

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OECD Forum Director and Head of Public Affairs
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
Public Affairs Division

18 July 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

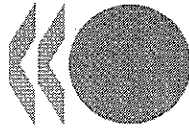
The OECD will be holding a High Level Parliamentary Seminar on Innovation, Growth and Equity at OECD headquarters in Paris on Thursday 4 October 2007 from 9.30am to 5pm (see attached draft agenda). These issues were at the top of the agenda at the Organisation's recent Ministerial Council Meeting where OECD countries agreed to invite Chile, Estonia, Israel, Russia and Slovenia to open discussions for membership of the Organisation and offered enhanced engagement, with a view to possible membership, to Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa.

This seminar will be an opportunity for the OECD Secretariat to have an exchange of views with parliamentary/legislative representatives on various aspects of innovation, growth and equity, and to identify how both sides can work more closely together to advance the OECD's fundamental mission of promoting peace, stability, prosperity, and democratic values through sound economic policies and good governance

I would be very grateful if you could transmit an invitation to participate in this event to relevant parliamentarians/legislators in your country and if you could inform Ms. Meggan Dissly of the Public Affairs Division (Tel: 01.45.24.80.94; E-mail: meggan.dissly@oecd.org) or Maggie Simmons, E-mail Margaret.simmons@oecd.org by Thursday 27 September of the names of participants from your country.

The following paragraphs give a brief description of some of the major issues at stake. Innovation performance is a crucial determinant of competitiveness, productivity and national progress. However, productivity is lagging or losing momentum in several OECD regions, and there is a need to improve the conditions for innovation through the further opening and integration of product and labour markets. Innovation has a crosscutting nature, in particular through the importance of education systems to ensure the supply of skills and of researchers, and the need to foster greater private investment in innovation, along with public investment. Eco-innovation can help countries address their environmental challenges. The struggle against IPR infringements, notably counterfeiting and piracy, is a key element in innovation strategies. At the same time, tools and networks that promote open access to knowledge and innovative products and processes are needed to ensure that IP policies continue to encourage innovation and foster the diffusion of knowledge. Thus it was at their May 2007 meeting, OECD Ministers welcomed the plans for developing an OECD Innovation Strategy.

Equitable sharing of the benefits of globalisation has become an issue of rising public concerns. While globalisation has been instrumental in promoting prosperity and reducing poverty, adjustment difficulties may arise from globalisation. Open markets entail the creation of jobs in sectors where new opportunities arise, but also job losses in declining sectors and occupations. There is also concern about the impact of globalisation on wage and income distribution, as it is proceeding in a context of wider inequalities.



Another stylised fact is that wage shares in national income have tended to edge down – and profit shares to rise – fuelling worries that globalisation might erode the ability of employees to fully share the gains it generates. Policies to enhance mobility in the labour market can also help individuals and firms to seize emerging opportunities in the world economy. Investing in human capital and skills, including training and life-long learning, is critical in helping countries and citizens adjust and thrive in an environment driven by innovation.

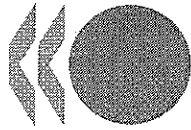
I look forward to welcoming parliamentarians/legislators from your country to this important seminar.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John West'.

John West



OECD HIGH-LEVEL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Innovation, Growth, Equity

4 October, 2007

DRAFT PROGRAMME

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9.00 - 9.30 | Welcome coffee |
| 9.30 - 10.00 | Opening remarks |
| 10.00 - 10.15 | Overview of innovation and growth |
| 10.15 - 11.00 | Discussion |
| 11.00 - 11.15 | Strengthening innovation performance |
| 11.15 - 12.00 | Discussion |
| 12.00 - 12.30 | Policy reforms |
| 12.30 - 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 - 14.15 | OECD workers in the global economy -- increasingly vulnerable? |
| 14.15 - 15.00 | Discussion |
| 15.00 - 15.15 | Globalisation and income distribution |
| 15.15 - 16.00 | Discussion |
| 16.00 - 17.00 | Conclusions and closing remarks |