

# UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

## Bureau Meeting

3 December 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

### Report on the Meeting

**Present:**

**Bureau:** Mr. M. Pietarinen, Finland, Chair of CECI  
Mr. A. Popov, Belarus, Vice-Chair of CECI  
Mr. C. Reilly, United States, Vice-Chair of CECI  
Mr. S. Zecchini, Italy, Vice-Chair of CECI

**Secretariat:** Mr. R. Dobrinsky, Director, ECID  
Mr. G. Hamilton, Chief of Section, ECID  
Mr. J. Palacin, Officer-in-Charge of Section, ECID  
Mr. I. Adjoubei, ECID

#### **Item 1 – Comments on the fifth session of CECI**

1. The members of the Bureau and the members of the Secretariat present at the meeting introduced themselves. After that, the newly elected members of the Bureau commented on the fifth session of the Committee.

2. It was noted that the session was well organized; however it could be wrapped up in two days. During the session, more time could be devoted to substantive discussion and less to the reports on programme implementation. Presentations at the Substantive Segment should be shortened to highlights, leaving the room for comments from discussants representing various institutions – research institutes, private companies etc. enabling the exchange of good practices. This would enable having more diversified views on the subject of the discussion. More work could be dedicated to exploring impediments to economic cooperation and integration, including their international (cross-border) aspects. This would permit to better identify problems, for example in the areas of IPR protection and financing, where governments need to take corrective action. The discussion on the prospects of establishing a PPP Centre of Excellence was particularly important (S. Zecchini).

3. The reporting by the Teams of Specialists should be streamlined, making them as short as possible. Committee should have enough time to discuss strategic directions. Reports by TOSs could be presented in the form of executive summaries. The idea of Task Forces, addressing specific issues within individual thematic areas, should be supported. As an inter-governmental body, the Committee, through its report, could make its views known to other international organizations. Since the programme of work is quite broad, the Bureau might think of some form of “internal division of labour”, distributing responsibilities among its members to improve the monitoring of the programme implementations in specific areas (A. Popov).

4. The length of reporting at the session should be reduced to benefit the general discussion. The Committee should actively seek the sources of additional extra-budgetary funding for its

activities, and could actively use the methods of public-private partnerships to this end. (C. Reilly)

5. The Director of ECID informed the Bureau on the administrative and procedural rules governing the work of the secretariat, as well as on the decision making process related to the approval of the Committee's programme by the Commission and the renewal of mandates of its subsidiary bodies. He noted that the most immediate responsibility of the CECI Bureau/Chair is the reporting to the ExCom on the outcomes of the CECI session. This reporting could be done via a video link during the envisaged ExCom meeting in February 2011. He also invited the Bureau to explore the feasibility of a joint substantive meeting with the OECD within the framework of one or several thematic areas covered by the Committee.

**Item 2 – Next Bureau meeting**

6. The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in June 2011. It also agreed to decide on its venue in due course.