



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
The Secretariat**

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**PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE  
NINTH MEETING OF THE OSCE ECONOMIC FORUM**

**"GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
SECTORS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF  
GLOBALIZATION"**

**Brussels, 30 and 31 January 2001**

**CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY OF THE OSCE SEMINAR ON “GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GLOBALIZATION” .....3

### REPORTS OF THE WORKING GROUP RAPPORTEURS

Working Group I: Horizontal Aspects .....6

Working Group II: Sectoral Aspects.....8

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION: CHAIRMAN’S CONCLUDING STATEMENT .....10

PROGRAMME OF THE SECOND PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR THE NINTH MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC FORUM ON “GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GLOBALIZATION” .. 12

INTRODUCTORY NOTE..... 16

Annex: List of participants



## **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe**

### **SUMMARY OF THE OSCE SEMINAR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF GLOBALISATION**

**BRUSSELS, 30 - 31 JANUARY 2001**

1. On 30 and 31 January 2001, the European Commission hosted the seminar on “Good Governance in the Public and Private Sectors against the Background of Globalization”. The event was prepared jointly by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the European Commission in co-operation with the Chair-in-Office. Representatives of many OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, the business and academic community as well as numerous international organizations and NGO's participated. The seminar was the second in a series of three designed to provide input for the Ninth Economic Forum and to involve fully the transition economies from Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the ongoing international debate.

2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Pascal Lamy, the EU Commissioner for Trade, who provided an EU perception on the importance of good governance in relation to sustainable economic development at the global level. Mr. Lamy elaborated on international trade, environmental and other issues, and underlined the need for increased co-operation among countries, as well as improved economic integration of countries in transition. The Commissioner welcomed the joint OSCE-EC seminar as an opportunity to develop strategies on ways to improve collective governance, thereby managing the forces of globalization.

3. The Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship for the year 2001, Mr. Daniel Daianu, underscored the need for good governance in the era of globalization. He discussed how values and principles could be reconciled with market forces. The Representative welcomed information technology and trade liberalization, but emphasized that these issues need to be “managed”. It was the intention of the Chairmanship that the economic dimension of OSCE would be given higher priority. The Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Mr. Thomas L. Price, stressed that a definition of good governance needed to be clearly articulated, as it was not synonymous with “good government”. He outlined key elements of good governance, namely transparency, accountability, participation, predictability and commitment to human security.

4. Keynote speakers and participants discussed the effects of good governance in the public and private sectors in the era of globalization. Mr. Daniel Kaufmann of the World Bank underscored the importance of civil society, the power of information and knowledge transfer, the capabilities of political leadership and collective action. The Vice-Chairman of Transparency International, Mr. Dieter Frisch, highlighted the fact that good governance was decisive for good government, especially in countries of transition where resources were

scarce and the needs high. Mr. Shabbir Cheema from the United Nations Development Programme discussed the role of the private sector in countries in transition who by becoming more socially responsible could ensure the proper accountability of the state. He further emphasized that governance within borders of countries in transition was no longer a closed system as globalization forced local actors to change their way of government. Mr. Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and Mr. Konrad Schwaiger, Member of the European Parliament, spoke on how parliamentarians can work to promote global dialogue, legal frameworks and institutional reform in countries of transition. It was agreed that the international organizations present had a special responsibility to address these issues.

5. Working Group I discussed the increasing international interdependence that shifted power from the sovereignty of individual states to regional and global forces. It underlined the need for reform of the public administration as a way to promote good governance. Discussion also centered on the role of the media, corporate governance and the role of civil society in addressing the horizontal aspects of good governance. A general consensus developed that international intergovernmental organizations, also in co-operation with each other, should pay particular attention to good governance as an instrument for governments to promote their objectives at the service of their citizens. Working Group II (sectoral issues) dealt with the effects of dismantling trade barriers and the liberalization of the financial markets and the challenges for good governance, which was essential for international trade, investment and finance. The challenges of institutions and mechanisms at the international level to prevent and manage financial instability and crises were discussed. Furthermore, good governance in employment and labor practices, which had security dimensions, was also addressed. On the environmental side, there was a broad consensus that good governance should also involve civil society. Participants noted that some issues are relevant at a global level; however, the bulk of the work in improving standards should remain at the national and local levels.

