

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting, July 3rd, 2013

TCOP Leadership Group held a meeting on July 3rd, 2013 in Bohinj, Slovenia.

The meeting was attended by: Mimoza Peco (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdulayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Alexandr Demidov (Federal Treasury of Russia), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (PEMPAL Program Team Leader, World Bank), Ion Chicu (TCOP resource person, World Bank), Bojana Crnadak (PEMPAL Secretariat representative).

Agenda items discussed:

- 1. Cross-COP 2014 preparations – proposed TCOP contribution**
- 2. TCOP plans for the fall 2013**
- 3. Activities of the small thematic groups on accounting and IT**
- 4. TCOP Chairmanship (TCOP Chair elections)**
- 5. Issues related to the TCOP Leadership Group membership**

1. Cross-COP 2014 preparations – proposed TCOP contribution

According to the decisions taken by PEMPAL COPs leadership in Bohinj, the meeting participants had to discuss TCOP proposed contribution to the preparation of the PEMPAL plenary meeting, scheduled for the spring 2014 in Russian Federation. The general topic of the plenary meeting will be 'Budget Transparency and Accountability'.

The following proposals have been formulated:

- 1. Preparation of a presentation or information related to the progress of reforms implemented in TCOP countries in the area of public sector accounting and reporting, emphasizing budget transparency aspects;*
- 2. Preparation of a presentation or information devoted to the topic of Use of IT in treasury operations in TCOP members countries, highlighting functionalities ensuring transparency of the budget execution process (possibly, on-line demonstration of the treasury IT system of one or several TCOP countries);*

3. *Preparation of a presentation or information on the risks associated with budget transparency;*
4. *Preparation of booths (market-place) for demonstrating TCOP member countries experience in improving budgetary transparency and accountability;*

The above mentioned proposals have been reported by Angela Voronin to the PEMPAL Steering Committee, on July 4th, 2013, in Bohinj. The PEMPAL plenary meeting Organization Committee will consider the TCOP proposals, and if accepted, TCOP Leadership Group will launch relevant preparations.

TCOP delegated to the PEMPAL plenary meeting Organization Committee the following members: Angela Voronin (TCOP Chair), Vugar Abdullayev (deputy TCOP Chair), Zaifun Yernazarova (deputy TCOP Chair), Alexandr Demidov (TCOP LG member, representative of the hosting country).

2. TCOP plans for the fall 2013

Ion Chicu has presented to the meeting participants the Calendar of TCOP activities for the fall 2013. This Plan has been developed taking into account the results of the survey performed in Kiev and the TCOP budget, approved by the PEMPAL Steering Committee for the period July 2013- June 2014.

According to the Plan, TCOP will organize 11 events of various formats during the period of July 2013-December 2013. The approved budget for these events is US \$ 221.000. The meeting participants have discussed in detail the events scheduled for September 2013, in particular the study visit to the HM Treasury in London (*the event envisages also a number of meetings with IPSASB, IFAC and CIPFA representatives*) combined with the meeting of the TCOP Leadership group, and the small format meeting devoted to the launching of the thematic group on public sector accounting and reporting. Taking into account the working schedule of the majority of TCOP leaders supposed to attend all these events, it was decided to hold them during the last week of September 2013. The final dates of these events will be decided considering the results of communication with the hosting parties.

In order to identify the location for the small group meeting on public accounting and reporting topic, a letter has been sent to the Ministries of Finance of TCOP member countries from Balkan region, which have expressed in Kiev their interest to join the thematic group devoted to this topic. During the meeting some alternative suggestions for the event location have been launched, but the final decision will be taken after receiving responses from the above mentioned countries¹.

The TCOP Leadership Group members have proposed to organize a thematic videoconference devoted to the Russian Federation experience in treasury bodies' performance evaluation. Mr.

¹ An expression of interest to host the event was received from the MOF of Macedonia shortly after the meeting

Alexander Demidov has expressed the RF Treasury readiness to organize such event in October 2013.

3. Activities of the small thematic groups on accounting and IT

The small thematic group on public sector accounting and reporting, which is expected to address such sub-themes as accounting standards, financial reporting consolidation and public assets accounting, will be launched in September 2013.

The small thematic group on Use of IT in treasury operations will start its activity with a thematic videoconference. Also, a number of activities of various formats devoted to this topic are scheduled for the fall 2013.

