

**Presenter:**

- **William White**, Chairman, Economic Development and Review Committee, OECD

10:30-11:45    **2.        SESSION 2 – New institutions**

The number of independent parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils in the OECD area has more than tripled in the past decade. This session will provide an overview of new institutions in Lithuania and South Africa, and recent development at the Greek Parliamentary Budget Office. Following the main presentations, the session Delegates are encouraged to provide updates on any major evolutions regarding their institutions' developments in the past year.

**Chair: Tateki Sakiyama**, Researcher, Research Office of the Standing Committee on Budget, House of Councillors, National Diet of Japan

**Presenters:**

- **Arūnas Dulkys**, Auditor General, National Audit Office, Lithuania
- **Mohamed Jahed**, Director, Parliamentary Budget Office, South Africa
- **Panagiotis Liargovas**, Coordinator, Parliamentary Budget Office, Greece

11:45-12:15    **Coffee**

12:15-13:15    **3.        SESSION 3 – The OECD Review of Budget Oversight by Parliament: Ireland**

This session will examine the findings of an OECD review of the strengths and weaknesses of Ireland's system of parliamentary engagement in budgeting. A key recommendation of the report is for the creation of an Irish Parliamentary Budget Office. Discussions will also examine other ways to strengthen parliamentary engagement in the budget process, including measures to improve the use of performance information in parliamentary budget documents and proceedings.

**Chair** : **Chiara Goretti**, Council Member, Parliamentary Budget Office, Italy

**Presenters:**

- **Ronnie Downes**, Deputy Head of Division, Budgeting & Public Expenditures, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Tom Malone**, Principal Officer, Committee Procedure and Statutory Affairs, House of the Oireachtas, Ireland
- **Larry Honeysett**, Head of Financial Scrutiny, House of Commons Scrutiny Unit, United Kingdom
- **Eduard Groen**, Head of Financial, Economic and Social Affairs Department, House of Representatives of the Dutch States General, Netherlands
- **Sebastian Barnes**, Vice-Chair, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

13:15-14:45 **Lunch**

14:45-15:45 **4. SESSION 4 – Evaluation and peer review at IFIs**

This session addresses practical aspects of launching an IFI evaluation, aligned with Evaluating the Performance of Independent Fiscal Institutions: a Common Evaluation Framework.

- Establishing functional peer review networks
- Tools to develop review guidelines, evaluation criteria and expectations, suited to the purpose.

This session will examine a peer group of IFIs engaged in long term fiscal sustainability analysis and identify an initial set of basic and good practices, useful in assessing the practices and procedures used for IFI long term fiscal sustainability analysis. An initial set of basic and good practice benchmarks will be proposed, useful in assessing the practices and procedures used for IFI long term fiscal sustainability analysis. An initial set of basic and good practice benchmarks will be proposed, useful in assessing the practices and procedures used for IFI long term fiscal sustainability analysis.

**Chair** : **Bob Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office, United States

**Presenters:**

- **Laura van Geest**, Director General for Budget, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis
- **Kwangmook Kim**, National Assembly Budget Office, Korea
- **John Smidt**, Director, Danish Economic Council

15:45-16:15 **Coffee**

16:15-17:45 **5. SESSION 5 – Communicating quality**

This session first looks at examples of the strategies used by different institutions communicating across multiple mediums: through the press, with web tools and social media and engaging parliamentarians and stakeholders directly. Which strategies have proven most effective and which have fallen short? How do stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of various communications tactics? IFIs regularly communicate uncertainty underlying analysis. How can risks be best communicated without overstating certainty or undermining core messages? And how can informal exchanges help to improve the quality of messaging?

**Chair: Robert Chote**, Chairman, Office for Budget Responsibility, United Kingdom

**Presenters:**

- **Chris Giles**, Economics Editor, Financial Times **José Luis Escriva**, President, *Autoridad Independiente de Responsabilidad Fiscal (AIREF)*, Spain
- **Phil Bowen**, Parliamentary Budget Office, Australia

18:00 **Dinner cruise on La Seine & Family photo**

The President of the French High Council of Public Finances invites delegates to a dinner cruise on the River Seine. Please note that optional transportation is arranged for delegates. A bus will depart from the OECD headquarters at 18:00 for the dinner cruise and family photo. The dinner cruise will conclude at around 21:15.

**TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016 •-•- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome Address Mme Michèle André, President, Senate Finance Commission, France**

09:15-10:15 **6. SESSION 6 – Layer cake or marble? The evolving cooperation of national, sub- and supra national IFIs**

The emergence of IFIs as an important fiscal policy feature is taking place not only at the national level. Subnational IFIs – e.g. Scotland and Ontario – are already operational. The design of the first supranational IFI – the European Fiscal Review Board – is underway; and European IFIs have progressed cooperation within the European network. Will IFIs operate as layer cakes – with operating independence; or as marble cakes – with operational interdependence? What can be learned from the OECD community of national IFIs to support the development of strong sub- and supranational IFIs? What will be the main challenges (common jurisdiction, inconsistent viewpoints) and opportunities (information exchange, verification and review)?