6. In the Closing Plenary it was recommended that international financial institutions strengthen the requirements for financial assistance by linking international aid to the quality of governance. Concern was expressed that countries in transition were being increasingly sidelined; therefore the need for a global “ethic” which nonetheless respects the diverse conditions in different countries. Moreover, the role of civil society should be recognized, as this would be crucial in raising awareness of good governance. Guidelines and manuals for good governance could also be prepared for the civil sector. It was also suggested that a conference for small and medium enterprises in countries in transition, with the theme of “the role of the business community in good governance”, could be envisaged. In addition, the OSCE as a forum for security dialogue was also recognized, and recommendations were made to enhance its role. The OSCE should continue its efforts to raise awareness, as well as to train officials, build the capacity of NGOs, foster freedom of the media, and expand the involvement of OSCE field missions in these discussions. The strengthening of the economic and environmental dimension of OSCE was also proposed. Finally, greater participation from representatives of economies in transition would be desirable for further discussion on these topics. These ideas could be pursued at the next preparatory seminar to be held in Bucharest on 27 -28 March, as well as the Ninth Economic Forum to be held in Prague on 15 - 17 May 2001.

7. In the concluding statement from the chair of the closing plenary session, Mr. Mats Ringborg, Director General in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, underlined that the seminar was a good example of the Platform for Co-operative Security in action. Mr. Ringborg stressed the positive contribution of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension to the efforts of the Organization towards conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. He explained that the discussion that developed in the meeting had generated ideas that need to be taken up in the appropriate contexts. Mr. Thomas L. Price, in his concluding remarks, stressed that good governance has to be based on an explicit set of values. He outlined fundamental elements of good governance, quoting the example of the Aarhus Convention, as transparency, accountability, access to information, public participation in decision-making, and the right of citizens to judicial remedy and access to justice. Working in accordance with the platform for co-operative security gives the OSCE the scope to foster good governance among participating States. Mr. Daniel Daianu insisted on the need to improve instruments dealing with such issues as organised crime and competition for increasingly scarce resources. The role of public policy should be enhanced and the economic dimension of security should be given a higher profile in the OSCE.

## **WORKING GROUP I - HORIZONTAL ASPECTS**

### **RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT**

Having set the discussion's general framework by the distinguished keynote speakers during the first day's morning session, the participants in the first working group engaged in lively and animated discussion on the present seminar theme. With a pro-active approach, the participants endeavoured to go beyond the "Gov'n and Globe" topic that characterises such gatherings, by identifying concrete suggestions and proposals for the Economic Forum.

Participants underlined the need for a clear definition of concepts, thus facilitating a generally accepted frame for expressing ideas and searching ways and means for addressing the complex issues of good governance.

Discussion focussed on the growing international interdependence that shifted the regulatory power and responsibilities from the individual states to the regional and global entities or organizations, with the concrete case study on the European Union. It underlined the need for reform, particularly the need for public administration reforms as means to promote good governance. In transition countries, it was illustrated by a case study on Georgia. At the same time, the discussion referred to the role of the media, including the internet, corporate governance and the role of civil society and social partners in addressing the horizontal aspects of good governance.

During the discussions, new concepts such as "situationism", "disillusionment", "globophobia", "de-nationalizing and de-ethnicizing the interests", "telephone justice" emerged, thus enriching the existing vocabulary, and, at the same time, illustrating new concerns and challenges regarding the globalisation.

The general opinion is that international and intergovernmental organizations should pay particular attention to good governance, being instruments for the national governments to promote national objectives. At the same time, an increased coherence among the international organizations would be required in order to ameliorate their activities.

As indicated in Almaty, there is growing interest among the participants regarding good governance as a requirement for all the countries within the OSCE area. Corruption, or better to say, countering corruption, was seen as a key element in promoting good governance, but not the only one.

Proposals:

While good governance is not an economic matter only, participants suggested to enhance the OSCE competitive advantage in promoting good governance by involving the field presences and offering models to the local authorities.

OSCE should continue to offer a platform for dialogue and discussions, awareness raising and training on this topic. It is very important to involve the governments of countries in transformation as closely as possible in the discussion process, so as to alleviate their feeling of being excluded from the general trends and processes.

It should set and facilitate the implementation of guidelines and or manuals on good governance and common procedures both for the civil society and business community on good governance and ways to promote it. In this respect, the possibility to set under the OSCE umbrella a Forum between the transnational companies, small and medium size business community and NGOs as parts of civil society for promoting human rights and good governance was also suggested.

