

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Executive Committee meeting, July 15th, 2015

TCOP Executive Committee held a meeting on July 15th, 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

The meeting was attended by: Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdullayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Ludmila Gurianova (Ministry of Finance, Belarus), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Alexandr Demidov (Federal Treasury of Russia), Elena Nikulina (PEMPAL Program Team Leader, World Bank), Ion Chicu (TCOP resource person, World Bank), Ekaterina Zaleeva (PEMPAL Secretariat representative, The World Bank).

Agenda items discussed:

- 1. Introducing the new PEMPAL Secretariat team**
- 2. Update on recent TCOP events**
- 3. Results of the TCOP members Survey in Tirana**
- 4. Preparing TCOP activities scheduled for the fall 2015**
- 5. Issues related to TCOP Executive Committee membership**
- 6. Preparing the TCOP Chair elections**
- 7. Miscellaneous¹**

1. Introducing the new PEMPAL Secretariat team

Elena Nikulina informed the meeting participants that starting with July 1st 2015, a new team will be responsible for PEMPAL Secretariat's functions. Members of the new Secretariat – Kristina Zaituna, Ksenia Galantsova and Ekaterina Zaleeva were introduced to the meeting participants. The new Secretariat will be based in the World Bank office in Moscow, Russian Federation. **Ekaterina Zaleeva** will coordinate TCOP activities on behalf of the PEMPAL Secretariat.

¹ On Vugar Abdullayev's suggestion, issues related to the TCOP Executive Committee members to the PEMPAL Executive meeting in Vienna were discussed within this agenda item

2. Update on recent TCOP events

Nino Tchelishvili informed the meeting participants about the videoconference of the TCOP thematic group on Use of information technologies in treasury operations, conducted on June 10th, 2015. Participants from eight TCOP countries attended the videoconference. During the videoconference representatives of Georgia's MoF have demonstrated the mechanism of interaction between the treasury system and the electronic procurement system, used by the State Procurement Agency of Georgia.

In addition to the thematic part of the agenda, the videoconference participants have discussed the group's activity plan for the fall 2015. It was decided to organize a thematic meeting of the group on October 5-7th 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Participants of the Tbilisi meeting will discuss selected issues of priority interest for the group based on experience of the hosting country, Georgia.

All materials related to the videoconference can be found on the PEMPAL website: <http://www.pempal.org/event/read/148>

3. Results of the TCOP members Survey in Tirana

Ion Chicu updated the meeting participants on the results of the May 2015 Survey conducted among the TCOP members during the plenary meeting in Tirana. The main objective of the survey was to identify the members' thematic priorities for the future TCOP activities.

The results of survey confirmed TCOP members' priority interest in four topics: *Cash management; Use of information technologies in treasury operations; Public sector accounting and reporting; Treasury Control*. The survey respondents have suggested, also, a big number of issues to be discussed in the framework of the above specified four main topics.

Four countries (Moldova, Turkey, Georgia and Albania) expressed their readiness to host the next TCOP plenary meeting scheduled for the first half of 2016. TCOP Executive Committee members have decided to accept Moldova's proposal for hosting the meeting in Chisinau, on June 1-3rd², 2016. The Ministry of Finance of Moldova will submit an official invitation letter to the TCOP Executive Committee till August 31st, 2015. The final topic and dates of the event will be decided by Executive Committee till January 31st, 2016.

Suggestions for establishing the new thematic groups have been also collected through the Tirana survey. The majority of proposals suggest creation of a new thematic group for discussing various issues related to treasury controls, as well as to the topic of treasury strategic development.

² Tentative dates

Vugar Abdullayev informed the audience that the topic proposed by Azerbaijan for the new group – “Payment management”, refers to several aspects directly linked to the mechanism of payment processing, such as cash management, management of commitments, development of internal payment systems and their integration with the external ones. Also, they are interested to discuss various technical issues related to implementation of clearing.

Mimoza Pilkati supported Azerbaijan’s proposal and suggested to discuss within the new thematic group the issues related to payment methods, as well as successful experience in excluding cash payments (in order to reduce corruption). **Nino Tchelishvili** suggested extending the scope of work of the new thematic group with the management of commitments issues.

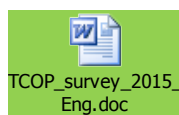
Alexandr Demidov, Angela Voronin and Zaifun Yernazarova have expressed their interest to discuss within the group the issues related to treasury strategic development, treasury role and functions.

