

DRAFT AGENDA

EURASIA WEEK 2015

Better Institutions, Interconnectedness and Inclusiveness for Competitiveness in Eurasia

23-26 November 2015
OECD Conference Centre
Paris, France

 **#EurasiaWeek**

www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia-week.htm





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OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME

The **OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme** was launched in 2008 to support Eurasian economies in developing more vibrant and competitive markets – both at the national and regional level – in order to generate sustainable growth. The Programme focuses on a comprehensive approach that includes regional dialogue, peer review, definition of reform priorities and assistance in implementation and design of policies.

OECD Central Asia Initiative (CAI): Co-chaired by the European Union and Kazakhstan, the CAI was launched in November 2008 and covers Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative (EESC): Co-chaired by Poland and Sweden, the EESC was launched in April 2009 and covers the six countries of the EU Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

Through both Initiatives, the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme supports the region to design and implement policies in favour of competitiveness. In particular, the Programme encourages Eurasia countries to align to OECD standards, identify policy barriers to competitiveness and support capacity building on the design and implementation of policies to improve competitiveness.

Mr. Antonio Somma

Head, OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme
OECD Global Relations Secretariat (GRS)

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www.oecd.org/globalrelations/eurasia.htm

■ WHAT IS OECD EURASIA WEEK?

OECD Eurasia Week builds on the increasing involvement of countries in the Eurasia region in the work of the OECD and in several OECD platforms, networks and bodies as well as on the region's growing importance to the members of the OECD.

During the three days, the objective is to create an opportunity to further strengthen the relations between the countries of the Eurasia region and the OECD, and to raise the visibility of the enhanced co-operation on a broad spectrum of thematic issues relevant to further improving the region's competitiveness.

OECD Eurasia Week will be held at the OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, 75116 Paris, France.

■ WHO WILL BE THERE?

OECD Eurasia Week will bring together high-level representatives from the Eurasia region, OECD member countries, academics, business leaders, international partner organisations, civil society and relevant experts on the thematic issues.

■ BILATERAL MEETINGS

Bilateral meetings will be organised on **Monday, 23 November 2015** at the OECD Conference Centre with the OECD Global Relations Secretariat. Additional bilateral meetings for high-level delegations from the Eurasia Region will be held upon request with other OECD Directorates. Delegations will be contacted by their Delegation Liaison Officer (DLO) upon registration to schedule the bilateral meetings. Please complete the reply card to register for Eurasia Week.

Simultaneous interpretation in English and Russian will be provided during Eurasia Week.

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EURASIA WEEK 2015

OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK

23-26 November 2015

Better Institutions, Interconnectedness and Inclusiveness for Competitiveness in Eurasia

Monday 23 November 2015	Tuesday 24 November 2015	Wednesday 25 November 2015	Thursday 26 November 2015
ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS	OFFICIAL OPENING by the OECD Secretary-General CC 12	OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM High-level Panel CC 12	EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE Peer Reviews of Kazakhstan CC 12
	HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE "Whole-of-OECD" Perspectives for New Competitiveness Challenges in Eurasia CC 12	OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM Business Speed Networking CC 2	THEMATIC SESSION "Mobilising Migrants' Skills for Economic Success" CC 12
Afternoon	Lunch breaks		Afternoon
ARRIVAL OF DELEGATIONS	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME Upon invitation only – CC4	EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE -Peer Review of Georgia -Peer Review of Ukraine CC 12	DEPARTURE OF DELEGATIONS
	Launch of the SME Policy Index: Eastern Partner Countries 2016 Upon invitation only – CC4		
	Evening functions		

NB: The OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme includes Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Time: 9.00-12.45 – CC 12

8.15-8.45 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

OFFICIAL OPENING

Better Institutions, Interconnectedness and Inclusiveness for Competitiveness in Eurasia

9.00-9.20 Opening address
Mr. Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, OECD (tbc)
High-level representative from the Eurasia region
High-level representative from OECD members

9.20-12.45 High-Level Policy Dialogue: “Whole-of-OECD” Perspectives for New Competitiveness Challenges in Eurasia

9.20-9.30 Introductory remarks on OECD Eurasia Week and high-level policy dialogue by Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director, OECD Global Relations Secretariat

The High-Level Policy dialogue will consist of interactive discussions between the Ministers of Eurasia countries and OECD Directors. The interactive sessions will focus on recent economic challenges in the Eurasia region, and the benefits of a “Whole-of-OECD” approach to enhance institutions, interconnectedness and inclusiveness, in order to sustain competitiveness in the region.

