

Congratulations are also in order on the work of the informal dialogue with dynamic non-members. The meetings held to date have been productive and informative.

The decision to extend the dialogue for certain issues is one which we strongly support.

Concerns have been expressed that, in the trade-off between the OECD's core work and its co-operation with non-members, the traditional economic work for members will suffer.

This need not be the case. The priority for the Organization remains work for its members. However, by maintaining a network of open contacts with countries who are building economic and political systems in harmony with our own, members and non-members alike can work together in pursuit of the goals of economic growth, free multilateral trade and development. These are not mutually exclusive. Rather, they are mutually reinforcing.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to comment on the very sensible suggestion made by our Swedish colleague this morning that we should have a more strategic approach to our relations with non-members. His proposal for the establishment of an "Eminent Person's Group" to address this matter strikes me as one which deserves support. It could make a valuable contribution to our understanding of how to orchestrate our relations, programs and dialogue with non-members, to greater benefit of all concerned.

I also find the idea of separating the Centre for Co-Operation with European Economies in Transition from the OECD (in the same way as the IEA [International Energy Agency]) is an intriguing one. I believe that we should ask the Eminent Persons' Group to look specifically at this idea.