

50th anniversary of the OECD convention



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The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques; OCDE) is an international body the mission of which is to stimulate democracy and market economy in the world through supporting sustainable economic growth, boosting employment, raising living standards, maintaining financial stability, and assisting other countries' economic development. This mission may be summarized in the slogan "For a stronger and fairer world economy". The Organization provides a setting where governments compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practices, and coordinate domestic and international policies.

The organization was set up on the basis of the Convention on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, signed in Paris on December 14, 1960. It carries on the work of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), which was established in 1948 to help rebuild Europe after the Second World War, within the Marshall Plan Framework. The Signatories of the Convention included 20 countries, while at present the OECD consists of 33 member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States). The organization keeps developing: ratification documents are expected to be submitted by Estonia, which signed the Accession Agreement on June 3, 2010. Since 2007 the Roadmap for the Russian Federation

to join has been prepared. The OECD maintains special contacts with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa within a process that it refers to as "Enhanced Engagement". An important role in the increased impact made on the global economy is played by 25 non-member states acting as observers in 43 Committees and Working Groups.

THE OECD INFLUENCES THE GLOBAL ECONOMY chiefly by means of its legal solutions such as:

- :: OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital, last amended in 2010. It serves as a model for over 3,000 bilateral agreements concluded also between non-member states, which regulate the double taxation avoidance rules in regard to revenue generated by non-residents.
- :: OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions – signed in 1997. The Convention obliges the OECD member states to apply sanctions against bribery defined as the reception of illegal financial benefits not only in a given country, but also abroad.
- :: OECD Principles of Corporate Governance, introduced in 1999, established mainly for publically traded companies. They constitute the first international attempt at formulating the basic elements of the effective corporate supervision system.
- :: FATF Recommendations adopted by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) consisting of 29 members, the European Commission, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. These recommendations provide international standards for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorist groups.

Other initiatives taken up by the OECD include: support for the G20 Group in its activities aimed at recovering from the global financial crisis, climate protection, improving information exchange between tax administrations of individual states ("tax transparency"). For more than 40 years, the OECD has been one of the world's largest and most reliable sources of comparable statistics and economic and social data, as well as one of the world's largest publishers in the field of economics and public policy.

Poland has belonged to the OECD since 1996. This membership was a preparation period before Poland's accession to the EU in 2004. During that period, Poland managed to adapt its legal system to the *Acquis communautaire* created in accordance with the basic OECD principles, in particular the liberalization codes and the national treatment principle regarding foreign entities from the OECD member states. The affiliation contributed to the reduction of transaction costs, boosted Poland's rating position, and made an impact on the foreign investment flow into Poland. This country's participation in the International Energy Agency (since 2008) and Nuclear Energy Agency (since 2010) provides access to modern technologies, influencing the field of research and development on the global scale.

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland at the OECD in Paris has been active since January 1, 1997. The position of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the OECD was held by Jan Woroniecki (1997–2001; 2005–2010) and Jan Bielawski (2001–2005). Since August 11, 2010, the position of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the OECD, has been held by Paweł Wojciechowski.

Source:
www.oecd.org,
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The OECD
significance
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