In spite of existing challenges, fostering the freedom of the media as well as genuine adherence to the rule of law was seen as an important tool.

OSCE should get more involved in training of officials and NGOs on the issue of promoting good governance and best practices in the field. OSCE should contribute to and spread information on success stories. It should also encourage the corporate responsibility of transnational companies for offering models of good governance, decency, fairness, solidarity, performance and competitiveness.

## **WORKING GROUP II - SECTORAL ASPECTS**

### **RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT**

Participants discussed the effects of the dismantling of trade barriers and the liberalization of financial markets, as well as the challenges for good governance.

In international **trade**, participants noted that the World Trade Organization has strengthened good governance by promoting *inter alia* a dispute resolution system, transparency and an internationally integrated program for development assistance. But participants argued that further reforms were necessary in order to respond effectively to the need to alleviate poverty, remedy some of the imbalances and injustices in market access, and reduce the level of protection given to agriculture.

It was recognised that the process of enacting new WTO trade rules should not go faster than the capacity of the states to implement these. In this regard, participants agreed that further assistance would be required to help states, including the economies in transition, meet their commitments. Of some concern for these economies is how SMEs will survive under a system of open public procurement. The implementation of such a rule in the WTO, it was pointed out, is however open to negotiation and a case for some temporary special preference could be discussed. Services, e.g. health and education, may be included in the next round of trade liberalization and, it was suggested that there will be opportunities to shape these agreements in ways that can build in safeguards to protect those who cannot afford to pay for such services.

One suggestion to improve the capacity of some of the transition economies in trade negotiations is to prepare a negotiation platform in preparation for the next trading round, taking account of their comparative advantages in human capital and resources. In order to improve transparency, it would be useful to invite NGOs to submit commentaries on how to introduce further the principle of justice in international trade into such a platform.

International private **capital** flows are now a major source for promoting growth and productivity in emerging markets. At the same time it was agreed that the increased frequency and virulence of international currency and financial market crises suggests that financial instability is systemic in nature and global in reach. Given that a wholesale retreat from greater openness is neither likely nor desirable, national policy efforts are unlikely to be sufficient by themselves to deal with future financial crises. Moreover there is a need to establish institutions and mechanisms at the international level in order to reduce the likelihood of such crises and to manage them better when they occur.

Discussion of reform the global financial architecture is moving forward but its eventual outcome is not clear. In this uncertain environment discussions centered on three levels with some possible follow-ups at each level:

1. Many governments, especially those with transition economies, have shown increased interest in regional arrangements to protect themselves from speculative attacks and financial crises. The outstanding achievement in this respect is the EMU that has



eliminated fluctuations in the exchange rates of its members while providing for considerable mobility of capital. It would be useful to determine whether and how such regional arrangements and particularly the EMU could provide a haven and anchor for the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe.

2. It was considered essential to help in preventing financial crises that national governments take appropriate steps to ensure proper macroeconomic stability and good governance.
3. Transition economies need more guarantees that their achievements in good governance and macroeconomic stabilization will not be overturned by speculative attack. In this regard it was suggested that a special conference/working group to discuss improving the role of IMF to develop better international monitoring, early warning, and support for the transition economies in managing and avoiding financial crises. Such a meeting should report to the UN Financing for Development process and would be a useful contribution to the High Level event planned in 2002.

It appears that in discussing how globalization has affected other aspects that a largely informal or improvised system of governance has been developed to manage globalization. In the field of employment it was mentioned that standards which emphasized qualitative aspects of employment such as 'decent work' were useful. Such standards would be necessary to improve the society in the EU region and also amongst transition economies. Often government involvement was not necessary to achieve such standards: the task could be left to the employers and trade unions. It was, however, stressed that for ensuring employment protection, Governments should permit the development of strong independent trade unions. Good governance in employment also has security dimensions. It was pointed out that labor discrimination against certain ethnic groups was often an early warning of conflict and it was suggested that the ILO and UN/ECE could work together to strengthen this monitoring for conflict prevention.

