

## OECD/WORLD BANK ROUNDTABLE ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN THE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION SECTOR OF EECCA

*Hotel Congress, Yerevan (Armenia)  
16:00 to 18:30, 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2005*

### Background

Achieving the water-related Millennium Development Goals will require significant reform of the water sector, capacity building and finance. At the Almaty Conference in 2000, the private sector was seen as a potentially important source of managerial and technical know-how as well as finance. However, five years later, it is clear that those hopes have not been realised. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in EECCA remain at a low level, absolutely and relative to many other regions. Moreover, private sector involvement has typically taken the form of contracts to manage water utilities. Private operators have generally been unwilling to invest their own capital in EECCA utilities.

### Issues for discussion and objective

In this roundtable, representatives of the private sector, EECCA and OECD governments, IFIs and NGOs, will be invited to take stock of existing PPP experience in EECCA and to discuss the opportunities and obstacles to a stronger involvement of the private sector in the municipalities that wish to go this route. Discussion will also focus on mechanisms for ensuring access to safe water for the poor and regulatory approaches to prevent the abuse of monopoly power.

A summary of the discussion at the roundtable will be provided to a Conference of EECCA Ministers of Economy/Finance, Water and Environment and their Partners that will take place the following day

### The programme

Presentations will review experience gained with PPPs in some EECCA countries. Both international and domestic private sector views will be presented, as well as those of EECCA governments and IFIs.

<b>16:00-16:10</b>	<i>Opening</i>
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	<i>Presentation of International Private Sector Views Presentation of Armenian Experience with PPP Presentation of Russian Experience with PPP</i>
<b>17:00-18:30</b>	<i>Discussion</i>

### Roundtable documentation

- Issues paper for the Ministerial Conference (ENV/EPOC/EAP/MIN(2005)1)
- Position Paper of the international private sector (ENV/EPOC/EAP/MIN(2005)7)
- Position Paper of the Russian Private Sector (ENV/EPOC/EAP/MIN(2005)8)

These documents can be downloaded from the conference web site at:  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/water>