

OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative

Ministerial Conference

**ENTERPRISE AND COMPETITIVENESS POLICIES FOR
EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOUTH CAUCASUS**

15-17 June 2011, Prague, Czech Republic

Draft Agenda

Venue:

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Cernin Palace
Loretánské nám. 101/5
Praha 1 - Hradčany**

OECD EASTERN EUROPE AND SOUTH CAUCASUS INITIATIVE

Background and objectives

Launched in April 2009, the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus (EESC) Initiative is part of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme. Its work brings together policy makers and other stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The objective of the Initiative is to help economies of the region increase their competitiveness by creating a sound business climate for investment, enhancing productivity, fostering entrepreneurship, developing the private sector, and building knowledge-based economies.

The Initiative achieves its objectives by: (i) sharing OECD best practices and policy experiences that improve the business climate and foster SME development; (ii) supporting dialogue and the exchange of best practices and reform experiences; (iii) helping public authorities to develop policies that support local businesses and enhance opportunities for foreign investment.

The key principles driving the delivery of the Initiative are: (i) alignment with national development plans and recognition of the unique domestic conditions of each country; (ii) active ownership by the participating countries; (iii) voluntary self-evaluation by governments of their policy reforms; (iv) active involvement of the private sector; and (v) co-ordination with existing donors and other international organisations to avoid duplication.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 1 15 June 2011: Meeting of the OECD Policy Working Group on Enterprise Policy Development

The Working Group meeting, co-chaired by the Czech Republic, will provide a forum for delegates to exchange experiences and best practices.

DAY 2 16 June 2011: Meeting of European Union SME Panel in the framework of the EU Eastern Partnership Platform 2

DAY 3 17 June 2011: OECD EESC Ministerial Roundtable

Ministers of Economy from the EESC Initiative countries, policy makers, and high-level representatives from OECD member countries are invited to discuss challenges to investment, competitiveness and SME development in their respective countries. The Ministerial Roundtable will be co-chaired by Poland and Sweden.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting will bring together delegates from governments, business, academia, international organisations, and countries participating in the OECD EESC Initiative and OECD member countries. Leading experts from OECD member countries and the OECD Secretariat will participate in the discussions.

CONTACTS

Further information about the meeting will be posted on the OECD internet site www.oecd.org/daf/psd/eurasia as details are finalised. For any additional information, please contact Mr. Daniel Quadbeck at daniel.quadbeck@oecd.org. For logistical information, please contact Ms. Orla Halliday at orla.halliday@oecd.org or Ms. Zara Kuruneri at zara.kuruneri@oecd.org.

Day 1
15 June 2011

OECD Policy Working Group on Enterprise Policy Development
Co-chaired by the Czech Republic

09.00 – 13.00

The OECD Policy Working Group on Enterprise Policy Development supports policy dialogue and exchange of best practices between Eastern Partnership countries and OECD member countries.

9.00 Registration and refreshments

9.15 Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Key Opening Address

- **Mr. Tomáš Dub**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Welcoming Remarks

- **Mr. Volker Genetzky**, Policy Officer, DG Enterprise, European Commission
- **Mr. Fadi Farra**, Head of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

9.30 Enterprise and Competitiveness Challenges in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

Facilitators: **Mr. Vlastimil Tesař**, Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Relations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Mr. Fadi Farra, OECD

Presentations

1. OECD Eastern Partnership Enterprise Policy Performance Assessment (first findings)
Mr. Daniel Quadbeck, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme
Ms. Marina Cernov, Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme
2. Entrepreneurial learning and enterprise skills (first findings from the European Training Foundation)
Mr. Arjen Vos, Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Unit, ETF

Discussion and tour de table

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 Addressing SME policy challenges through better policy co-ordination

Presentations

1. An OECD perspective: Addressing SME policy challenges
Mr. Antonio Fanelli, Deputy Head of the OECD Private Sector Development Division
2. The Czech Case: Policy for strengthening SME support
Mr. Jiří Hansl, Head of EU Projects, Chamber Of Commerce of the Czech Republic
3. The Polish Case: Implementing an SME development strategy
Ms. Anna Brussa, Head of the Entrepreneurship Policy Unit, Economy Development Department,
Ministry of Economy, Poland

Discussion

12.45 Finalisation of the Draft Ministerial Declaration, *Fostering SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus*

Closing Remarks

- Co-Chair and OECD: **Mr. Vlastimil Tesař**, Czech Republic, **Mr. Fadi Farra**, OECD

**Day 1 cont.
15 June 2011**

**Business Roundtable
Hosted by the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic in co-operation with BIAC**

13.00 – 18.00

13.00 Lunch hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

14.00 Registration

**14.30 Business Roundtable
Hosted by the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic in co-operation with BIAC**

The business roundtable will serve as a platform for dialogue between potential investors and delegations from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. Delegates from the EESC countries are invited to give a short presentation during a plenary session with Chief Executive Officers from leading Czech companies across all sectors of the economy. Bilateral meetings with potential investors can be scheduled on demand.

Welcoming Remarks

- **Mr. Stanislav Kázecký**, Vice-President, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
- **Mr. Tadahiro Asami**, Secretary General, BIAC
- **Mr. Martin Tlapa**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Country Presentations

- **Delegates from the six Eastern Partnership countries** will have the possibility to present business opportunities (10 min. per delegation) in their home country.