Elena Nikulina supported the idea of establishing a new thematic group for discussing issues related to payment management, management of commitments, as well as the issues related to treasury strategic development. She informed the meeting participants that the group will be supported by Mark Silins, the World Bank PFM expert.

The final decision on the new thematic group creation and its thematic scope will be taken at the October meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee.

The survey participants have suggested organizing joint thematic activities with other PEMPAL COP, mostly with the Budget COP. These suggestions will be discussed with the BCOP resource team members in order to identify the topics of common interest for the members of two COPs.

More detailed information on the Survey results is presented in the file embedded below.



4. Preparing TCOP activities scheduled for the fall 2015

The TCOP Activity Plan for the FY 2016 envisages 2 small format thematic meetings for the fall 2015. During the videoconference on June 10th it was decided to conduct the meeting of the thematic group on Use of information technologies in treasury operations in October 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Nino Tchelishvili confirmed Georgia's readiness to host this event on October 5-7th, 2015. The hosting country’s proposals for the Concept and preliminary agenda of the meeting will be provided to the TCOP resource team by July 25th. Also, the face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Tbilisi on October 4th afternoon.

Considering the Turkey successful experience in cash management and forecasting, as well as their initiative to host a TCOP event³, the meeting participants have suggested sending an official message to Turkish Treasury representatives in order to check their availability to host the thematic meeting of the group on Cash management in late November 2015.

5. Issues related to TCOP Executive Committee membership

Vugar Abdullayev informed the meeting participants, that Ismatullo Khakimov, representative of Tajikistan in the TCOP Executive Committee, has left the Ministry of Finance and cannot represent his country in the Executive Committee.

Potential candidates for the Executive Committee membership will be identified during the TCOP future events.

6. Preparing the TCOP Chair elections in September 2015

According to the PEMPAL rules, elections of the TCOP Chair will be organized by September 2015. The elections will be organized by the PEMPAL Secretariat through electronic voting. According to the procedures, TCOP Executive Committee members will nominate candidates for the position of the Chair by August 29th. A relevant message will be submitted by the Secretariat by August 5th. On September 3rd 2015, the Secretariat will submit a second message asking TCOP leaders to vote for one of two candidates, which accumulated majority of nominations. The winner of the elections will be announced on September 15th 2015.

7. Miscellaneous

Elena Nikulina provided to the meeting participants detailed information on the agenda of the Vienna PEMPAL Executive meeting, scheduled for July 16-17th, 2015. PEMPAL COPs will present the results of PEMPAL 2012-2017 Strategy implementation, while the second part of the day 1 will be devoted to group discussions. The main goal of the discussions is to identify relevant recommendations and necessary actions ensuring the achievement of the PEMPAL strategic objectives, by the end of the Strategy period (2017).

The meeting participants were advised to review the Report on PEMPAL Strategy implementation and prepare their opinions and suggestions for the group discussions. The

³ Turkey representatives have expressed their country's readiness to host a TCOP event through the Survey conducted in Tirana

agenda of July 17th envisages the meeting of PEMPAL Steering Committee. TCOP will be represented at the meeting by Vugar Abdullayev and Nino Tchelishvili.

The next meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee will be conducted on October 4th in Tbilisi.

Main conclusions of the meeting:

- Ekaterina Zaleeva will coordinate TCOP activities on behalf of the PEMPAL Secretariat. The new Secretariat will be based in the World Bank office in Moscow, Russian Federation;
- The final decision on establishing a new thematic group for discussing issues related to payment management, management of commitments, as well as the issues related to treasury strategic development will be taken in October at the TCOP Executive Committee meeting in Tbilisi;
- The next TCOP plenary meeting will be held in June 2016 in Chisinau, Moldova. The Ministry of Finance of Moldova will submit an official invitation letter to the TCOP Executive Committee till August 31st;
- The meeting of the TCOP thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations will be organized on October 5-7th, 2015, in Tbilisi, Georgia. Also, the face-to-face meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Tbilisi on October 4th afternoon;
- Ismatullo Khakimov has left the TCOP Executive Committee, as he does not work anymore in the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan;
- The two stage on-line elections of the TCOP Chair will be organized in August-September 2015;
- The next meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee will be conducted on October 4th in Tbilisi;
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the draft Minutes of the meeting.