



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/TRADE/C/2007/10  
11 September 2007

Original: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON TRADE**

Second session  
Geneva, 22-25 October 2007  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**CAPACITY-BUILDING**

**REPORT ON CAPACITY-BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES**

Note by the secretariat<sup>1</sup>

*Summary*

In a Decision by the Committee on Trade, reflected in the Report of its first session (document ECE/TRADE/C72006/18, para. 14 (vi)), the subsidiary bodies of the Committee were requested to “develop and support capacity-building activities and partnerships”.

This document provides an overview of capacity-building and implementation activities carried out by the UNECE Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation and by the Committee’s subsidiary bodies.

---

<sup>1</sup> This document was submitted late for technical reasons.

## **I. REGIONAL ADVISER ON TRADE FACILITATION**

1. The Regional Adviser provided advisory services to the countries of Southeast Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
2. He worked with countries of Southeast Europe, particularly within the SECI (Southeast European Cooperative Initiative)/Stability Pact framework. In particular, he:
  - (a) Organized a regional Conference on Data Harmonization and Paperless Trade in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in December 2006. A concrete outcome of this conference was the launching of a national project on establishing a Single Window in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and more cooperation among the SEE countries' authorities in harmonizing trade data element exchange.
  - (b) Supported the network of trade facilitation bodies within SECIPRO (the network of PRO committees in South-eastern Europe).
  - (c) Supported the work of the Working Group on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation; supported the work on the establishment of the structure of the new Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA 2006)
  - (d) Promoted UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33 on "Single Window", and the "UNeDocs" (UN electronic trade documents) project
  - (e) Supported the organization of the next regional Ministerial Meeting on the Information Society (in support of the e-Southeastern Europe Initiative, e-SEE, of the Stability Pact), scheduled for the end of October 2007 in Sarajevo.
  - (f) Explored possibilities for other capacity-building and pilot projects.
3. In countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the Regional Adviser:
  - (a) Promoted UNECE standards at seminars and other events on trade and transport facilitation and the WTO in: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
  - (b) Organized a seminar/training for CIS WTO members (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova) and candidate countries from the SPECA region (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), June 2006, Chisinau, Moldova. Result: strengthened capacity of countries with economies in transition to participate in multilateral trade facilitation negotiations (highly evaluated by representatives from countries with economies in transition).
  - (c) Organized the launching activities of the UN Development Account project on trade facilitation in Central Asia: opening seminar in Almaty on 25-27 June 2007, and the launching of a Project WG on Trade in Central Asia.
  - (d) Organized a joint UNECE-EurAsEC Conference on Trade Facilitation, Data Harmonization and Integrated Border Management, in Moscow (EurAsEC headquarters), in collaboration with ESCAP and OSCE, in October 2006.

- (e) Assisted in developing projects for the Working Group on Trade of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and the establishment of the Group in Dushanbe in December 2006, with support from the United Nations Development Account project on trade facilitation for SPECA countries.
- (f) Managed the UNECE-Czech technical assistance project, through which many of the above activities are financed.
- (g) Organized a training seminar on UNECE instruments for electronic documents and the Single Window for the participating countries in the above project.
- (h) Supported the process of establishment and/or functioning of trade facilitation bodies, notably in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

4. The Regional Adviser promoted UNECE norms, standards and recommendations in collaboration with: the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), the Permanent Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor (TRACECA), the GUAM group of countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova), SECIPRO and SECI/SP Business Advisory Council network, and the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC).

## **II. TRADE FACILITATION AND E-BUSINESS**

5. The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) organized the following events to present and publicize its tools and recommendations:

- (a) Integrated Approach to Trade Facilitation and Public-private Partnerships in Central Asia, Almaty, 25- 27 June 2007
- (b) Workshop on "Strengthening National and Regional Trade Facilitation Organizations", Geneva, 31 October - 1 November 2006
- (c) UNECE-EurAsEC-UNESCAP International Conference on Trade Facilitation, Moscow, 16 - 17 October 2006
- (d) UNeDocs Workshop New Delhi, 3 October 2006
- (e) Capacity-Building Workshop on the WTO Trade Facilitation Negotiations for WTO Members from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 12 - 13 June 2006

6. UN/CEFACT promoted and advanced the use of its tools and recommendations at the following events organized by other organizations:

- (a) CIO Police Forces in Europe Conference, Berlin, 23 – 25 May 2007
- (b) Seminar on Trade Facilitation of Italian EU Neighbourhood Programme, Rabat, Morocco, 17 April 2007

- (c) Workshop on Data Harmonization and Single Windows in South Eastern Europe, Ohrid, the fYR of Macedonia, 6-7 December 2006
- (d) Capacity-Building Seminar on Facilitation of Trade and Investment of the Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 26 – 28 June 2006

### **III. REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

7. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) has been working closely with industries from CIS states to promote the UNECE activities and related best practices. In October 2006, WP.6 helped Russian industry associations to organize a conference in Germany on industry experiences in applying EU directives and harmonized standards. In view of the success of this event, WP.6 is currently helping to organize a new meeting to take place in France in autumn 2007, where issues of how European industry participates in the process of elaboration of standards and technical regulations at the EU will be considered.

8. Following the debate on common regulatory language for global trade at the June 2006 UNECE international forum, WP.6 received a request from the Russian regulatory authorities regarding practical problems they faced in preparing and implementing technical regulations. A special panel discussion will be held during the WP.6 annual session in November 2007 to look more closely at this matter with participants from the EC as well as national experts.

### **IV. AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

9. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards held the following events:

- (a) Joint Slovakia/OECD/UNECE International Training Course (June 2006, Mojmirovce, Slovakia)
- (b) Joint OECD/UNECE/EC Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Standards (July 2006, Tbilisi, Georgia)
- (c) Joint Slovakia/OECD/UNECE Workshop on Fruit and Vegetables Standards (December 2006, Chisinau, Moldova)
- (d) Workshop on international commercial quality standards for agricultural produce (September 2007, Ragusa, Italy).

10. It also promoted the standards for seed potatoes and early and ware potatoes at the “Potato Russia 2007” congress (August 2007, Moscow, Russian Federation).

11. The secretariat drew up project proposals for the sixth tranche of the United Nations Development Account to promote international standards for commercial agricultural products worldwide. The project has been short-listed for financing for 2008-2009.