



**EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME
SOUTH CAUCASUS AND UKRAINE INITIATIVE**

**“INVESTMENT STRATEGIES IN TIMES OF ECONOMIC
CRISES AND BEYOND”**

**WORKING GROUP ON
INVESTMENT CLIMATE, POLICY AND PROMOTION**

DRAFT AGENDA

**MEETING CO-CHAIRLED BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC
IN COLLABORATION WITH UNDP**

FRIDAY, 3 JULY 2009

**VENUE:
HOTEL DEDEMAN
BODRUM, TURKEY**

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Objective

Following the mandate from the First Ministerial meeting of the Initiative on 1 April 2009, the first meeting of the Working Group on Investment Climate Policy and Promotion will be held on 3 July 2009 in Bodrum, Turkey. Based on feedback from the countries, the purpose of this meeting is to initiate dialogue on:

1) **Investment policies in times of economic crises and OECD's strategic response to the crisis.** Session I will provide an overview of OECD instruments and guidelines related to cross border investment and the importance of keeping transparent and open investment regimes to mitigate the current crisis. Case studies will be presented to give an impression of OECD's cooperation with non-members in the field of investment policy reform.

2) **The impact of the crisis on the countries of the South Caucasus and Ukraine (SCU) and their governments policy responses.** Session II will lead to a discussion on challenges, country priorities and strategies to improve the investment climate both from the perspective of policy makers and the private sector.

3) **The development of a comprehensive investment promotion strategy and tools** for Investment Promotion Agencies to act as a demand generator (e.g. image building, marketing and promotion) and investment facilitator (e.g. helping foreign investors navigate through regulatory procedures). Session III intends to provide an overview of best practices in the field of investment promotion and discuss what strategies have worked – and have not worked – in OECD countries and in the countries of the South Caucasus and Ukraine.

4) **Best-practices in Free Economic Zones management, clusters and linkages** and their benefits in providing focused support and facilitation services to emerging networks and clusters of firms. Free economic zones represent a policy instrument frequently used by governments to promote FDI by offering a more competitive business environment through provision of special fiscal, regulatory and financial incentives in defined geographic areas (Session IV).

Participants

SCU countries and OECD members are invited to send experts in the areas of investment policy, investment promotion and free economic zones. Other key partners (e.g. International organisations) who are engaged in activities in these areas will also be invited. Private sector engagement is essential for the success of the Working Group, as they can provide insights to issues affecting investment decisions and serve as a “reality check” for policy reform plans. Representatives from BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation) Business Council and UBCCE (Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises) are invited to join the meeting. Experts from OECD countries and from the OECD Secretariat will be present at the meeting.

Contact details

We kindly ask all delegates from beneficiary countries to submit their presentations by **28 June 2009** to daniel.quadbeck@oecd.org, +33-(0)1 45 24 75 22.

Friday, 3 July 2009

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

H.E. Ambassador Karel Dyba, Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OECD, Co-chair of the Working Group

Mr. Fadi Farra, Head of Eurasia Competitiveness Programme, OECD

Mr. Volker Genetzky, DG Enterprise, European Commission

Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, Programme Manager, UNDP Black Sea Trade and Investment Promotion Programme

Ms. Eftychia Bacopoulou, Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Business Council

9:30 – 10:30 Session I: Investment Policies in Times of Economic Crises: Developing open and transparent investment regimes

How does the OECD respond to financial and economic crises? Which tools can the OECD provide to governments to support investment policy and investment promotion efforts?

Moderator: Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head of Unit, Private Sector Development Division, OECD

- **Key note speech: OECD Investment Policy Instruments and the Economic Crisis**
Mr. Alexander Böhmer, OECD
- **OECD's cooperation with non-member countries**
 - **The Moroccan case**
Mr. Brahim Qermane, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Morocco
 - **The Moldovan case**
Mr. Andrei Timus, Executive Director, Moldovan Investment and Export Promotion Organization, Republic of Moldova

Discussion

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 13:00 Session II: Impact of the crisis on Foreign Direct Investments in South Caucasus and Ukraine and the response by the countries of the region

What are the FDI trends in South Caucasus and Ukraine? How has FDI been impacted by the financial crisis? What are the responses by the governments of the region?