Moreover issues such as BSE or 'mad cows disease' in beef and other food safety issues have demonstrated the need to take account of the consumer in the development of trade and other standards. In environment there was a broad consensus that good governance should also involve the civil society and that the UN/ECE Aarhus Convention on access to information and justice was the best model of such an international instrument and could be used for other sectors. It was, however, argued that while international structures in the field of trade are strong there is a need for a strong international environmental counterpart and it would be useful to see better cooperation between UNEP, WTO and other bodies. It was further suggested that the role of environment be strengthened within OSCE, given its importance in security concerns.

Participants noted that these issues were extremely important for good governance and that the bulk of the work in improving standards would remain at the national and local levels. It was pointed out that a greater participation from representatives of the transition economies would be desirable for further discussions on these topics at OSCE.

## **CLOSING PLENARY SESSION**

### **CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

We have come to the end of two days of intense debate on good governance in the public and private sectors in the perspective of globalisation. By all accounts, it has been a most enriching experience. Thanks to the high quality of the speakers, their contributions and the debate they inspired, we have received considerable food-for-thought on a theme, which everyone has recognised as a key challenge for us all.

No summary could do justice to the variety of subjects raised and the many ideas and suggestions put forward.

Good governance has been high on the international agenda in recent years. Experience with the transition towards a market economy shows that strong democratic institutions and the rule of law are essential preconditions for good economic performance, balanced economic development and the integration of emerging market economies into the international economic system. Factors underlying good governance, such as transparency, accountability and the rule of law have been highlighted, together with symptoms of bad governance, such as corruption. The importance of benchmarking as a means of assessing progress and of identifying best practices were underlined.

Globalisation, as the growing internationalisation of investment, trade and finance, offers opportunities, but also entails challenges for all countries. Globalisation means that good governance becomes all the more important from the point of view of attracting foreign direct investment. Good governance is essential for a good investment climate. And investment is something we all need and want. Public administration reform in transition countries is a highly topical issue in this context.

The important role which Parliaments can play in shaping the legislative process, their control function and their role in leading the political debate by raising public awareness and integrating citizen's views, was also addressed. The need for effective control mechanisms, including through an independent judiciary or Ombudsman institutions, was emphasised. Moreover, the role of independent media, of business corporations and of the civil society was highlighted, as they are crucial for the adjustment of societies to the new environment. Focus was put on the role of international institutions and organisations for global governance, while recognising the prime responsibility of national governments. European governance attracted major interest, for its relevance for developments on the continent, not least in the perspective of EU enlargement and the leadership role of the EU in the Stability Pact, and because of the contribution that the European Union makes to the development of fundamental principles and values. Pressure to deal with environmental problems has demonstrated forcefully the need to develop good governance practices world-wide.

International trade, international financial flows, labour standards, food safety and consumer protection as well as environmental governance are areas where the effects of globalisation are most often felt and where public authorities have to adapt to new circumstances. The full participation of OSCE participating States in the relevant international organisations and institutions - and, in particular the WTO - is desirable to ensure their effective integration in to the world economic system. There is a need to strengthen the open, rule-based multilateral

trading system so as to ensure that the global economy works effectively. At the same time, we must ensure that efficiency is combined with social justice.

Starting from its comprehensive concept of security, the OSCE, as a political and security organisation, rightly addresses issues such as economic globalisation, which might impact on the stability of political systems and on internal and international security. By bringing in expertise, where available, and by involving a large variety of actors, both in government and from the civil society, the OSCE can make its own contribution to the ongoing international debate.

The Seminar, it seems to me, is a good expression of this on-going endeavour. It brings together technical expertise - in particular, from the many specialised international institutions and organisations - with the political and security perspective of the OSCE delegations of participating States and the OSCE bodies and field presences, as well as the voices of civil society. This approach is fully in line with the OSCE concept of the Platform for Co-operative Security.

In fact, this Seminar is a good example of the Platform in action. It is not only interesting from the intellectual point of view, but is also, I believe, a positive contribution of the OSCE economic and environmental dimension to the efforts of the organisation towards conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. The importance of trade policy arrangements based on WTO principles in this context should not be underestimated - the development of economic integration in Western Europe being the prime example.

The discussion we have had at this meeting has generated ideas that I am sure will be taken up in the appropriate contexts. Within the OSCE, the ideas should be pursued, for example in the Permanent Council in Vienna or at the meetings of the Economic Forum in Prague.