The TCOP leaders will provide the updated information on their countries' representatives in the small thematic groups by July 25th, 2013.

4. TCOP Chairmanship (TCOP Chair elections)

In line with the provisions of the PEMPAL network Operational Guidelines, and taking into account the approaching expiration of Angela Voronin's annual mandate as a TCOP Chair, elections of the TCOP Chair have been conducted during the meeting.

The TCOP Leadership Group members appreciated Angela Voronin's excellent work during the previous mandate and have nominated her as candidate for the TCOP Chairmanship for the next one-year mandate. The TCOP Leadership Group members have unanimously elected Angela Voronin as TCOP Chair for the next 12 month period.

5. Issues related to the TCOP Leadership Group membership

Bojana Crnadak has informed the TCOP Leadership Group members about the letter received by the PEMPAL Secretariat from the Ministry of Finance of Kyrgyzstan. The MoF of Kyrgyzstan is expressing its interest to be involved in the TCOP Leadership group activities and suggests to approve Mr. Nukesh Kojobergenov – deputy Director of Central Treasury, as the member of the TCOP Leadership Group.

The meeting participants have discussed this issue and welcomed the interest of the Ministry of Finance of Kyrgyzstan to participate in the TCOP Leadership Group activities. At the same time, according to the PEMPAL Rules, one of the criteria for COPs Leadership Groups membership is the candidate's active involvement in the process of organization of the events carried out within the COPs in the past. As Mr. Nukesh Kojobergenov did not attend any previous PEMPAL events, and the TCOP Leadership Group members, assigned according the PEMPAL rules with exclusive powers regarding LG membership, did not have the chance to meet him, it was decided

to suggest to the PEMPAL Secretariat to provide the MoF of Kyrgyzstan with a letter, explaining the reasons Mr. Kojobergenov cannot be accepted at this stage as the member of the TCOP Leadership Group. It was proposed, also, to suggest to the MoF of Kyrgyzstan to delegate Mr. Kojobergenov to attend upcoming TCOP events, in order to explore his availability to be involved in TCOP Leadership Group future activities.

The meeting participants have discussed also the issue related to representation of Tajikistan in the TCOP Leadership Group. There is an uncertainty regarding this country's representative in the group². Also, the TCOP leaders have noted the frequent absences of Tajikistan representative at the TCOP Leadership Group events, including the Bohinj meeting. Because of Rustam Boboev's delay in registration to attend the Bohinj meeting his visa could not be issued in due time and his participation has been cancelled. It was decided to send a letter to the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan suggesting to decide on this country's single representative (member) in the TCOP Leadership Group.

Next meeting of the TCOP Leadership Group will be held on August 28th, 2103, through videoconference.

Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:

- The meeting participants have proposed to prepare several presentations as TCOP contribution to the preparation of the 2014 PEMPAL plenary meeting. The suggested topics for TCOP contributions are public sector accounting, use of IT in treasury operations and risks associated with budget transparency;
- In case these proposals are accepted by the PEMPAL plenary meeting Organization Committee, TCOP will start relevant preparations;
- During the last week of September 2013 TCOP will held the following events: Study visit and TCOP Leadership Group meeting in London; small group meeting devoted to the launch of thematic group on public sector accounting and reporting. The location of the small group meeting will be confirmed following the receipt of responses from the Balkan countries;
- A number of events on to the topic of Use of IT in treasury operations will be held during the fall 2013;
- A thematic videoconference devoted to the Russian Federation experience in treasury bodies' performance evaluation will be held in October 2013;
- Angela Voronin has been re-elected as the Chair of PEMPAL TCOP for another year;

² Tajikistan have two active participants in the TCOP activities – Ismatullo Khakimov and Rustam Boboev, which alternate themselves as TCOP Leadership Group members

- A letter will be sent to the Ministry of Finance of Kyrgyzstan, suggesting to delegate Mr. Kojobergenov to attend upcoming TCOP events, in order to explore his availability to be involved in TCOP Leadership Group future activities;
- A letter will be sent to the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan in order to clarify the situation regarding this country's representative in the TCOP Leadership Group;
- Next meeting of the TCOP Leadership Group will be held on August 28th, 2103, through videoconference;
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the draft Minutes of the meeting.