- **Overview of the OECD Initiative for Investment and Competitiveness in South Caucasus and Ukraine**
 - **The need to address Investment Climate Policy and Promotion in the region**
Mr. Fadi Farra, OECD
 - **Findings of “Policies for Competitiveness” country assessments**
Mr. Daniel Quadbeck, Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Challenges, country priorities and strategies to improve the investment climate**

Delegates from the Ministries of Economy of the South Caucasus and Ukraine region are requested to give an overview of country priorities, challenges and current initiatives to support the investment climate. The presentation should focus on investment policy regulations including the countries’ openness and transparency towards foreign investment (e.g., rules and procedures of access for foreign investors, sector restrictions, rules of national treatment and investment protection).

Moderator: Mr. Fadi Farra, OECD

Presentation

Mr. Artak Baghdasaryan, Head of Economic Policy and Strategy Development Department, Ministry of Economy of Republic of Armenia

Mr. Asgar Alakbarov, Director, Department of Foreign Investments and Aid Co-ordination, Ministry of Economic Development of Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Irakli Gachechiladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia

Ms. Oksana Kordina, Head of Investment and Innovation Projects Department, Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

- **The view from the private sector: What are the major policy barriers to investment that need to be addressed?**

Comments

Mr. Dariusz Witkowski, Deputy General Director, Confederation of Polish Employers

Ms. Seda Koknel, Advisor, Union of Black Sea and Caspian Confederation of Enterprises (UBCCE)

Mr. Tamar Sen, Head of Department, TÜSiAD International, TÜSiAD, Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:30 **Session III: Strategies and best practices developed and implemented by Investment Promotion Agencies in OECD, SCU and partner countries**

Which strategies and policies have worked – and have not worked – to support Investment Climate Policy and Promotion? What are the main practices to apply to the South Caucasus region?

Moderator: Mr. Fadi Farra, OECD

- **Czech Invest and best-practices of clusters in the Czech Republic**
Ms. Lenka Peterkova, Head of department for clusters and co-operation, Czech Invest
- **Invest in Poland: Taking a sector-approach in investment promotion**
Ms. Agata Mezynska, Director, Department of Business Information, Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency (PAIIZ)
- **The case of LIAA: How to stay close to investors?**
Mr. Harolds Celms, Director of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) in France
- **Investment Promotion in the South Caucasus and Ukraine**

Delegates from Investment Promotion Agencies of the South Caucasus and Ukraine are requested to give an overview of their current priorities and challenges, the institutional role of the agency and its main activities (e.g., supporting SME-FDI linkages, one-stop shop services, customer relationship management, policy advocacy and after-care services).

Presentation

Mr. Robert Harutyunyan, Director General, Armenian Development Agency (ADA)

Mr. Asgar Alakbarov, Director, Department of Foreign Investments and Aid Co-ordination, Ministry of Economic Development of Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Nino Baratashvili, Director, Georgian National Investment Agency

Ms. Tetyana Vysotska, Head of information and analytical department, National Agency for Foreign Investment and Development of Ukraine

Discussion

16:30 - 17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00 - 18:15 Session IV: Best-practices for Free Economic Zones

How to effectively design, implement and manage Free Economic Zones? What are potential benefits and what are limitations?

Moderator: Mr. Suleyman Yilmaz, Adviser, Black Sea and Central Asia, OECD Development Centre

- **Free Economic Zones: International Best-practices**
Mr. Alexander Böhmer, OECD
- **Industrial Zones Support and Investment Incentives in the Czech Republic**
Mr. Zbyněk Pokorný, Head of Unit for Innovations and Investment, Department of Business Support, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
- **Free Economic Zones Management in Turkey**
Mr. Edvar Mum, General Manager, Mesbas-Mersin Free Zone Operator Inc.

Discussion

18:15 - 18:30 Summary of the meeting and next steps

H.E. Ambassador Karel Dyba, Delegation of the Czech Republic to the OECD

Mr. Fadi Farra, OECD

19:00 Reception

All meeting documentation will be available online:

www.oecd.org/daf/psd/eurasia