I am convinced that the discussion over the past two days offers us a wealth of ideas and suggestions for our future work. The next preparatory Seminar, in Bucharest in late March, and the Economic Forum, in Prague in mid-May, will provide further opportunities to examine such ideas in more detail and to identify operational objectives for OSCE, with its overall security perspective. They will permit us to identify some priorities for work among OSCE bodies by OSCE field missions. They will also suggest ways forward for both the OSCE and for the other international institutions and organisations active in this field, with which the OSCE is bound to co-operate under the Platform for Co-operative Security.

We look forward to receiving the consolidated summary of these proceedings, which the OSCE Secretariat will prepare. In closing, I would like to thank the speakers, the moderators, the rapporteurs, the OSCE Secretariat and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and his staff, the European Commission for its intellectual input and generous hospitality, and, last but by no means least, the interpreters.

Brussels, 31 January 2001



European Commission



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**Preparatory Seminar for the OSCE Economic Forum 2001**

**Brussels, 30-31 January 2001**

***"Good Governance in the Public and Private Sectors against the Background of Globalisation"***

**30 January 2001**

10.00 - 11.00 **Opening plenary session** (open to the press)

Chair: Mr Daniel Daianu, Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office (Romania)

**Opening speeches by:**

- Mr Pascal Lamy, Member of the European Commission
- Mr Daniel Daianu, Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office (Romania)
- Mr Thomas L. Price, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Coffee break**

11.00 - 13.30 **Keynote statements** (open to the press)

**- Good governance - concept, factors, economic impact**

Speakers:

- Mr Daniel Kaufmann, The Government and Public Sector Reform Group, World Bank
- Mr Dieter Frisch, Vice-Chairman, Transparency International – Brussels, former Director General for Development, European Commission

**- Globalisation - how does it affect good governance in the public and private sectors?**

Speaker:

- Mr Shabbir Cheema, Director, Management Development and Governance Division, UNDP

**- The role of Parliaments**

Speakers:

- Mr Adrian Severin, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
- Mr Konrad Schwaiger, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur on WTO Affairs

**Discussion**

**13.30 Lunch offered by the host**

**Working Groups I and II meet in parallel in 4 sessions.**

Session 1 15.00 - 16.30

Session 2 17.00 - 18.30

18.30 Buffet-Reception offered by the host

**31 January 2001**

Session 3 10.00 - 11.30

Session 4 12.00 –13.30

13.30 Lunch offered by the host

**Working Group I – Horizontal aspects**

Moderator: Dr. Barbara Haering, MP Switzerland, Rapporteur of the II Committee of the OSCE PA

Rapporteur: Mr Traian Hristea, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

**Working Group II – Sectoral Aspects**

Moderator: Mr Philip Bowring, International Herald Tribune

Rapporteur: Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, UN/ECE

<b>30.01.01 – WG I – Session 1-2/ from 15:00 till 18:30</b>	<b>30.01.01 – WG II – Session 1-2/ from 15:00 till 18:30</b>
<b>Global governance – the role of international institutions and organisations.</b> Speaker: Amb. Luzius Wasescha, Head of Department of World Trade, State Secretariat for Economy, Switzerland	<b>International trade (including competition policy, government procurement, and commerce).</b> Speakers: Mr. Robert Madelin, Director, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission Mr. Phil Bloomer, Head of Advocacy, OXFAM GB
<b>The EU system and the challenges to European Governance.</b> Speakers : Mr. Jérôme Vignon, Chief Advisor on European Governance, European Commission Mr. Tamas Kende, Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary	<b>International financial flows</b> Speakers: Mr. Georges Pineau, Deputy Director General, International and European Relations, European Central Bank. Mr. Ricardo Lago, Deputy Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Mr. Sergio Leite, Assistant Director, IMF Europe
<b>The importance of public administration reforms : the example of the transition countries</b> Speakers : Mr. Bob Bonwitt, Head of SIGMA-OECD Ms. Londa Esadze, Chairperson, Independent Board of Advisors of the Parliament of Georgia	
<b>Conference room 0 D</b>	<b>Conference room 0 C</b>

### **Working Group I – Horizontal aspects**

Moderator: Dr. Barbara Haering, MP Switzerland, Rapporteur of the II Committee of the OSCE PA

