

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the PEMPAL Treasury Community of Practice of February 9, 2014, Tbilisi, Georgia**

On February 9, 2014, the Executive Committee of the PEMPAL Treasury Community of Practice (TCOP) had its regular meeting in Tbilisi.

Participants of the meeting were: Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdullaev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Alexandr Demidov (Treasury of the Russian Federation), Ismatullo Khakimov (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (PEMPAL Program Team Leader, World Bank), Ion Chicu (Advisor of the Treasury Community of Practice, World Bank), Bojana Crnadak (PEMPAL Secretariat).

### **Agenda of the meeting:**

- I. TCOP workshop in Tbilisi**
  - *Last minute organizational issues*
  
- II. Discussion of the TCOP Action Plan for fiscal year 2015 (July 2014 – June 2015).**
  
- III. PEMPAL Plenary meeting in May 2014 in Moscow**
  - *Issues related to the TCOP 1-day meeting in Moscow (May 26<sup>th</sup>)*
  - *TCOP contribution to the preparation of PEMPAL plenary meeting (May 27-29<sup>th</sup>)*
  
- IV. Miscellaneous**

- I. TCOP workshop in Tbilisi**

In the framework of discussion on this issue, brief information was presented to the participants of the meeting about the status of preparation of the workshop of the Treasury Community of Practice, which was about to be held in Tbilisi during the period February 10-12, 2014. By the time of the meeting of the Executive Committee all actions related to preparation of the workshop were successfully completed.

## **II. Discussion on the TCOP Action Plan for fiscal year 2015 (July 2014 – June 2015)**

**Angela Voronin** informed the members of the TCOP Executive Committee about the meeting of the PEMPAL Steering Committee that took place on January 16, 2014, where budgets of PEMPAL communities of practice for fiscal year 2015 were discussed and approved. The Treasury Community of Practice submitted for approval of the PEMPAL Steering Committee the budget request in the amount of USD **436 thousand**, which was approved at that meeting. The draft Action Plan for fiscal year 2015 was prepared based on decisions that had been made earlier and taking into consideration the Action Plans of all four thematic groups established in the framework of the TCOP.

The Plan envisions that during the period September – December 2014 each of the four thematic groups established in the framework of the Treasury Community of Practice would have one face-to-face meeting (a small workshop or a study visit). It is possible to combine meetings of two or more groups. In addition, thematic groups would conduct a number of video conferences in accordance with their individual Action Plans. It is also planned to conduct in March 2015 a plenary workshop of the Treasury Community of Practice on the topic of financial management and control. Final dates and places of face-to-face meetings would be confirmed later.

The members of the Executive Committee unanimously approved the Action Plan of the TCOP for fiscal year 2015.

In addition to discussion of the draft Action Plan of the TCOP for fiscal year 2015, the members of the Executive Committee confirmed the activities planned for the period April – June 2014. For this period of time, in addition to events envisioned to be held at the end of May in Moscow, a number of thematic video conferences is planned. In particular, it is planned to conduct a thematic video conference on the topic of cash management. Tentatively, the date of the video conference has been fixed for **April 16, 2014**. At this video conference, among other things, the issue of establishing in the framework of the TCOP of a thematic group on cash management is planned to be discussed. In addition, for April it is envisioned to have a video conference of the thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations devoted to exchange of experience related to implementation of treasury information systems. The tentative date of this conference is **April 30, 2014**. This thematic group is planning to conduct one more video conference in June 2014.

### ***III. PEMPAL plenary meeting in Moscow in May 2014.***

#### ***- Issues related to organization of a one-day meeting of the TCOP in Moscow (May 26)***

In accordance with decisions made earlier, on May 26, 2014, in Moscow, a meeting of representatives of the Treasury Community of Practice should take place. The same representatives are expected to take part in the plenary meeting of the PEMPAL network, which

is planned for May 27-29. The participants of the meeting in Tbilisi discussed issues related to organization of the meeting of the TCOP on May 26, in Moscow.

Taking into consideration the interest of the members of the Treasury Community of Practice to various aspects of activities of the Federal Treasury of Russia and to experience of this country in reforming the treasury system, the members of the TCOP Executive Committee accepted the suggestion of **Alexandr Demidov** to devote the meeting on May 26 to further familiarization with the relevant experience of the Federal Treasury of Russia. In the course of discussions, a suggestion was made to conduct the meeting on May 26 in the premises of the Division of the Federal Treasury for the city of Moscow. The final decision about the venue of the meeting shall be agreed upon by **March 10, 2014**.

