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José Palacín, is currently a First Economic Affairs Officer at the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva, where he previously worked at the Economic Analysis Division. The membership in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe covers 56 member States: all European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries, the United States, Canada and the State of Israel. The UNECE has recently launched a programme focussing on innovation and competitiveness in its members States, with a specific emphasis on the special circumstances of transition economies and the lessons that can be drawn from more advanced countries. More information on this programme can be found at (www.unece.org/ceci/). The UNECE provides a forum for intergovernmental dialogue and the sharing of experiences. It aims to create a platform for member States, academics and the private sector to interact and disseminate the results of their work. Ultimately, as a result of this dialogue, it intends to carry out comparative reviews, identify best practices and provide policy recommendations that will be widely disseminated among its constituency.

Dr. Palacín is the secretary of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, a group of experts on this field nominated by UNECE member States. He is also focal point in the area of financing for innovative development, which is concerned with the particular problems of innovative enterprises in raising finance and the role of the public sector in helping them to overcome these challenges.

Previously to joining the UN, he was a Senior Economist at the Daiwa Research Institute (Daiwa Securities SMBC) in London, where he covered a number of emerging markets in Europe, Middle East and Africa, contributing to DIR publications and providing economic analysis and strategic advice to the equity, corporate finance and debt origination divisions. He has lectured at the University of Wolverhampton and the Autonomous University of Barcelona and provided independent consultancy services on economic and financial issues on transition economies.