Discussion (Questions and Answers)

16.15 Close of Business Roundtable followed by coffee

16.30 Bilateral meetings

18.00 Close of meeting

BIAC is the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD and officially recognised as being representative of the OECD business community. BIAC promotes the interests of business by engaging, understanding and advising policy makers on a broad range of issues.

SP is the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic and a BIAC member.



**Day 2
16 June 2011**



**Meeting of the EU SME Panel
under the Eastern Partnership Platform 2**

09.00 – 17.15

Chair of the SME Panel: Joanna Drake, Director (DG Enterprise)

09.00 Registration and Refreshments

09.30 Welcome and opening addresses

The Chair opens the meeting and gives the floor to the host of this Panel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic:

- Mr. Petr Burianek, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic
- Mrs. Joanna Drake, Director (DG Enterprise/E), Chair of the SME Panel
- Mr. Anthony O'Sullivan, Head of OECD Private Sector Development Division

09.55 Access to Finance (Part 1)

- Presentation by the European Investment Fund
- Question and Answer Session

Robin Vaudrey (EIF) will give a presentation on the topic "EIB Group: Support for SME access to finance". Panel participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on this presentation.

10.45 Coffee Break

11.00 Access to Finance (Part 2)

- The Czech Case: Presentation by Lubomir Raydl, Member of Managing Board, Czech Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank
- The EBRD Approach: Presentation by Henry Russel, Director for Small Business Finance on "Supporting Access to Finance for SMEs"
- Questions and Answers Session

Lubomir Raydl (Czech Moravian Guarantee and Development Bank) and Henry Russel (EBRD) will give a presentation on access to finance from the perspective of financial institutions. Panel participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on these presentations.

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 Think Small First Principle

- Presentation by the European Commission
- Questions and Answers Session

Simeon Chenev (European Commission, DG Enterprise) will give a presentation on the "Think Small First" principle. Panel participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on this presentation.



15.00 Coffee Break

15.15 The European Enterprise Network (EEN)

- Introduction by the European Commission (DG Enterprise)
- Best Practice by a Partner Country: Presentation Armenia on the experience with the Enterprise Europe Network
- Questions and Answers Session

Simeon Chenev (European Commission, DG ENTR) will shortly introduce the Enterprise Europe Network. The Delegation of Armenia will give a presentation on the Armenian experience with the Enterprise Europe Network. Panel participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the EEN.

16.15 Implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative

- Presentation by the European Commission (DG Development and Cooperation) on the State of Play of the Implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative
- Questions and Answers Session

Mihaela Marcu (European Commission, DG Development and Cooperation) will give a presentation on the state of play of the implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative. Panel participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and comment on this presentation.

17.00 Conclusions by the Chair

18.30 Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



**OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative
Ministerial Conference - Bilateral meetings**

15.00 – 18.30

15.00 Bilateral meetings for Ministerial Delegations with the OECD

Bilateral meetings between OECD Deputy Secretary-General Richard Boucher and Ministerial Delegations from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus upon appointment.

18.30 Reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

19.00 Gala dinner hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic for Ministers and high level guests

Welcoming speeches by H.E. Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Mr. Richard Boucher, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD.

Day 3
17 June 2011
OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative Ministerial Roundtable
Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden
09.00 – 15.00

09.15 Registration

09.30 Grand Opening of the Exhibition of the 50th Anniversary of the OECD and the 15th Anniversary of the Czech Republic's Membership of the OECD

10.00 Ministerial Roundtable Opening Remarks

Key Opening Address

- **H.E. Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Welcoming Remarks from the OECD, Co-Chairs and European Commission

- **Ms. Beata Stelmach**, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland
- **Mr. Åke Peterson**, Deputy Director General at the Swedish Foreign Ministry and Acting Head of Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Sweden
- **Mr. Štefan Füle**, EU Commissioner in charge of Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy
- **Mr. Richard Boucher**, Deputy-Secretary-General, OECD

10.45 Launch of the OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Competitiveness Outlook

- **Mr. Fadi Farra**, Head of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme and **Mr. Daniel Quadbeck**, Policy Analyst, OECD

11.00 Ministerial Roundtable

Facilitators: **Mr. Pawel Wojciechowski**, Ambassador, Permanent Delegation of Poland to the OECD
Mr. Richard Boucher, OECD

Tour de table

Ministers from Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus are invited to highlight their economic, investment and SME development priorities and challenges. The Roundtable will discuss and finalise the work programme for 2011-2012 which was drafted after consultation with EESC Governments and will consider the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Fostering SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

- **Special contribution** from the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD, Eurochambres and UBCCE to present the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Business Declaration
- **Intervention** from **Mr. Henry Russell**, Director of Small Business Finance, EBRD on the ongoing collaboration with the OECD on SME Policy Development in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus

Open discussion

- **Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, *Fostering SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus***

13.00 Concluding remarks and Family photo

- **Mr. Richard Boucher**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
- Co-chairs of the OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative

13.20 Buffet Lunch hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

15.00 Close of meeting