9.30-10.30 Session 1: Enhancing Interconnectedness of the Eurasia Region

The session will discuss policies and practices to seize the opportunities in increased interconnectedness in global trade and investment patterns, including the opening of new markets, strengthening trade exchanges in the region, and further integrating into global value chains.

Moderator (tbc)

- What are the current challenges that have had the most impact on trade flows and FDI in the region?
- What policy measures need to be implemented to diversify economies and export and enhance the competitiveness in the region?
- How can countries in the region boost their investment attractiveness, bring down trade borders and better integrate into the global value chains?

Panellists

- Ministers of Eurasia and OECD countries (tbc)
- High-level representative of the private sector (tbc)
- Directors, OECD (tbc)

Open Discussion with the audience

10.30-10.45 NETWORKING BREAK

10.45-11.45 Session 2: Strengthening Institutions for Sustainable Growth in Eurasia

The session will explore strategies to strengthen institutions at national and regional levels to further support and enhance competitiveness and sustainable development in Eurasia.

Moderator (tbc)

- Which are the current challenges in institutions and public service delivery affecting productivity growth in Eurasia?
- How can institutions be strengthened to support better policy-making and enforcement?
- How can countries successfully design diversification strategies to support sustainable development?

Panellists

- Ministers of Eurasia and OECD countries (tbc)
- High-level representative of the private sector (tbc)
- Directors, OECD (tbc)

Open Discussion with the audience

11.45-12.45 Session 3: Paving the Path to Greener and more Inclusive Growth in Eurasia

The session will discuss policies and challenges to enhance job creation, greening of the economy, and private sector development, in order to tackle inequalities and boost green and inclusive growth in Eurasia region.

Moderator (tbc)

- What are the key material conditions for ensuring green and inclusive growth in Eurasia?
- How can economic and environmental policies be effectively designed to tackle rising inequalities, achieve environmental objectives, and improve development outcomes in Eurasia?
- How can the private sector development policies help support job creation and contribute to greener and more inclusive growth?

Panellists

- Ministers of Eurasia and OECD countries (tbc)
- High-level representative of the private sector (tbc)
- Directors, OECD (tbc)

Open Discussion with the audience

12.45-13.00 Official Group Photo**13.00- 14.00 BUFFET LUNCH – GEORGE MARSHALL AND ROGER OCKRENT, OECD Château**

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Time: 14.00-16.00 – CC 4

**14.00-15.30 OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEES
CLOSED SESSION – UPON INVITATION ONLY**

14.00-14.10 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND WELCOMING REMARKS

14.00-14.05 Adoption of the Agenda by the Chair (tbc)

14.05-14.10 Welcoming remarks by Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director, OECD Global Relations Secretariat

14.10-15.00 THE PROGRAMME'S ACHIEVEMENTS, NEXT STEPS AND KEY DATES

14.10-14.20 Presentation by Mr. Antonio Somma, Head of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Programme

14.20-14.30 OECD Central Asia Initiative Steering Committee

Introductory Remarks by the Co-chairs:

- H.E. Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Ambassador of the European Union to the OECD (tbc)
- H.E. Mr. Yerbol Orynbayev, Aide to the President of Kazakhstan (tbc)

14.30-14.40 Open discussion among Members of the Steering Committees

14.40-14.50 OECD Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Initiative Steering Committee

Introductory Remarks by the Co-chairs:

- H.E. Mr. Jakub Wisniewski, Ambassador of Poland to the OECD (tbc)
- H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic, Ambassador of Sweden to the OECD (tbc)

14.50-15.00 Open discussion among Members of the Steering Committees

15.00-15.10 GOVERNANCE OF THE OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

