

DRAFT AGENDA



HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE¹

Competitiveness for Growth in South East Europe

26 February 2016

OECD Conference Centre, Room CC4
2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris
Paris, France



OECD South East Europe
Regional Programme

¹ This meeting is not a meeting of an official OECD body.

FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2016

CC 4

- 09:00 – 09:30** **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**
MR DOUGLAS FRANTZ, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, OECD
MR ROBERT KOKALJ, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SLOVENIA
MR BERNARD BRUNET, HEAD OF UNIT, DG NEAR, EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- 09:30 -09:45** **PRESENTATION AND LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATION *COMPETITIVENESS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE: A POLICY OUTLOOK 2016***
MR ALAN PAIC, HEAD OF INVESTMENT COMPACT FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE, SOUTH EAST EUROPE DIVISION, GLOBAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT, OECD
MR JAKOB FEXER, PROJECT MANAGER, SOUTH EAST EUROPE DIVISION, GLOBAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT, OECD
- 09:45 – 11:30** **ROUNDTABLE I: CROSS-CUTTING MEASURES FOR ENHANCING COMPETITIVENESS**
Chair: Ms Marzena Kisielewska, Head of South East Europe Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD
- **Keynote:** Mr Nahit Bingöl, Director General at the Ministry of Development, Republic of Turkey and Vice Chair of the OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee
 - **Keynote:** Mr Christian Ketels, Principal Associate at Harvard Business School and President of the TCI Network
- Panel:**
- Mr Viktor Mizo, Director of the Directorate for Technological - Industrial Development Zones, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 - Ms Jasna Atanasijević, Director, Public Policy Secretariat, Serbia
 - Mr Juan José Ibarretxe, Director of Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies
 - Mr Gorazd Justinek, Executive Director, Centre for European Perspective, Slovenia
 - Mr Alvaro Pereira, Director, Country Studies Branch, Economics Department, OECD
- The small size of the individual economies, their specificities and idiosyncrasies, the narrow supplier base and insufficient skill base are among the challenges encountered by foreign direct investors. Leveraging the assets of the region as a whole can boost investment. Optimising value chains across South East Europe in the context of global competition can help policy makers to increase the competitiveness of their economies and achieve more inclusive growth. A move up the value chain can enable the region to compete in a sustainable way, in order to create more and better jobs. This implies enhanced investment in human capital development and retention, implementing policies and instruments in favour of the creation and absorption of knowledge.
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
- 11:30 – 11:45** **COFFEE BREAK**

12:00 – 13:00 ROUNDTABLE II: REGIONAL EXPERT ORGANISATIONS AND NETWORKS

Several organisations and networks have actively participated in the data collection and analysis for the publication: *Competitiveness in South East Europe: A Policy Outlook*. They will be invited to discuss the main findings and comment on the relevance to their work in the region.

13:00 – 13:15 OFFICIAL GROUP PHOTO

13:15 – 14:15 LUNCH - ROOM ROGER OCKRENT, CHÂTEAU DE LA MUETTE

14:15 – 14:45 REPORTS ON OECD SECTOR COMPETITIVENESS WORK IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Chair: Mr Alan Paic, Head of Investment Compact for South East Europe, South East Europe Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

Report on Work to Foster Competitiveness in South East Europe Food and Beverage Processing: Ms Marta Bogdanić, Executive Director, Agrokor, Croatia

Report on Work to Foster Competitiveness in South East Europe Tourism Sector: Ms Gordana Plamenac, Chair of the Board, Danube Competence Center DCC

14:45 – 15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:00 – 16:45 ROUND TABLE III: SECTORAL COMPETITIVENESS

Chair: Mr Alan Paic, Head of the Investment Compact for South East Europe, South East Europe Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD

Panel:

- Mr Dragos Pislaru, State Counsellor of the Prime Minister, Romania
- Mr Goran Šćepanović, Director General, Ministry of Economy, Montenegro
- Ms Zuzana Nehajová, General Director, Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic
- Ms Jasmina Majstoroska, Ministry of Economy, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Mr Marek Przeor, Programme Manager, DG REGIO, European Commission
- Mr Koen de Backer, Head of Unit, Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, OECD

Fostering competitiveness in specific sectors is a hotly debated issue. While avoiding “picking winners”, effective sector-specific policies can be instrumental in boosting competitiveness. What are the most dynamic sectors which can drive growth? What specific policy barriers need to be addressed as a priority to make those sectors more competitive? And what policy instruments prove to be most effective?

16:45 – 17:00 CLOSING REMARKS BY H.E. MR PAULO VIZEU PINHEIRO, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE OECD, CHAIR OF THE OECD EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

17:00 – 18:30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION - ROOM GEORGE MARSHALL, CHÂTEAU DE LA MUETTE



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