



DRAFT AGENDA

Small Business Act for Europe Assessment 2020

SBA public-private reconciliation meeting

Thursday, 16 May 2019

10.00-16.00

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

Baku Business Centre



The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experience, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work together to co-ordinate domestic and international policies. www.oecd.org

The SBA assessment is carried out within the context of "EU4Business: From Policies to Action", which is a multi-country project implemented by the OECD in the Eastern Partnership with financial support from the European Union within the framework of the EU4Business initiative. It is co-ordinated with the work programme of the Eastern Partnership Business Development Panel under Platform 2 on "Economic integration and convergence with EU policies".

■ WHAT IS THE SBA ASSESSMENT ?

The SBA Assessment monitors the progress in the implementation of the ten principles of the Small Business Act for Europe and measures convergence towards EU practices and standards.

The dedicated methodology – the SME Policy Index – was specifically developed by the OECD in a joint effort with the European Commission, the EBRD and ETF in 2006 and applied to four regions in 32 economies (Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, Middle East and Africa, Southeast Asia).

The SME Policy Index identifies strengths and weaknesses in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of the SBA assessment is to improve SME policy-making in partner economies and to enhance the capacity of policy-makers and institutions to foster entrepreneurship.

It aims to support governments in setting targets for SME policy developments and strategic priorities to further improve their business environment. It also engages governments in policy dialogue and facilitates the exchange of experiences within the region and with the partner organisations.



This project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union within the [EU4Business](#) initiative. EU4Business is an EU initiative that helps SMEs in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership region to realise their full potential and boost economic growth.

■ WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEETING ?

The third cycle of the SBA assessment for the Eastern Partner Countries was launched in September 2018. The assessment builds on the established methodology and process of previous assessment rounds, but has been revised to incorporate new elements aiming at broadening the scope of the publication to allow for an evaluation of the overall business climate conditions and to more accurately reflect private sector perspectives.

This SBA public-private reconciliation meeting will provide an opportunity for the OECD and its partners to share initial findings of the SBA assessment by thematic pillar and discuss the main information gaps, as well as cross-check the validity of the findings. It will also offer a platform to discuss initial policy recommendations, encouraging the participants to comment and share their views regarding future priorities for SME development in the country. The OECD will also briefly present the SBA assessment process and structure and elaborate on next steps leading to the SME Policy Index 2020 publication.

■ WHO WILL PARTICIPATE ?

The SBA public-private reconciliation meeting will bring together SME policy stakeholders. This includes government representatives from line ministries (i.e. Ministries of Economy, Education, Labour) and government agencies (i.e. SME agency, innovation agency), as well as representatives from the private sector, academia and other international organisations.

Contacts

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SMALL BUSINESS ACT ASSESSMENT 2020: Public-private reconciliation meeting

Part I – Opening and contextualisation

The first part of the meeting will provide an opportunity to inform participants about the SBA assessment process and structure, including information on main data sources and a brief explanation of the underlying methodology. The government will shed light on the use of the SBA assessment for the country's overall reform agenda.

Highlights from the statistical sheets collected will be presented as part of the country context, as well as next steps leading to the publication of the SME Policy Index 2020.

09:30-10:00	Welcome coffee
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10:00-10:15	Opening
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	<p>Niyazi Safarov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (TBC)</p> <p>Simona Gatti, Minister Counsellor and Head of Co-operation, EU Delegation to Azerbaijan (TBC)</p>
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10:15-10:30	SBA assessment process and country context
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	Daniel Quadbeck , Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations - Eurasia Division
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Part II – Key findings by thematic pillar

The second part of the meeting will be dedicated to share key findings of the SBA assessment by thematic pillar, discuss the main information gaps and cross-check the validity of the findings. It will also offer a platform to discuss initial policy recommendations, encouraging private sector participants to comment and share their views regarding future priorities for SME development in the country.

10:30-11:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Business environment and level-playing field</p> <p>The new SBA assessment broadens the scope of analysis and includes key policy areas of the business environment contributing to creating a level-playing field for businesses of all sizes. The following dimensions are assessed: Competition, Business integrity and Contract enforcement.</p>
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	<p>Sabine Zigelski, Senior Competition Expert, OECD Directorate for Financial Affairs – Competition Division</p> <p>Alena Frid, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p>Patrik Pruzinsky, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division</p> <p>Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan</p> <p><i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
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11:15-12:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar A – Responsive Government</p> <p>Pillar A assesses policies across three dimensions: a) Operational environment, b) Regulatory framework and c) Bankruptcy and second chance</p>
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	<p>Antonio Fanelli, Senior expert on SME policy</p> <p>Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan</p> <p><i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
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12:00-12:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar B – Entrepreneurial Human Capital</p> <p>Pillar B assesses policies that promote entrepreneurship across the education and training system. Policy dimensions that are covered within this pillar are: a) Entrepreneurial learning and women’s entrepreneurship and b) Enterprise skills.</p>
	<p>Margareta Nikolovska, ETF Country Co-ordinator for Azerbaijan (TBC) Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan <i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
12:45-14:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch break (Park Inn Hotel)</p>
14:00-14:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar C – Access to Finance</p> <p>Pillar C assesses policies to ease SME access to finance, relating to the legal and regulatory framework, bank financing, non-bank financing, the venture capital ecosystem and financial literacy.</p>
	<p>Simone Zeh-Atanasovski, Principal, EBRD Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan <i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
14:45-15:20	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar D – Access to markets</p> <p>Pillar D assesses policies that allow SMEs to reach new markets and benefit from government support programmes and projects. Three policy dimensions are covered by this pillar: a) Public procurement, b) Standards and technical regulations and c) Internationalisation.</p>
	<p>Daniel Ivarsson, External expert of the SIGMA Programme Simone Wurster, Researcher, Technical University Berlin, Germany Patrik Pruzinsky, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan <i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
15:20-15:55	<p style="text-align: center;">Pillar E – Productivity and innovation</p> <p>Pillar E assesses policies aimed at improving SME performance and supporting SME innovation. The pillar covers the following policy dimensions: a) Business Development Services, b) Innovation policy and c) Green economy.</p>
	<p>Patrik Pruzinsky, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division Alena Frid, Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations – Eurasia Division Representative from the Government of Azerbaijan <i>Feedback from private sector representatives</i></p>
15:55-16:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions and next steps</p>
	<p>Daniel Quadbeck, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Global Relations - Eurasia Division Niyazi Safarov, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (TBC)</p>