



## PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK ON THE WORLD BANK

### Key G20 Economic Challenges on the Road to Cannes

23 June 2011

PNoWB on 23 June 2011 attended a conference on Key G20 Economic Challenges to be addressed at the next meeting of the G20 on 3-4 November 2011 in Cannes. The conference was organised by the German Marshall Fund of the United States and hosted by *Sciences Po - L'Institut d'études politiques (IEP)* in Paris.

#### France's priorities for the next G20 meeting

Olivier Colom, Adviser for G8 and G20, International Organisations and Global Issues, Office of the President of the Republic of France, briefed participants on the France's priorities for the next G20 meeting. These include:

- A framework for growth through increased policy coordination, definition of common indicators and economic recommendations.
- Development, with a particular focus on food price volatility and Africa.
- Reform of the international monetary system by responding to high exchange rate volatility and global imbalances.
- Fighting corruption, including promoting transparency in extractive industry revenues.

He emphasised that food security is a most pressing issue on the G20 agenda. In addition to addressing corruption, France also hopes for concrete decisions on tax havens. Trade-related concerns will also be discussed. While it is important to ensure continuity between the different presidencies, the establishment of a permanent G20 Secretariat is not a French priority. Mr. Colom explained that the G20 will concentrate on topics that were not discussed at the last G8 meeting in May 2011, where attention was directed at issues dealing with the Middle East and North Africa region. Prior to the meeting in Cannes, a Business-CSO Summit will be held on 2 November 2011, and a Labour Union meeting on 3 November 2011.

#### Trade and Development

The conference also included a session on Trade and the Development Agenda: the Doha Round and beyond, chaired by Patrick Messerlin, Director of *Groupe d'Économie Mondiale* at Sciences Po. There was a general agreement that the current Doha package could not be adopted as such in 2011, in part because the US president no longer has the 'fast-track' trade authority (the right to negotiate trade agreements independent of congressional oversight). The US is also currently placing a greater importance on Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreements, which are Asia-Pacific regional trade agreements currently negotiated with Australia, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Duty-free access for many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) could present a concern to some of their African neighbours. According to Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen, until now the G20 has taken the momentum out of the Doha negotiations and needs to change its approach to trade if it wants to conclude the Round in the near future.

#### Implications for Parliamentarians

PNoWB considers it important that the G20 discussions include the concerns of Parliamentarians. Therefore, PNoWB invites its members from G20 countries to present their recommendations related to the priority topics mentioned above and others to their governments, and push for including them at the next G20 meeting in November 2011.

#### PNoWB International Secretariat

66, Avenue d'Iéna 75116 Paris, France  
T +33 (0)1 40 69 30 55 / F +33 (0)1 40 69 31 64  
E-mail : [secretariat@pnowb.org](mailto:secretariat@pnowb.org)  
Check our website at <http://www.pnowb.org>