

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting, February 2nd, 2012.

TCOP Leadership Group held a video conference meeting February 2nd, 2012.

The meeting was attended by: Anila Cili (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Ketevan Chemia (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Andrei Demidov (Federal Treasury, Russia), Rustam Boboev (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (WB TTL), Ion Chicu (TCOP resource person).

At the beginning of the meeting, the participants welcomed the new members of the TCOP leadership group representing Russian Federation.

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Discussions on the status of Tbilisi workshop preparation
2. Discussions on the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report
3. Discussions on the TCOP activity plans for the first half of 2012
4. TCOP attendance of BCOP meeting
5. PEMPAL Virtual library and TCOPempal wiki page

I. Tbilisi workshop preparation

The meeting started with a brief update on the current status of Tbilisi TCOP workshop preparation and the discussion of the workshop draft agenda. The participants have agreed on the final list of presentations for Tbilisi workshop, the proposed format and timeframe for small group discussions sessions, as well as on the detailed agenda for each day of the workshop. TCOP Leadership group has decided to reschedule its meeting initially planned for February 29th, to the afternoon of Sunday, February 26th, 2012. The draft agenda of this meeting will be developed by February 13th, 2012.

Mrs. Elena Nikulina reminded the participants about the necessity of formulating questions for the small group discussions sessions, especially for the second session, devoted to the main topic of the workshop. It was agreed, that all TCOP leaders will provide their proposals for these questions by February 10th, 2012. The same date was agreed as a deadline for submitting country case presentations.

Mrs. Anila Cili has inquired about the status of invitations of international experts for facilitating small group discussions. As **Mrs. Elena Nikulina** has briefed the audience about the planned attendance of the experts invited to TCOP workshop in Tbilisi to deliver thematic presentations and participate in small group discussions.

II. PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation report

Mrs. Elena Nikulina launched the discussions on this item, informing the meeting participants about the recently performed evaluation of the PEMPAL program activity for 2009-2011 period, and the expected reactions to this report from the PEMPAL COPs. She has informed the audience about the process of PEMPAL 2-nd evaluation, which was launched in April 2011. The draft report of the evaluation was developed in October 2011 and intensively commented by PEMPAL members, including TCOP representatives. Some of these comments were incorporated by the Evaluator in the final version of the document.

During the videoconference, the TCOP leaders exchanged views on the main findings of the report, the most important conclusions, and on how to use more efficiently the recommendations of the Evaluation Report.

In order to facilitate the discussions on these issues, TCOP leaders were preliminarily provided with a Summary of the Evaluation Report, developed by community's resource team.

During the meeting, TCOP leaders have highly appreciated the quality and comprehensiveness of the Evaluation Report, mentioning especially its valuable recommendations for the PEMPAL strategy for the future. At the same time, TCOP leaders have repeatedly reiterated their comments on the first draft of the report, where the necessity of different approaches in the process of evaluation of the three PEMPAL CoPs was emphasized. This is applicable for such areas of evaluation as CoPs membership, their Executive Committees activities, as well as for the CoPs specific approaches to inviting participants to the organized events.

Mrs. Zaifun Yernazarova has launched the idea of developing in the future a common Methodology for treasury activities for TCOP countries, mentioning especially its relevance for the members of the Common Customs Union, established by some former Sovei union countries. She also suggested an establishment of a common Training Center for the public finance specialists from TCOP member countries.

Mr. Rustam Boboev has mentioned the necessity of developing a TCOP Strategy for the mid-term period, which will comprise the main areas of community's activities, plans for the future, TCOP approaches in such areas as community membership and coordination. He also supported the recommendation to develop PEMPAL knowledge products for its members' learning needs.

Mrs. Angela Voronin has supported Mr. Boboev's proposals. She also proposed to launch the discussions on TCOP Strategy development during community's workshop in Moscow. Also, the IACOP experience in developing Internal Audit Manual could be applied in TCOP specific activities.

Mrs. Natalia Sushko has supported the previous speakers proposals, mentioning the necessity of using right approach in the area of inviting relevant specialists for different thematic events conducted within PEMPAL CoPs.

Mrs. Anila Cili has additionally highlighted the existing differences between TCOP and IACOP in such areas as membership and thematic events attendance. IACOP approaches are not fully applicable to other PEMPAL CoPs, which usually invite a bigger number of participants, depending on the discussed topics, because the areas covered by BCOP and TCOP are much broader than in case of IACOP. Anila Cili proposed to create a dedicated joint working group within TCOP, in order to develop a Guideline for reforms in public sector accounting and reporting areas.

She also mentioned the Evaluation Report recommendations on ensuring an efficient coordination of PEMPAL CoPs Executive Committees, using the principle of rotation of EC chairs. Anila Cili supported, also, the proposal of involving the high level management of the TCOP member countries treasuries in PEMPAL events. As previous speakers, Anila Cili opted for a wider participation of TCOP members in community's events.

Nino Tchelishvili has underlined the importance of inviting relevant specialists to attend TCOP workshops, depending on the discussed topics. At the same time, it is critically important in her opinion to maintain the sustainability of community members network, to keep them permanently connected to TCOP current activities. She also mentioned the importance of using efficient Learning products in PEMPAL activities.