**Chair: Eckhard Janeba**, Chairman, Independent Advisory Council to the Stability Council, Germany

**Presenters:**

- **José Luis Escriva**, President, Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility, Spain
- **Susan Rice**, Chair, Scottish Fiscal commission
- **Robert Chote**, Chairman, Office for Budget Responsibility, United Kingdom
- **Stephen LeClair**, Financial Accountability Officer, Ontario, Canada
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10:15-11:15 **7. SESSION 7 – Medium-term expenditure frameworks**

Medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs) are a tool governments can use to emphasise a medium term budgetary perspective rather than solely an annual one and to improve fiscal discipline. While medium-term expenditure ceilings are set in all but four OECD countries, the strength of these frameworks varies greatly, reflected by the degree to which they are stipulated in legislation and subsequently monitored by the legislative or independent bodies. This session will examine where IFIs can best complement MTEFs in promoting transparent and prudent fiscal policy. Country experiences will be used to identify factors contributing to effective MTEFs in fiscal policy.

**Chair : Heidi Silvennoinen**, Executive Director for Fiscal Policy Evaluation, National Audit Office of Finland

**Presenters:**

- **François Monier**, Secretary General, High Council of Public Finance, France
- **Jón Blöndal**, Head of Division, Budgeting & Public Expenditures, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Michal Horvath**, Lecturer in Economics, University of York

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11:15-11:45 **Coffee**

11:45-13:00 **8. SESSION 8 – Corporate Income Tax Analysis: Taming an Impala**

For IFIs and the government alike, corporate income tax revenues remain a perennially difficult aspect of the fiscal forecast and policy analysis. For many IFIs, layered upon complex and ever-evolving tax rules and ordinary macroeconomic variability, are challenges gaining access to necessary, but highly sensitive data to make an informed analysis. This session will explore country cases of tax data access, strategies for cooperation with other organisations and discussion of methodological approaches to provide stakeholders with trustworthy analysis.

**Chair : Carlos Marinheiro**, Board Member, Public Finance Council, Portugal

**Presenters:**

- **Mostafa Askari**, Assistant Parliamentary Budget Officer, Canada
- **François Ecalte**, Former Council Member, High Council of Public Finance, France
- **Sebastian Barnes**, Council Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council and Economic Counsellor to the Chief Economist of the OECD

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13:00-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-15:30 **9. SESSION 9 – Fiscal transparency in 2016: relevance, roles and opportunities from an IFI perspective**

The OECD is developing a Practical Toolkit on Budget Transparency as part of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group. IFIs are organisations actively promoting fiscal transparency in OECD member countries, with a unique vantage point on recent successes and ongoing challenges in building transparent public finances. IFI perspectives from this session will help shape Working Group discussions and tools on three fundamental questions:

- What are the most impactful ways in which IFIs promote fiscal transparency?
- What are the most critical ways in which fiscal transparency must still improve?
- How are IFIs part of a solution?

**Chair : Ronnie Downes**, Deputy Head of Division, Budgeting and Public Expenditures, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

**Presenters:**

- **Bob Sunshine**, Deputy Director, Congressional Budget Office, United States
  - **Ludovit Odor**, Council Member, Council for Budget Responsibility, Slovak Republic
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15:30-16:00    **10.     SESSION 10 -- Reports from “Sister” networks, report by the OECD Secretariat, and proposals for future work**

*Chair:* Ludovit Odor, Council Member, Council for Budget Responsibility, Slovak Republic

*Presenters:*

- **José Luis Escriva**, President, Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIREF), Spain
- **Jón Blöndal**, Head of Division, Budgeting & Public Expenditures, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Larry Honeysett**, Inter-Parliamentary Financial Information Network (IPFIN)

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16:00            **11.     Closing by Chair and OECD Secretariat**

*16:30 - 18:00 -- Meeting of EU Independent Fiscal Institutions*

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## **Annex 1: MEETING INFORMATION**

### **Registration Form**

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

### **Accommodations**

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation. Information on hotels close to the OECD at special rates and our online booking system can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/hotels-close-to-oecd.htm>

### **Meeting Location**

The meeting will take place at the Conference Centre at OECD Headquarters – *Château de la Muette* – which is located at: 2, rue André Pascal in the 16th *arrondissement* (district) of Paris. The closest metro station is “*La Muette*” on line 9 or “*Boulaivilliers*” or “*Henri Martin*” on line C of the RER. More information on getting to the OECD can be found at: <http://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/gettingtotheoecd.htm>

### **Security and Badges**

Please be advised that OECD Headquarters is a secure complex. Badges can only be issued to registered delegates, and a passport or national identity card is required in order to receive a badge. Delegates must go to the main entrance and pass through the security checkpoint in order to pick up badges. Please allow up to 15 minutes to complete these formalities.

### **Catering**

The OECD Conference Centre has several dining options:

- A coffee bar in the heart of the conference centre, open all day from 8:30 to 17:00 for coffee and sandwiches;
- A snack bar with 132 seats, open from 08:00 to 17:00 offering breakfast, lunch, salads, sandwiches and snacks throughout the day;
- A self-service cafeteria, open from 11:45 until 14:15 and seating 700 per service. It provides a range of set menus and a wide choice of starters, main courses, grill-cook food and sweets;
- A restaurant with waiter service offering simple and refined dishes and open from 12:00 until 14:00.

### **Wi-Fi Internet Access and Business Centre**

The OECD Conference Centre features complimentary Wi-Fi Internet Access throughout its facilities. Internet access is available in the Espresso Café. There is also a Business Centre located in the Conference Centre offering complimentary desktop computers with standard Microsoft Office software, Internet connections and printers.

### **Simultaneous Translation**

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

### **Cocktail Reception**

Dinner cruise on the River Seine. see page 4.