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Ministry of Finance

At the launching seminar of the Finnish OECD public governance review

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## **The Way Forward?**

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have now heard today what is recommended to us from the OECD and heard comments from many different angles what are the main challenges the Finnish public governance is facing in the future. The OECD review on Finland is one very important building stone for our future work in this area. In the minister's speech we heard already many important issues that will follow from this review. In closing this seminar I would like to reflect on three ways that we will take these issues forward

The first possible way is the next Government programme, which of course will be in the hands of the parties forming the Government. As you all know we are heading towards a new electoral period with parliamentary elections next spring, April 2011. The different ministries are preparing their future surveys on the key challenges that the new Government will face. One of these reports is the Ministry of Finance's report on Governance Policy. This was also part of the reasoning to ask for a comprehensive review from the OECD at this particular time. It is obvious that the recommendations and findings of this report will be used for that futures report. But also it is important to use the process as well. Meaning that we do not stop here with the report ready, but we need to discuss the findings in different fora and also actively inform all the political parties of this work.

We need to go through the review and look carefully, which are the areas that require immediate action in the form of new projects that can be started already before the new Government of 2011.

But as has been mention here earlier by minister Kiviniemi many of the issues taken up in the report we are already working on in our projects. Now we need to look at our projects with the OECD review classes on to see if we are truly heading at the right directions, do we need to reverse some actions or fine-tune or just get our work some new boost from the review. The projects that benefit from this review and are already working towards the goals rising from it include for instance the Development project to enhance effective and comprehensive implementation of the Government programme – so called Kokka project - that I am chairing, SAdE - the programme on e-government and e-democracy, all our current reforms of the steering systems as well as work on evidence-based policy-making in the POVI- project and many more.

In all the afore mentioned projects it is important that we increase the dialogue between the projects. We need to pay particular attention to this as I think many benefits would arise from even closer co-operation than we have now between the different projects. We will jointly – Ministry of Finance and Prime Minister's Office - invite all these projects to a round-table meeting, that would function as a kick-off towards a common framework in August. We will use all that comes in the next steps of the process to help and guide as towards right actions. We will also dialogue with other countries and we have had the great pleasure of having here today a distinguished delegation from Estonia.

We have from our European networks a Critical friend –process with Estonia and Estonia has also now commissioned a comprehensive review from OECD, this gives a great and very valuable opportunity to bring this dialogue further.

I want to once more also thank you Mr Alter and the review team for the huge amount of work and expertise that you have put into our review. We will be very happy to recommend to other OECD-countries too a similar exercise, we already now - even though we have just received the report – can say that it has been a useful exercise, a very important report but also the process has and continues to be of great value to us. Thank you also to all today's speakers and to all of you who joined us today.