

██████████
Environment Directorate

ENV/DIR/2016.72

Mr. Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Commissioner, Climate Action and Energy
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Brussels, 1049
Belgium

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22 June 2016

Dear Commissioner,

You recently received an official invitation (copy attached) from the OECD's ██████████, to attend the quadrennial meeting of Environment Ministers at the OECD on 28th-29th September in Paris.

Further to that invitation, I am writing to invite you to a private event that will immediately follow the official meeting of Environment Ministers on the afternoon and evening of September 29th.

A group of former Environment Ministers (of which I am one) proposes a dialogue with current office holders. All of us have experienced first-hand the challenges you face and continue, in our various walks of life, to take a keen interest in the development of environmental issues.

The relative importance of environmental issues has evolved over the last 25 years. So has the economic, social and geo-political landscape. Ministers today face different conditions from those some of us faced. But many of the challenges remain. And the political economy considerations of negotiating environmental policies to accommodate economic and social trade-offs are as acute as ever. We think that a dialogue between past and present office-holders could enable a valuable sharing of experiences.

The former Ministers who have agreed to attend include:

██████████, Austria, 1996-2000
██████████, Mexico, 1994-2000
██████████, United Kingdom, 1993-1997
██████████, ██████████, 2004-2007 and EU Commissioner ██████████ 2010-2014
██████████, India, 2009-2011
██████████, France 1997-2001

In addition, there are a couple more former Ministers who would also like to attend and hope to be able to confirm.

As you can see from the list, we come from different times, countries and political parties. We do not claim to be in any way representative but we all share an enduring commitment to working for good environmental outcomes and the sustainable use of the planet's natural resources.



The dialogue is for Ministers and former Ministers only. It is a completely private event. It will take place at the Château de Bellinglise starting at 4.00 pm on Thursday 29th September and concluding the next morning at 10.30 am. Coach transport from the OECD to the Château in Elincourt-Saint-Marguerite will be provided. The Château is located approximately 50 minutes from CDG airport. We can assist with arrangements for the departure as needed. Since this is not an official event, Ministers will need to meet the costs of meals and accommodation individually. The all-up cost for the event is €400.

An informal dialogue of this nature does not lend itself to a detailed agenda. Instead, we will be asking a small number of those attending to lead discussions on a range of the policy implementation issues that have proved challenging to all of us. We hope everyone will contribute. An important element of the gathering will be a chance to dine in small groups and deepen our understanding of many of the implementation challenges we face.

I understand the pressure of ministerial diaries. But I hope you will consider taking the extra half day needed to include this event in your schedule. It will be a unique discussion and I feel sure we will all learn a great deal from one another.

Please indicate your attendance to [REDACTED]@oecd.org by the end of July. The Château can accommodate up to 43 participants, therefore the event will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

I look forward, along with my former colleagues, to welcoming you to this event.

With kind regards,



New Zealand Minister [REDACTED], 1990-1999
OECD [REDACTED]