

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Videoconference on April 14, 2015.

On April 14, 2015, regular meeting (videoconference) of PEMPAL Treasury Community of Practice (TCOP) Executive Committee was held.

The meeting was attended by Mimoza Pilkati (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdullaev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Ernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Alexander Makarov, Ekaterina Parhomenko (Federal Treasury, Russia), Elena Nikulina (PEMPAL Task Leader, the World Bank), Ion Chicu (TCOP Advisor, the World bank), Bojana Crndak (PEMPAL Secretariat).

Meeting Agenda:

- 1. Update on recent TCOP events**
- 2. TCOP Activity Plan for FY 2015**
 - *Preparation of the TCOP plenary meeting in Albania, May 2015;*
 - *Preparation of the TCOP thematic groups' activities scheduled for April – June 2015;*
- 3. PEMPAL Cross-CoP Executive Committees Meeting in July 2015.**
- 4. Other**

1. Update on recent TCOP activities

Vugar Abdullaev presented to the videoconference participants brief information on the TCOP Study Visit to the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of South Korea that took place on March 25-27, 2015. Representatives of eight TCOP state-members participated in this event of TCOP thematic group on “Use of Information Technologies in Treasury Operations”. Participants of the Study Visit had an opportunity to study “dBrain” information system used for public finance management system in South Korea. Also, the participants of the Study Visit were presented detailed information on the budget system of South Korea, electronic procurement system, cash management specifics, and other information. Detailed report on this event will be published on PEMPAL website.

Ion Chicu informed the participants of the meeting on the videoconference of the TCOP thematic group on cash management that took place on April 9th, 2015. The videoconference agenda included presentation of Azerbaijan experience in cash management, as well as discussion of issues related to the preparation of the cash management session at the Plenary

Meeting of the Treasury Community of Practice in Tirana, Albania, on May 20-22, 2015. The presentation made by the officials of the State Treasury Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan aroused great interest of the videoconference participants, which was manifested in large number of questions posed by the participants, as well as their proposal on further discussions of Azerbaijan experience in their thematic group, as well as at the forthcoming seminar in Tirana. Within the context of preparation of cash management session at this seminar, the videoconference participants defined the countries, which will present their experience in this area (Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and Turkey), as well as the session moderator, Nino Tchelishvili. More detailed information on the videoconference of April 9 is contained in the Report to be published on PEMPAL website.

2. TCOP Activity Plan for FY 2015

➤ *TCOP plenary meeting in Albania, May 2015*

At the beginning of this issue discussion, **Ion Chicu** and **Bojana Crndak** presented to the videoconference participants general information about preparation for the TCOP plenary meeting in Tirana. The seminar will take place on May 20-22, 2015, and the meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee will take place on May 23. According to the presented information, the event preparation is going on in line with the schedule.

Further, **Mimoza Pilkati** presented the participants information on preparatory activities carried out by the host country. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania received request on visa support for the seminar participants who need entry visa to Albania. The respective letters will be soon provided and the participants will be able to submit documents for visa application. Shortly before the Executive Committee meeting, the host country presented major part of the first day presentations. In addition, some information materials were presented, that Albania proposes to translate and present to the seminar participants for review. The remaining part of the materials will be presented within several days.

Zaifun Ernazarova asked to consider possibility for organization of a bilateral meeting of the representatives of State Treasury of Albania with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan who will participate in Tirana event. In addition, Zaifun Ernazarova asked the host country to include into its presentation information on the Treasury status in the public finance management system of Albania, on Treasury performance indicators, on availability of strategic plans of the treasury system development, etc. Mimoza Pilkati confirmed intention of the host country to include the respective information into the seminar presentations. In addition, the host country will ensure translation of the Strategy of the Treasury of Albania into English, and will present this document to the participants of the seminar for review.

