



# World Bank Update

PARLIAMENTARY NEWSLETTER

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Photographer, Paul Milsom

World Bank Vice President for External Affairs, Cyril Muller at CPA UK Conference in London

## CPA UK PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE MDGS

World Bank Vice President for External Affairs Mr. Cyril Muller on November 30 addressed an audience of about 55 MPs from 30 countries at the International Parliamentary Conference on the Millennium Development Goals, organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's UK branch. The conference focused especially on governance, accountability and the role of Parliamentarians in the run up to 2015. Vice President Muller in his presentation highlighted the World Bank's efforts to increase its focus on Results, strengthening Accountability and promoting Openness in development, and how this can also be a powerful tool for Parliamentarians. For more information or to read the summaries of conference sessions visit [www.parliament.uk/cpauk](http://www.parliament.uk/cpauk).



World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Rachel Kyte with Minister Maeda in Tokyo

## NATO PA TRANSATLANTIC FORUM

On December 5, Chief of Staff of the World Bank President's office Ms. Debbie Wetzel addressed the annual 'Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum' of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, sharing her views on the interlinkages between security and development. About 75 parliaments attended the session, and the following discussion was chaired by Assembly Vice-President, Chairman of its Economics and Security Committee, and member of the Lithuanian Parliament, Petras Austrevicius. Parti-

cipants were amongst others interested in the World Bank's role in addressing drought and poverty in the Horn of Africa; how we work in fragile situations; and the Bank's openness agenda. To learn more about our country work, see [www.worldbank.org/countries](http://www.worldbank.org/countries) or [www.worldbank.org/conflict](http://www.worldbank.org/conflict) for World Bank efforts in fragile and conflict affected countries.

## BUSAN CONFERENCE AND AID EFFECTIVENESS

The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation negotiated at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness amongst others concluded that "*Parliaments and local governments play critical roles in linking citizens with government, and in ensuring broad-based and democratic ownership of countries' development agenda*" and vowed to facilitate their contribution through: "a) Accelerate and deepen the implementation of existing commitments to strengthen the role of parliaments in the oversight of development processes, including by supporting capacity development - backed by adequate resources and clear action plans; b) Further support local governments to enable them to assume more fully their roles above and beyond service delivery, enhancing participation and accountability at the sub-national levels". Consult the agreement in full at [www.busanhlf4.org](http://www.busanhlf4.org). On November 30, World Bank Vice President Joachim von Amsberg met with a joint Parliamentary delegation from the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Network on the World

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Bank and the IMF, attending the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. The discussion amongst others focused on how to strengthen accountability in development through increased openness, and the Parliamentary delegation was interested in World Bank views on how to further strengthen the involvement of MPs in the consultation processes for Country Assistance Strategies. Von Amsberg noted that the World Bank will no longer provide budget support unless receiving countries publish their budgets, or commit to do so within a year. To learn more about the World Bank's development efforts, see [www.worldbank.org/mdgs](http://www.worldbank.org/mdgs)

## PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL

**I**n the Nordics, on November 8 to 10 - Parliamentarians in Finland and Norway met with World Bank Senior Management to discuss development issues and the global economy. On November 8, World Bank Vice President for Concessional Finance, Mr. Axel van Trotsenburg, met with members of the Finnish Parliament, in a meeting chaired by Mr. Kimmo Sasi of the National Coalition Party, Chair of the Finance Committee in Parliament. The World Bank commended Finland for its strong support for development assistance, and encouraged Finland to stay engaged in development. Axel van Trotsenburg also invited MPs to scrutinise the work of the World Bank, and to visit World Bank projects and country of-

fices in the field, if or when travelling to developing countries. Parliamentarians were interested in the World Bank's views on the effectiveness and coordination of aid; how to best avoid corruption; and how the WB is helping countries benefit from natural resource revenues. On November 9, World Bank Chief Economist Justin