Rapporteur: Mr Traian Hristea, Permanent Mission of Romania to the OSCE

### **Working Group II – Sectoral Aspects**

Moderator: Mr Philip Bowring, International Herald Tribune

Rapporteur: Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton, UN/ECE

<b>31.01.01 – WG I –Session 3-4/ from 10:00 till 13:30</b>	<b>31.01.01 – WG II – Session 3-4/ from 10:00 till 13:30</b>
<b>The role of the media (including Internet).</b> Speaker: Prof. Jo Groebel, Director, European Institute for the Media	<b>Employment policies and labour standards.</b> Speakers: Ms. Emily Sims, ILO Mr. David Foden, Research Officer, European Trade Union Institute
<b>Corporate governance in the era of globalisation.</b> Spaeker: Mr. Peter A Hegedus, President and Country Manager, ABB Hungary	<b>Food Safety and Consumer Protection.</b> Speakers: Mr. Peter Prendergast, Director, Food and Veterinary Office, Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission
<b>The role of civil society and the social partners.</b> Speaker: Mr. Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights	<b>Environmental governance: towards sustainable development in the era of globalisation.</b> Speakers: Mr. Jay Austin, Environmental Law Institute Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Trade Division, UNEP Mr. Fernand Thurmes, Director, Directorate General for Environment, European Commission Mr. John Hontelez, Director, European Environmental Bureau
<b>Conference room 0 D</b>	<b>Conference room 0 C</b>

15.00 - 17.00 **Closing plenary session** (open to the press)

Chair: Mr Mats Ringborg, Director General for Trade Policy, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden)

- Reports of the Rapporteurs and recommendations for follow-up
- Discussion
- Conclusion of the Seminar:
  - Closing remarks of Mr. Thomas L. Price, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.
  - Closing remarks of Mr Daniel Daianu, Representative of the OSCE Chairman in Office (Romania).
  - Chairman's Concluding Statement

30.1.01

**Preparatory Seminar for the OSCE Economic Forum 2001**  
**Brussels, 30-31 January 2001**  
***"Good Governance in the Public and Private Sectors against the Background of Globalisation"***

**Introductory Note**

The theme of this year's OSCE Economic Forum (Prague 15-18 May 2001) is: "Transparency and Good Governance in Economic Matters". Second in a series of three preparatory seminars leading up to the Economic Forum, the Brussels seminar will focus on **good governance against the background of globalisation**.

This introductory note is intended to serve as a 'guide through the programme', briefly outlining the context and main elements of various contributions and formulating some basic questions which might be taken up during the discussion. Problems, experiences and approaches to cope with challenges for political systems (governance) stemming from globalisation will be addressed, bearing in mind the OSCE's political and security perspective.

The **opening plenary session** will examine, in three panels, the basic notions which provide the framework for the seminar.

1. The first panel will help to clarify the concept of good governance, identify factors which affect governance and illustrate how governance influences economic performance. Definitions of good governance refer to the "transparent and accountable management of all resources of a country for its political, economic and social development" or describe good governance as the "optimal set of rules applying to societal behaviour; rules must be simple, stable and/or predictable, non-discriminatory and effective". Factors underlying good governance relate to the principles of the rule of law, democracy and human rights as well as to strong institutions to implement such principles. Studies by the World Bank show that economic performance depends crucially on the existence of basic institutions and the respect for the principles of good governance.

2. Globalisation refers to the fast growing integration and interdependence of socio-economic developments world-wide, triggered by technological innovation (in information, transport, communications, biotechnology) and by the increasing openness of world markets of goods and services, including financial markets. Globalisation has had dramatic effects on sovereignty, on democratic accountability and legitimacy and, more importantly, on the real economy and on people. With globalisation there is an ever-growing need for international co-operation, co-ordination and common strategies to address common challenges (global governance).

3. Parliaments are key institutions in democratic political systems and exercise a legislative and a control function. Legislative acts must be followed up with consistent implementation in order to produce the desired results, but the quality of the legislative process and its outcome determine the prospects for implementation. The control function is equally essential (together with an independent judiciary) in ensuring that the executive branch and government agencies secure the effective implementation of laws enacted. Representatives from the OSCE PA and the European Parliament will focus on the challenges and responsibilities of Parliaments in global governance.