Steering Committee Members are invited to appoint the Chair of the OECD Eurasia Competitiveness Roundtable for 2016

15.10-15.20 OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Open discussion among Members of the Steering Committees

15.20-15.30 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Closing by the Chair (tbc)

15.30- 16.00 NETWORKING BREAK

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Time: 16.00-17.30 – CC 4 & Room D

PARALLEL SESSIONS

**LAUNCH OF THE SME POLICY INDEX: EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES 2016
SMALL BUSINESS ACT FOR EUROPE ASSESSMENT
CC 4**

Closed Session: upon invitation only



This session is co-organised with the European Union within the framework of the Eastern Partnership.



16:00-16:20

OPENING REMARKS

- **Deputy Secretary-General, OECD** (tbc)
- High-level representative from the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), **European Commission** (tbc)

16:20-16:30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

by **Minister of Economy** from an Eastern Partner Country (tbc)

16:30-17:00

KEY FINDINGS OF THE SME POLICY INDEX: EASTERN PARTNER COUNTRIES 2016 – SMALL BUSINESS ACT FOR EUROPE ASSESSMENT

Scenario

Joint presentation on the key developments and remaining challenges for the countries by the OECD, the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Training Foundation (ETF)

17:00-17:25

DISCUSSION

17:25-17:30

CLOSING REMARKS

17:30-18:30

NETWORKING COCKTAIL - GEORGE MARSHALL AND ROGER OCKRENT ROOMS, OECD Château

**OECD IDEAFACTORY:
SME DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA
Room D**

Open session to all participants

Inside the IdeaFactory, everyone is part of the process; everyone's experience counts, ideas can be combined, and formed into potential new development opportunities.

16:00-16:10

OPENING REMARKS

- High-level representative from the **OECD Global Relations Secretariat** (tbc)
- High-level representative from the **OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development** (tbc)

16:10-16:25

PRESENTATION OF THE OECD WORK ON SMEs IN CENTRAL ASIA (tbc)

16:25-17:10

IDEA FACTORY GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Scenario

Participants will be divided in small break-out groups to discuss the key challenges and recommendations for SME development in Central Asia. Each discussion group will nominate a rapporteur to report back in the following session.

17:10-17:25

OUTCOMES OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Rapporteurs will summarise the main ideas that participants discussed in the groups. The feedback will provide input on priority areas for reforms to promote SME development in Central Asia.

17:25-17:30

CLOSING REMARKS

Wednesday, 25 November 2015

Time: 9.00-12.30 – CC 12 & CC 2

9.00-12.30 OECD EURASIA BUSINESS FORUM

9.00-10.15 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: SUSTAINING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE & INVESTMENT USING THE *OECD POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT* – CC12

Objective *The Panel will focus on how to sustain the business environment, to capture new economic opportunities and the challenges in sustaining the private sector in Eurasia. The Panellists will discuss how the updated OECD Policy Framework for Investment (PFI) can help governments create the right conditions to attract domestic and foreign investment.*

The Panel will consist of discussions between high-level policy makers of the region, the private sector, business associations and OECD Directorates. The discussions will be led by the moderator in a question and answer format.

Moderator (tbc)

- Panellists**
- High-level policy-makers of Eurasia countries (tbc)
 - Directors, OECD (tbc)
 - High-level representative from the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) (tbc)
 - Mr. Jean Lemierre, Chairman of the Board of Directors BNP Paribas; Co-president of the Advisory Board for Businesses - France/Turkey (MEDEF-DEIK / TUSIAD) (tbc)
 - High-level representative from the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) (tbc)
 - Other high-level representative from national business associations (tbc)
 - Senior business executives (tbc)

10.15-10.30 NETWORKING BREAK

10.30-12.30 BUSINESS SPEED-NETWORKING SESSION BETWEEN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR – UPON REQUEST ONLY – CC2

Objective *The business speed-networking session will provide the **opportunity for meetings between high-level policy-makers of the Eurasia region and senior business executives**. These meetings aim to facilitate a quick exchange of background information and sharing what business needs each party has, and possibly lead to a new potential business relationship.*

The pre-scheduled meetings are only 15 minutes long, encouraging both parties to focus on their objectives. Due to high demand, priority for pre-scheduled meetings will be given on a first come basis upon registration to Eurasia Week.