Elena Nikulina thanked Mimoza Pilkati for provision of the draft presentations that are very informative and detailed. Given the volume of the provided presentations, it will be difficult for

the speakers to keep within the allocated time. Therefore, the host country is recommended to pick the most important information to be presented at the session to observe the agenda and have the time for questions and answers, as well as for group discussion session. If necessary, the TCOP resource group is ready to provide support with identification of the information of priority interest for the TCOP members. In addition, Elena Nikulina asked the representative of the host country to provide the list of all the materials that will be prepared by the hosts for the seminar, so that the Secretariat could have clear understanding about the needs in translation and printing of all presented documents. In response, Mimoza Pilkati informed the participants of the session that in spite of the large volume of presentations, the speakers would not focus on every single slide, but only on the most important ones. The remaining information in the presentations is provided for general review. Testing (of the time necessary for the presentations) previously performed by the representatives of the Treasury of Albania showed that the seminar schedule would be observed. The full list of the materials to be prepared by the hosts for the seminar in Tirana will be compiled within the shortest possible time and presented to the Secretariat and the TCOP resource team.

In addition to the presentations of the host country, the agenda of the first day also envisions short presentation by the TCOP Chairman on implementation of the Activity Plan for 2013-2015. This presentation will be based on the Report on the implementation of the plan developed by the TCOP resource team and discussed by the members of the Executive Committee.

Angela Voronin requested to provide more information on the participants survey envisioned in the seminar agenda and questioned if the time in the agenda is sufficient for this activity. Ion Chicu informed the participants that this survey would be carried out with the purpose of identification of the topics of future events preferred by the TCOP members, and the findings of this survey would serve as the basis for the development of TCOP Activity Plan for 2016-2017. As far as the survey format, it was informed that on the first day, the participants would be explained the procedure for filling in the survey and the forms would be distributed. Each delegation (in the same way it was done in Baku in 2012) will fill in the respective questionnaire and at the beginning of the third day will present the responses to the TCOP Resource Team. At the final session of the seminar, the preliminary results of the survey will be presented to the participants.

Next, Ion Chicu presented to the videoconference participants brief information about the program of the second day of the seminar that will be dedicated to cash management. Morning session will be prepared by the TCOP thematic group on cash management, which agreed upon the procedure of this session at its meeting on April 9. **Nino Tchelishvili**, representative of Georgia in this thematic group, will moderate this session and in the beginning will present brief review on the progress achieved by this group. Then, expert **Mark Silins** will make presentation on cash management. As a result of the discussions held on April 9, the following countries were identified that will make presentations at Tirana conference on their experience in the area of cash management (Azerbaijan, Turkey and Russian Federation). As of the date of the ExCom videoconference, all these countries confirmed their readiness to make respective presentations in Tirana. Within the several days, representatives of the Russian Federation will inform the name of the speaker and the date of the presentation provision.

Afternoon session will be organized in the form of small group discussions, where various issues related to cash management will be discussed. **Elena Nikulina** informed the members of the meeting that the participants of the seminar would be divided into 3 groups by languages. To make group discussions more efficient, each delegation will be asked to prepare in advance brief presentations on the status of cash management in their respective countries and to present them at the beginning of the discussion. The TCOP resource team elaborated recommendations on the format and content of these presentations that will be sent to the participants before the weekend. Given requests of the TCOP ExCom members made during meeting in Vienna, the delegations will be asked to reflect in the presentations also aspects related to cash management during crisis period that is characterized by scarcity of funds. Reports on the group discussions will be presented at the morning session of the third day.

Morning session of the third day of Tirana event will be dedicated to the issues of treasury control. **Mark Silins** will make presentation based on the results of the thematic survey “Commitment and debt management in TCOP member-states». This online survey is currently being conducted among all TCOP member-states, and the resource group has requested everyone to present the answers to the questionnaire within the terms indicated by the organizers. In its presentation, the expert will not only reflect the survey results, but will also provide information on approaches to commitments and debt management.

After the plenary session, the participants will continue group discussions. Participants will be informed about the questions to be discussed just prior to this session. Results of the discussion will be presented after the group work.

During the final session, the preliminary results of the survey on the TCOP proposals on further work of the community will be presented to the participants of the seminar. TCOP members will discuss the community activity plan until 2015 calendar year.

➤ *Videoconferences of the TCOP thematic groups*

Videoconference of TCOP thematic group on accounting standards is planned for April 21 2015. At this videoconference, the participants will discuss the document “Assessment of Public Sector Accounting and Auditing against International Standards”. This document has been translated into Russian and presented to the TCOP members for review. Andrew Mackie, the World Bank expert confirmed his participation at the conference and he is ready to answer any questions of the videoconference participants.