Lin met with the Finance Committee in the Norwegian Parliament. The discussions focused on how to support global growth, and the World Bank stressed the rising role of developing countries for global growth and highlighted that supporting investments in developing countries' infrastructure could be a global win-win solution. On November 10, Vice President Axel van Trotsenburg met with the Foreign Policy Committee in the Norwegian Parliament. The World Bank's move towards openness was welcomed, as well as the focus on outcomes and results. The discussion focused on the Bank's role in supporting the MDGs, and how it makes sense for Norway to stay engaged in multilateral fora, especially as new and emerging countries are increasing their global influence. For more information please contact [jkopperud@worldbank.org](mailto:jkopperud@worldbank.org).

**L**ondon, UK, on November 23 - During the UK launch of the World Development Report (WDR)-2012 on Gender Equality and Development, World Bank Sector Director Sudhir Shetty and World Bank Gender Specialist Ana Maria Munoz Boudet presented the findings of the report to members of the International Development Committee (IDC) in the House of Commons. The MPs gathered were very supportive of the WDR and felt it was extremely timely. They asked a broad range of questions to which the drafting team expertly summarized the main messages for them to take away. For more information, see [www.worldbank.org/gender](http://www.worldbank.org/gender) and [www.worldbank.org/wdr2012](http://www.worldbank.org/wdr2012).

**T**okyo, Japan, on November 18 - World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development Rachel Kyte visited Japan on November 17-18. The World Bank Office in Tokyo organized a meeting with the Japanese chapter of the Parliamentary Network (PN) on the World Bank and IMF, and the Global Legislators Organization (for a Balanced Environment) GLOBE, Japan. Thirteen parliamentarians from both groups including former Foreign Minister Koumura, Chair of PN, Japan, participated in the meeting. Mrs. Kyte also had bilateral meetings with Mr. Maeda, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and with Mr. Yokomitsu, Senior Vice Minister of Environment, as well as with some additional key parliamentarians. For more information please contact [ktaniguchi@worldbank.org](mailto:ktaniguchi@worldbank.org)



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**Brussels, on November 8** - Team Leader for Global Climate Policy Jarl Krausing represented the Bank in a seminar on “Implementing CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) COP10 outcomes in Developing countries: Which strategy for resource mobilization?”, organized by the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development. The event was hosted by MEP Charles Goerens (Luxemburg) and attended by approximately 40-50 MEPs, advisors, and International NGO representatives. In his presentation, Jarl Krausing focused on the Bank’s work on biodiversity, innovative resource mobilization as well as the WAVES and OCEANS programmes. For more information please contact glaryea@worldbank.org.

**Serbia, on November 30** - Country Manager for Serbia Loup Brefort presented key priorities of the World



Bank Group’s next 4-year program in Serbia in a consultative meeting with members of the Serbian Parliament. Hosted by the Deputy Chair of Finance Committee, the meeting was an opportunity to share and discuss with a group of 15 MPs the areas of future engagement of the World Bank in Serbia where it can support the country’s development efforts in the process of EU accession. It comes in

a timely moment ahead of the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) Board discussion and months ahead of the parliamentary elections next spring. For more information, please contact mpopovic@worldbank.org.

## SELECTION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### *Consultations on Country Strategies*

The World Bank regularly engages parliamentarians and other constituencies during consultations on the Country Strategies. For example, in December, the Board is scheduled to review the Country Assistance Strategies (CASes) for Bolivia, Serbia and Tuvalu as well as the Country Partnership Strategies (CPSes) for the Russian Federation and Vietnam. In January, the Board is scheduled to review the CPS for Jordan and the Interim Strategy Note (ISN) for Togo. In all these countries, members of parliament were involved in the meetings/preparations (at national and/or regional levels) that shape the strategies. In the Russian Federation, the CPS is also going to be presented to the newly elected members of the parliament in due time after the December 4th parliamentary elections.”