**Working Group I** will deal with horizontal aspects of good governance against the background of globalisation.

4. Growing international interdependence has reduced the possibilities of regulation by the states leading to the emergence of broader groupings (regional integration processes) and, thus, shifting the regulatory power and responsibilities from individual states to the regional and global level. New actors have emerged, such as multinational companies and transnational non-governmental organisations. Existing international institutions and organisations are undergoing a process of adjustment to face the new challenges. Global governance has become an issue at the heart of international debate.

5. The process of European integration is unique; the EU system represents a sui generis system of governance. As an evolving process, European integration is constantly facing new challenges, both internally and externally. European Governance defines the rules, processes and practices which determine how public powers are exercised, ensuring accountability, visibility, transparency, coherence and effectiveness. Globalisation is one source of multi-faceted challenges facing European societies. How will they attempt to tackle new problems? Will they adopt a reactive or rather a pro-active approach? How will they organise the complex interaction between citizens and social groups on the one hand and the political system on the other? Will this approach reinforce or weaken the legitimacy of the political systems and, more particularly, of the EU system? The Commission has started a broad reflection on these fundamental issues. An academic from an accession country will give an interesting complementary view.

6. During the last decade, the transition countries have undertaken major political and economic reforms. The tasks were immense and the results so far have been uneven, although positive overall. The lack of local experience could only partially be compensated by expertise from abroad. The need to secure public support often delayed the necessary reforms, but countries where reforms were pursued with determination and were sustained over sufficiently long periods have started reaping the benefits of reform. Public administration is a key element in managing the process of change. A major project of the OECD (sponsored by the EU) has been addressing the needs of public administration in Central and Eastern European countries. What are the experiences gained so far? Are there any lessons learned of relevance for other transition countries? A presentation from Georgia, while stressing the significance of country specific factors, also contributes to the broader debate by emphasising the need for clear separation of state and economic interests and for the rule of law. Technical measures could help to improve the situation, but the central difficulty remains how to break the vicious circle (e.g. low salaries - lead to tax evasion and/or corruption of officials - leading to low budget revenue, - leading to low salaries).

7. Information to the public and the control of government action and administrative acts are the essential functions of the media in a democratic system (sometimes termed as 'the fourth power'). Media cannot fulfil these functions without freedom, but they must exercise them with the necessary sense of responsibility. Modern societies are increasingly complex and globalisation will increase the complexity of problems and of the political processes called for to tackle them. Media are expected to make complex issues understandable to the average citizen, thereby both increasing the chances/prospects for them to make informed choices and enhancing the transparency and effectiveness of the political system.

8. In today's world economy, characterised by technological innovation, liberalisation and company restructuring (through mergers and acquisitions), market forces and large companies (multinationals, global corporations) seem sometimes to have a larger impact on people's lives than governments or regional and international organisations. In parallel, their sense of responsibility must increase. The representative of a global corporation explains that taking on such a new civic role, both locally and globally, corresponds to the interests of large corporations in the long run and mentions several areas (human rights, integration of persons belonging to minorities, environment, transparent business) where responsible behaviour vis-à-vis the society (alongside prime obligations to shareholders and employees) leads to a “win-win” situation.

9. The role of business and the civil society at large (including also NGOs, the media, academics, social partners, local authorities) is acquiring increased significance with globalisation. They can play a useful role in enhancing the legitimacy of the emerging global system. The separation of powers is a central principle of good governance. The role of civil society, in particular of the human rights community, in post communist countries and the process of civil society engagement in liberal democracies are highlighted in the contribution by the IHF.

**Working Group II** will illustrate - through reference to specific sectoral issues - the implications of the growing globalisation of investment, production and trade for the exercising of basic public functions and for the proper functioning of markets. How are traditional requirements for public policy and expectations towards government authorities affected? What are the new problems created by the increased global interdependence? What are the approaches chosen and the options considered in this regard and which solutions seem to be the most promising? What experiences did we already have with such solutions and what lessons can be drawn from these experiences? What are the implications for possible adaptations in the international institutional order?

10. After successive rounds of liberalisation at the regional and the global level, international trade is now facing new challenges related to social policy/labour as well as environmental standards, but also to competition rules, government procurement, electronic commerce etc. Do the rules and procedures of the WTO provide an institutional framework which is sufficient for regulating international trade in goods and services to the benefit of all countries and their citizens? Or is there a need for further improvement in the institutional set up? Is there a need for new international bodies? Which is the position of major trade blocks in this regard? Finally, in the context of this seminar, what does WTO bring to the search for good governance rules and how would the proposed new negotiating agenda for WTO improve governance?