In conformity with the decision made by the TCOP thematic group on IT in Seoul, videoconference on experience of Georgia in the area of electronic public procurement system is planned for June 2015. The final date of the videoconference will be agreed upon in the nearest.

3. PEMPAL Cross-CoP Executive meeting in July 2015

Elena Nikulina presented to the participants of the videoconference information on cross-CoP executive meeting planned for July 15-17, 2015 in Vienna, Austria, where Midterm Review Report on PEMPAL Strategy for 2012-2017 implementation will be discussed. In addition to the sessions, dedicated to the assessment of the Strategy implementation, the agenda of the three-day event will also include meeting of the TCOP Executive Committee, as well as meeting of PEMPAL Steering Committee. Organization of thematic session with participation of representatives of Austria (tentatively, Court of Accounts of Austria) is being considered. Agenda of the TCOP Executive Committee meeting in Vienna will be developed at the forthcoming meeting of the Committee in Tirana on May 23, 2015.

Elena Nikulina informed the members of TCOP Executive Committee, that due to expiration of PEMPAL Secretariat contract, CEF from Slovenia would not be involved into preparation of Vienna event, nor of any further PEMPAL events.

4. Other

Following the discussion of the TCOP Executive Committee members at their January meeting, **Vugar Abdullaev** asked all the members of the committee to express their opinion with regard to approval of the candidate from the Republic of Belarus, Ms. **Lyudmila Gurianova**, Deputy Head of the State Treasury of Belarus, for the position of the ExCom member. After the discussion, the decision was made to invite Ms. Lyudmila Gurianova to the TCOP ExCom meeting in Tirana as the candidate for the ExCom member and to make final decision on her membership in TCOP ExCom there.

The next meeting of the TCOP ExCom will take place in Tirana, Albania, on May 23, 2015.

Main results of the meeting:

- TCOP Plenary Meeting will take place on May 20-22, 2015 in Tirana, Albania. The event will be dedicated to the issues of treasury control and cash management. On May 23, meeting of the TCOP ExCom will be held in Tirana;
- At Tirana seminar, the participants will be asked to take part in the survey aimed at identification of the priority interests and the format of future TCOP events;
- Before April 17, 2015, Mimoza Pilkati will present the full list of materials that will be prepared for Tirana seminar. The hosts will pay special attention to observance of the time allotted for the presentations;
- Representatives of Kazakhstan and Albania will consider the possibility to organize bilateral meeting during Tirana event. It will be taken into consideration that delegations of these countries need to be present at all sessions of the event;

- Nino Tchelishvili who will present brief review on the progress achieved by the group will moderate the session dedicated to the issues of cash management. Presentations of Marks Silins and representatives of Azerbaijan, Russian Federation and Turkey will be dedicated to cash management. Afternoon session on May 21st will be held in group discussions;
- With the aim of ensuring higher efficiency of group discussions, each delegation will be requested to prepare in advance short presentations on the status of cash management in their countries. The resource team has prepared recommendations on the format and content of these presentations that forwarded to the participants before the weekend.
- With the aim of preparation for the session on commitment control, an online survey is being conducted among TCOP members to identify current situation in this area in the member-states. Information on the survey results will be presented at the beginning of the 3rd day of Tirana event;
- Videoconference of TCOP thematic group on accounting standards is planned for April 21. In June, videoconference of TCOP thematic group on information technologies in treasury operations will be held;
- On July 15-17, 2015, PEMPAL Cross-CoP Executive meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, where the results of midterm review of PEMPAL strategy for 2012-2017 implementation will be discussed. At this event meeting of the TCOP ExCom will also be held, where preparation of events for autumn 2015 will be discussed;
- Final decision on admission of the new member of TCOP ExCom (Lyudmila Gurianova) will be made at Tirana meeting;
- The next meeting of TCOP ExCom will take place in Tirana, Albania on May 23, 2015.
- Ion Chicu will prepare and present the minutes of the TCOP ExCom meeting.