### *November 17-December 12 – E-Learning Parliaments & Budget*

This course provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of the role and responsibilities of parliaments and the budgetary process. Next session will be on March 5-30, 2012. <http://einstitute.worldbank.org/ei/course/parliaments-and-budget>

### *November 1-December 31- SP&L Strategy Consultations (Phase 2)*

The World Bank is preparing a new Social Protection and Labor (SP&L) Strategy which will serve to guide its work in SP&L in the decade to come 2012-2022. The final strategy is expected to be launched in 2012 after feedback from a second round of consultations has been incorporated. We encourage you to share your views at [www.worldbank.org/spstrategy](http://www.worldbank.org/spstrategy)

### *Save the Date - March 14-16 – Private Sector Development, Kigali*

The World Bank - together with other partners - is supporting a Parliamentary Conference focusing on Private Sector Development in Africa, hosted by the Government and Parliament of Rwanda, and led by the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF ([www.pnowb.org](http://www.pnowb.org)).

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Food Price Watch*

Global food prices remain high and volatile, hitting the poorest countries hardest and adding to the strains facing the global economy, according to the World Bank Group’s new Food Price Watch released early in November. While the Bank’s food price index has dropped 5 percent from its February 2011 peak and dipped marginally in September by one percent, it remains 19 percent above its September 2010 levels. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/FP9N9EPM90>





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## ***World Bank Projects Sluggish Growth for the SEE Economies in 2011 and 2012***

While a global slowdown and recent turbulence in the Eurozone have shaken economies of the six countries in South East Europe (SEE), their deeper integration with the European Union (EU) remains the best long term prospect for their growth, according to “South East Europe Regular Economic Report” released on November 15. The special feature of the present (semi-annual) report is the focus on education, and on Research and Development (R&D) and Innovation. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/PP0G9OR540>

## ***East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Economic Update***

Growth is still strong in developing East Asia, but continues to moderate mainly due to weakening external demand, underscoring the need for governments to refocus on reforms to increase domestic demand and productivity, says the World Bank in its latest East Asia and Pacific Economic Update released on November 22. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/YKZACSKOJ0>

## ***Unfinished Business? The WTO’s Doha Agenda***

What benefits does each element of the Doha Development Agenda currently offer individual participants? What are the implications of proposed modifications to the Doha

drafts? And what have we learned from Doha about “fresh, credible approaches” to trade negotiations and the new challenges for the multilateral trade system? Published on November 8, the Book offers timely, comprehensive analysis of the Doha Round and options for moving forward. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/WV3WI1ASS0>

## ***World Report on Disability***



World Bank Vice President of the Human Development Network Tamar Manuelyan Atinc presented the report’s findings to members of the European Parliament on December 7 in Brussels. More information at [www.worldbank.org/disability](http://www.worldbank.org/disability)

## NEWS

## ***World Bank Hailed as Global Aid Transparency Leader***

A new report released from Publish What You Fund on November 15 rated the Bank as “best performer” in terms of aid transparency and ranked the institution #1 out of 58 donors in

the index. The report, the 2011 pilot Aid Transparency Index follows the 2010 Aid Transparency Assessment produced by Publish What You Fund, a U.K.-based coalition of civil society organizations working on governance, aid effectiveness, and access to information. The report can be accessed at <http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/resources/index/2011-index/>.

## ***New Climate Change Portal***

How much will temperatures rise in 30, 40, or 50 years? How could changing weather affect rain-fed crops in the Horn of Africa, or winter flooding and summer droughts in Uzbekistan? And what should countries do to prepare for more intense droughts and storms? These are the kinds of questions the World Bank hopes to answer with this new Climate Change Knowledge Portal, launched on November 23. More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/OGGRM-H6XP0/>

## ***Open Aid Partnership***

The World Bank, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Finland announced on November 25 their endorsement of the Open Aid Partnership to visualize their development assistance through innovative technologies, particularly through web-based open collaborative maps. The Open Aid Partnership (OAP) is facilitated by the World Bank Institute (WBI). More information at <http://go.worldbank.org/J466JBSPS0>