Mr. Andrei Demidov stressed the necessity of developing a TCOP Strategy and supported the idea of launching the discussions on this document during TCOP workshop, which the Russian Federal Treasury is ready to host in June 2012, in Moscow. He highly appreciated the PEMPAL Evaluation Report author recommendations and proposed to reflect some of them in the future TCOP Strategy and plans.

Mrs. Elena Nikulina highly appreciated TCOP leaders comments on the Evaluation Report, especially mentioning the proposals on TCOP Strategy development, PEMPAL Learning product developing, the format and principles of TCOP EC activity and coordination, and the approaches for strengthening community's membership. Elena Nikulina has informed the meeting participants that based on their comments and proposals to the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report, the TCOP resource team will propose the agenda of the Leadership Group meeting in Tbilisi, where the modalities and terms of the report recommendations implementation could be discussed and approved.

III. TCOP Activity Plan for January-June 2012

Mrs. Elena Nikulina has briefed the meeting participants on the latest changes in the financial situation of the PEMPAL program. Recently received additional financing¹ will allow PEMPAL CoPs to carry out a number of activities envisaged in the activity plans for the first half of 2012, which were earlier put on halt (because of budget constraints).

¹ Russian Federation has allocated an important amount for financing PEMPAL activities

Taking into account this information, the meeting participants have discussed the proposal to organize a TCOP plenary meeting in June, 2012, in Moscow, Russian Federation².

Mr. Andrei Demidov has confirmed the interest of the Federal Treasury of Russia to host this meeting, and proposed to hold it during the last week of June, 2012.

The concrete topics and agenda of the June meeting will be proposed by the hosting country representatives and Leadership Group members, during their February meeting in Tbilisi.

Taking into account the proposals made by the meeting participants, the TCOP Activity Plan for 2010-2012 will be revised and submitted for approval to the PEMPAL Steering Committee.

IV. BCOP workshop on program budgeting

In order to strengthen the PEMPAL cross-COPs cooperation, a TCOP representative has been invited by BCOP leadership to attend the workshop devoted to program budgeting issues, which will be held in Slovenia, on March 27-29th, 2012.

Videoconference participants have delegated **Mrs. Angela Voronin** to represent the treasury community at the BCOP workshop, and to make there a presentation on TCOP plans for 2012-2014. It was decided to develop the draft presentation by February 22nd, 2012.

It was decided, also, that in case by February 10th, 2012, any other TCOP leaders express their interest to attend the March workshop, the BCOP leadership will be approached in order to secure an additional invitation.

V. PEMPAL virtual library

The videoconference participants were informed about the current status of PEMPAL virtual library development, which is now at the final testing stage. TCOP leaders were invited to participate in the process of library testing, which can be performed through the PEMPAL website.

Also, **Mr. Ion Chicu** has updated TCOP leaders on the current stage of development of TCOP wiki page, which is used for posting different materials related to community activities. It was decided, that a short presentation of this communication tool will be carried out during the third day of TCOP Tbilisi workshop.

Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:

² This workshop was initially planned for July, 2012

- TCOP Leadership Group revised and approved the proposed agenda for Tbilisi workshop, planned for February 27-29th. Besides the main agenda of the workshop, a leadership group meeting will be held on February 26th.
- TCOP leaders will provide their proposals on the list of questions for the workshop small group discussions sessions, by February 10th, 2012. Special page for posting these proposals will be developed on TCOPempal wiki page, by February 3rd, 2012.
- TCOP leaders appreciated the relevance of the PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report recommendations for the future development of the network. They stressed the necessity of using different approaches in the process of evaluation of the PEMPAL CoPs, especially in such areas as communities membership, principles of CE coordination, etc.
- A number of proposals have been made in order to implement the Evaluation Report recommendations, including the necessity of developing a TCOP mid-term Strategy, developing PEMPAL learning products, etc. TCOP leaders have supported the recommendations in the area of strengthening community's membership and implementation of the principles of rotation in community's EC coordination.
- The agenda of TCOP Leadership group meeting in Tbilisi will envisage further discussions on the ways of implementation of the recommendations made by the author of PEMPAL 2011 Evaluation Report.
- Recently received financial resources allow PEMPAL CoPs to organize more activities during the first half of 2012. TCOP Leadership group has decided to carry out a full COP plenary during the last week of June 2012, in Moscow, Russian Federation.
- A special item on the agenda of TCOP Leadership group meeting in Tbilisi will be devoted for discussions on the June workshop preparation. Russian Federation representatives, as well as other TCOP leadership group members will prepare their proposals for the agenda of the June workshop, which will be discussed in Tbilisi.
- **Mrs. Angela Voronin** will represent TCOP at the BCOP workshop in Slovenia. She will make a presentation devoted to TCOP plans for 2012-2014 period. The draft presentation will be developed by February 22nd, 2012.
- TCOP leaders are invited to participate in the final stage of the PEMPAL virtual library testing, which can be performed using the PEMPAL website.
- During the third day of the workshop in Tbilisi a short presentation of TCOPempal wiki page will be made, in order to extend the number of members using this communication tool.
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the minutes of the leadership group meeting, by February 10th, 2012.