11. Private international financial flows are inherently beneficial to the global economy, as they contribute to an efficient allocation of resources through cross-border redistribution of savings/investment balances. At the same time, free capital movements pose a number of new challenges for economic policy. In the second half of the 1990s there have been several cases where sudden reversals in private financial flows contributed to disruptive crises, both in the individual countries concerned and the global financial system. A key question is whether these reversals of financial flows are explained by economic fundamentals or by market failures, such as contagion effects and herd behaviour. The asymmetry between free capital movements, which take place at a global level, and policy-making, which remains mainly in the national domain, can have implications for financial stability and incite calls for enhanced

international co-operation. Recently the policy focus has shifted to crisis prevention and crisis management. The new situation is characterised by the move from a “government-led international monetary system” to a “market-led international monetary system”. The new institutional framework is based on a “*soft mode*”, where decisions are not legally binding. Two simple instruments are standards of best practices and the implementation of standards “on a best effort basis”. This contrasts with a “*hard mode*” such as the one prevailing in the EU. The effectiveness of the soft mode is essential for achieving an efficient functioning of the global financial system. But we are still faced with a number of major gaps. Four challenges should be highlighted, which the international community should try to address in the medium term: to harden the soft mode by enhancing, as needed, the functioning of international standard-setters versus national ones; to better enforce agreed standards; to develop inter-agency co-operation both at the policy and technical levels; and to monitor closely under-regulated financial centres.

12. Although the positive impact of social policies on economic performance is undeniable (as shown by the European social model, but also from experience in developing countries), increased pressures on competitiveness from expanded competition due to globalisation might have implications for social policies. Growing awareness of such problems led to the adoption, in 1998, of the UN Declaration on Principles and Fundamental Labour Rights. The so-called core labour standards, which had been previously defined in several ILO conventions, are: freedom of association and right to collective negotiation; elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; elimination of children's work; elimination of discrimination in terms of employment and profession. The Declaration explicitly mentions that labour standards should not serve for protectionist purposes in international trade. Can this institutional framework be considered sufficient? What about its implementation? To what extent do minimum labour standards, together with environmental standards and health protection, constitute 'international public goods' and what are the implications for global governance?

13. Food safety and consumer protection is a very interesting sector, not only because of the spectacular problems encountered in recent years, but also because there is a direct link to the consumer-citizen. The presentation by the Commission will explain the nature of the problems, the various options, the criteria applied to discriminate among them as well as the implementation of the solutions adopted. With respect to food safety, rules of traceability and labelling, controls by the Food and Veterinary Office and the proposal for a European Food Authority are examples of the approach chosen by the EU. Are there other approaches followed in other parts of the world? Is there a convergence of views or rather confrontation between different approaches? What are the implications of the 'precautionary principle' and, more generally, of health standards for international trade in food-stuffs? Similarly, with respect to general product safety, what are the lessons learned from the European experience? To what extent are such solutions interesting for other countries/regions? The point of view of those expressing the consumers' interests is highly relevant in this context. Can we draw some more general conclusions for good governance practices from experience in this particular field?

14. Climate change has highlighted the global nature of environmental issues. Although the trans-boundary nature of environment pollution was recognised as far back as the 1972 Stockholm Conference and reinforced at the Rio Conference twenty years later, environmental degradation, transnational disputes over management of shared natural resources, as well as population growth have increased the pressures on the global eco-

system. These pressures, coupled with economic disparities and globalisation which leads to more transport and energy intensive trade in goods, challenge the very concept of sustainable development. International environmental governance is about the integration of environmental objectives into other policy areas; it also concerns the coherence between commitments of states in different international instruments (e.g. WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements), common rules on environmental liability, questions of monitoring and implementation, and provision for increased public access to information and justice as well as participation in decision-making (Aarhus Convention). Possible scenarios include the establishment of a World Environment Organisation and more effective implementation of existing instruments.

Views of major players such as the US and the EU, as well as the UNEP and environmental NGOs, will be brought into the debate.



# **Final List of Participants**

**Preparatory Seminar for the Ninth OSCE Economic Forum**

***“Good Governance in the Public and Private Sectors against the  
Background of Globalisation”***

**Brussels, 30 – 31 January 2001**

**31 January 2001**

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