

# **INVESTMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

## **AGENDA**

**BERLIN, GERMANY  
MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY  
EICHENSAAL  
(OAK HALL)  
BERLIN, GERMANY**

**4 – 5 NOVEMBER 2008**

Over the last five years, the real GDP of the countries of Central Asia has increased by 8 to 10 per cent on an annual basis. However, there are economic growth disparities and fluctuations between the different countries. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) levels and growth are still relatively low and there is limited FDI diversification in most countries. Therefore there is a need for an improved business climate to attract investment and develop overall competitiveness.

**The OECD and the OSCE/Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA)** organised a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, on 11-12 July 2006 to discuss the possibilities for developing an initiative on investment and development in the Central Asia and Black Sea regions. The meeting concluded by government representatives from both regions giving their support to the development of a result-oriented regional Initiative proposal that would help to improve the business and investment environments.

Since then **the format of the Initiative** was outlined to include a structured process for promoting policy reform and exchange of best practices at sectoral and national levels, and, when appropriate, at regional level. The Initiative offers the formation of regional working groups for interested countries in areas of their priority.

The countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia are invited by the OECD and the OSCE/OCEEA to attend a **regional conference on Investment and Competitiveness in Central Asia** which will be **organised in Berlin on 4-5 November 2008**. This event takes place in conjunction with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Economy in Central Asia which is organised by the GTZ and the DIHK on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The purpose of the conference is to:

- **Discuss regional investment and competitiveness challenges and policy priorities.**
- **Identify a set of common policy areas to be addressed through regional working groups:** for example, Investment Promotion and Industrial Policy; Trade Policy and Facilitation; Infrastructure (including land, transport and IT); Human Capital and Labour Regulations; and Financial Market Development.
- **Possibly endorse, through a concluding statement, the basis for the Initiative.**

The conference will be divided into two main sessions: A Preparatory Session on Tuesday afternoon on 4 November and a Ministerial Session the following day, in the morning.

The Preparatory Session's main goal is to discuss policy priorities for the region to enhance investment and competitiveness. The participants may suggest themes for the regional working groups and potential chairing roles.

The Ministerial Session's main goal is to endorse the objectives and key principles of the Initiative, together with the action plan to be implemented at a regional level.

Please find below the suggested agenda for the Conference.

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## DRAFT AGENDA

**TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2008**

**PREPARATORY SESSION**

<b>16:30-16:45</b>	<b>WELCOMING REMARKS</b>  <b>OECD, OSCE, Ministry of Economics and Technology</b>
<b>16:45 -18:30</b>	<b>COMMENTS BY PARTICIPANTS FROM CENTRAL ASIA, AFGHANISTAN AND MONGOLIA</b>  <b>Every country of the region is kindly requested to present its perspectives and its policy priorities to enhance Investment and Competitiveness</b>
<b>18:30 -19:15</b>	<b>PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED INITIATIVE FOR CENTRAL ASIA AND IDENTIFICATION OF COMMON PRIORITIES</b>  <b>OECD, OSCE, Ministries from countries of the region This session will include questions and answers</b>
<b>19:15</b>	<b>RECEPTION</b>

**WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2008**

**MINISTERIAL SESSION**

<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>REGISTRATION AND COFFEE</b>
<b>9:30-10:00</b>	<b>WELCOMING REMARKS</b>  <b>High-level German Representatives High-level OECD and OSCE Representatives</b>
<b>10:00-12:00</b>	<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS: ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD</b>  <b>Statements by Ministers and High-level Representatives from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Mongolia, OECD Countries, Private Sector and International Organisations</b>
<b>12:00 -12:30</b>	<b>CONCLUDING STATEMENT</b>
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b> <b>13:45</b>	<b>BUFFET – LUNCH</b>  <b>BUS TRANSFER TO THE HOUSE OF GERMAN BUSINESS (THE 3<sup>RD</sup> CONFERENCE ON ECONOMY IN CENTRAL ASIA, WHICH IS ORGANISED BY THE GTZ AND THE DIHK ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WILL START AT 14:30 )</b>