12.30- 14.00 BUFFET LUNCH – GEORGE MARSHALL AND ROGER OCKRENT, OECD Château

Wednesday 25 November 2015

Time: 14.00-18.30 – CC 12

14.00-18.30

OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE



The [Roundtable](#) was established in 2013 as a joint platform between OECD members and Eurasia partner countries to carry out peer reviews on competitiveness reform implementation.

Working languages: English and Russian

ITEM I

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

14.00-14.05

The Chairman of the Roundtable, **H.E. Mr. Pavel Rozsypal, Ambassador, and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OECD (tbc)** will open the meeting and present the agenda of the Roundtable.

ITEM II

PEER REVIEW OF GEORGIA

14.05-16.00

Designing an SME Development Strategy for Georgia

14.05-14.15

Presentation by the Secretariat

14.15-14.30

Presentation by the Government of Georgia

14.30-15.00

Comments by lead reviewers from Estonia, Italy, Czech Republic and Germany

15.00-15.45

Open discussion

15.45-15.55

Final comments from the Government of Georgia

15.55-16.00

Conclusion by the Chair and the Secretariat

16.00-16.30

COFFEE BREAK

ITEM III

PEER REVIEW OF UKRAINE

16.30-18.30

Framework to Support Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) for Private Sector Participation in Energy Efficiency in Ukraine

16.30-16.45

Presentation by the Secretariat

16.45-17.00

Presentation by the Government of Ukraine

17.00-17.30

Comments by lead reviewers from Canada, Czech Republic and Germany

17.30-18.00

Open discussion

18.00-18.20

Final comments from the Government of Ukraine

18.20-18.30

Conclusion by the Chair and the Secretariat

18.30-19.30

NETWORKING COCKTAIL – GEORGE MARSHALL AND ROGER OCKRENT, OECD Château

Thursday 26 November 2015

Time: 9.00-13.00 – CC 12

9.00-11.45 OECD EURASIA COMPETITIVENESS ROUNDTABLE

ITEM V PEER REVIEWS OF KAZAKHSTAN

9.00-10.15 Enhancing Public Service Delivery to the Private Sector in Kazakhstan

- 9.00-9.10 **Presentation** by the Secretariat
- 9.10-9.20 **Presentation** by the Government of Kazakhstan
- 9.20-9.40 **Comments** by lead reviewers from France and the UK
- 9.40-9.55 **Open discussion**
- 9.55-10.05 **Final comments** from the Government of Kazakhstan
- 10.05-10.15 **Conclusion** by the Chair and the Secretariat

10.15-11.30 Strengthening Kazakhstan's Petrochemical & Chemical Sector through Vocational Education and Training

- 10.15-10.25 **Presentation** by the Secretariat
- 10.25-10.35 **Presentation** by the Government of Kazakhstan
- 10.35-10.55 **Comments** by lead reviewers from France and the UK
- 10.55-11.10 **Open discussion**
- 11.10-11.20 **Final comments** from the Government of Kazakhstan
- 11.20-11.30 **Conclusion** by the Chair and the Secretariat

11.30-11.45 CLOSING REMARKS OF THE ROUNDTABLE



Next Steps by a representative from the European Commission, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)

Closing remarks by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Pavel Rozsypal, Ambassador, and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OECD (tbc)

11.45-12.50 THEMATIC SESSION: MOBILISING MIGRANTS' SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

11.45-11.55 OPENING REMARKS

11.55-12.25 TOOLS AND PROCESSES

Presentation by the OECD Development Centre followed by a general discussion

12.25-12.45 EXISTING AND FUTURE OECD WORK IN EURASIA

Intervention by the OECD Development Centre followed by a discussion

12.45-12.50 CONCLUDING REMARKS

12.50-13.00 CLOSING OF EURASIA WEEK 2015

Closing remarks by Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director, GRS

DEPARTURE OF THE DELEGATIONS