For the purpose of elaborating the agenda of the meeting that would take place on May 26 in Moscow and preparing corresponding presentations and information by the hosting party, the members of the Executive Committee agreed to prepare and send to the TCOP resource team, **by March 15, 2014**, questions related to operations of the Treasury of Russia, answers to which they would like to get in the course of the meeting. The draft agenda of the meeting would be elaborated by the TCOP resource team together with representatives of the Federal Treasury of Russia and would be presented to be discussed during the video conference of the TCOP Executive Committee scheduled for April.

*- TCOP contribution to the preparation of PEMPAL plenary meeting (May 27-29<sup>th</sup>)*

In accordance with suggestions of the members of the TCOP Executive Committee made during the joint meeting of leaders of the PEMPAL network that took place in July 2013, in Slovenia, several sessions were included in the provisional agenda of the PEMPAL Plenary Meeting in Moscow – these sessions are related to instruments that provide for budget transparency. In accordance with the Concept of the event, the members of the Treasury Community of Practice should provide their input in preparation of the session devoted to **use of information technologies in ensuring budget transparency**, and also the session devoted to **financial reporting standards**.

In the course of the plenary session devoted to information technologies, there will be a presentation of **Cem Denner**, the leading IT specialist of the World Bank, who was kind enough and has already confirmed his consent to participate in the event in Moscow.

In the course of group discussions that would take place after the presentation by Mr. Denner, the participants of the meeting would have an opportunity to get familiar with experience of a number of countries that are members of the Treasury Community of Practice related to use of information technologies for ensuring budget transparency, in particular, experience **of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Kazakhstan**. The participants of the meeting in Moscow would have an opportunity to get familiar with these IT related solutions also during coffee breaks when they are presented in the lobby of the convention center where the plenary meeting of the PEMPAL network is held.

On the topic related to accounting standards, the Treasury Community of Practice has delegated Ms. **Svetlana Sivets**, a representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, to make a presentation. In addition, a presentation was proposed to be made by a representative of one of the European Union countries (preliminary discussions were held with Bulgaria's representative in the TCOP). Also, PFM experts working with TCOP (**Michael Parry and Mark Silins**) will be actively involved in the preparation of this session.

In addition to the contribution in preparation and conducting the above-mentioned thematic sessions, the Treasury Community of Practice would present at the meeting in Moscow a presentation on the results of activities of TCOP during the period since the last plenary session of the PEMPAL network that took place in 2011, in Zagreb. The draft of this presentation would be developed and presented to the Organizational Committee of the plenary meeting by **April 10, 2014**.

**Elena Nikulina** drew attention of the participants of the meeting to the annex to the draft Concept of the Moscow plenary meeting (reference document "Ensuring transparency in the sphere of public finance" prepared by Ms. Deanna Aubrey, resource person of the PEMPAL program, Annex A to the Concept of the event in Moscow). This analytical document contains collated information on the results of various assessments of budget transparency for countries-members of PEMPAL. In this connection, the members of the TCOP Executive Committee were requested to verify by **March 10, 2014** correctness of the data in that document for their countries.

#### **IV. Miscellaneous**

The next meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee is planned for **April 23, 2014**, by means of a video conference.

#### **Key results of the meeting of the leadership group of the Treasury Community of Practice:**

- Members of the TCOP Executive Committee approved the Action Plan of the Treasury Community of Practice for Financial Year 2015 (from July 2014 to June 2015). The budget of activities included in the Action Plan comprises USD 436 thousand.
- Events planned for the period April – June 2014 were re-confirmed. Tentatively the date of the thematic video conference on the topic of cash management has been agreed upon – April 16, 2014.
- On April 30, 2014, it is planned to conduct a video conference of the thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations devoted to exchange of experience in implementing the treasury information systems.

- On May 26, 2014, in Moscow, a meeting of representatives of the Treasury Community of Practice will take place. At the suggestion of Alexandr Demidov this meeting will be devoted to further studying of the experience of Russia in various dimensions of treasury reforms.
- The members of the Executive Committee will send to the TCOP resource team, by March 15, questions related to activities of the Treasury of Russia, answers to which they would like to get in the course of the meeting.
- In the course of discussions in groups that are planned to take place after the presentation of Mr. Denner, the participants of the plenary meeting would have an opportunity to get familiar with experience of a number of TCOP member countries in the field of use of information technologies for ensuring budget transparency, namely: experience of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Kazakhstan.
- As for the topic related to accounting standards, the Treasury Community of Practice has delegated Ms. Svetlana Sivets, representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, to deliver the presentation. Another presentation was proposed to be made by one of the European Union member countries (a specific country to be confirmed).
- The next meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee will take place on April 23, 2014, in the format of a video conference.
- Ion Chicu will prepare the minutes of the meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee and present it to the leaders of the TCOP for discussion.