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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Sixth session, 28 and 31 May 2002

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION

HIGHLIGHTS

At its sixth session, the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development:

Approved a response to the initiative for “Strengthening the Organization” that had been presented by the UNECE’s Executive Secretary to the 57th session of the Economic Commission for Europe in May 2002 (paragraph 16 and annex 1)

Approved the establishment of a team of specialists on industrial restructuring under WP.8 and a joint team of specialists on quality management systems under WP.6 and WP.8 (paragraph 58)

Approved its programme of work for 2002-2003 (paragraph 70) and its priorities for the next two years (paragraph 73)

Agreed to hold a further Forum on the topic of Trade Facilitation (paragraph 24) in conjunction with its next session.

NOTE: Copies of all documents referenced in this report can be found at the following Internet address: <http://www.unece.org/trade>

1. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development held its sixth session on 28 and 31 May 2002. It held the “International Forum on Trade Facilitation” jointly with the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on 29 and 30 May.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.
3. Representatives of the European Community also participated.
4. Also in attendance were representatives of: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as well as the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA), Organization of American States (OAS) and World Customs Organization (WCO).
5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Court of Arbitration, International Electro-technical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), European Electronic Messaging Association (EEMA) and Permanent Court of Arbitration (The Hague).
6. Representatives of the following countries participated under Article 11 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe: Australia, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, South Africa and United Republic of Tanzania.
7. The following representatives participated at the invitation of the secretariat: Applied Systems Research-Ghana, Armenian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (AEPLAC), Asia Trade Facilitation and E-Business (AFACT), Association of Consultants, BIVAC International/Bureau Veritas Group, Bolero International Limited, Bre Bank SA, Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA), Business Support Centre, Yerevan, Byelorussian State University, Canadian International Development Agency, Chamber of Commerce of Romania, Chambers of Commerce of Ireland (CCI), DMI Associates/Crown Agents, EAN-Iran, Ergomundus Inc., Institute of World Economy

and International Relations, Interfaith International, International Centre for Migration and Health (ICMH), M/s Noble Trading Company, Moldovan Association for Supply Management, Mongolian National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Partnership for Equity Center – Soros Open Network Romania, Small Business Foundation Albania, Speed Motif, STAIPA, Tatis S.A., TDI Group, The General Secretariat of the Istanbul Mineral and Metals Exporters' Association, Trade Development-Switzerland and Trade Point Colombo.

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

Documentation:

ECE/TRADE/287

Provisional agenda for the sixth session

8. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda with a minor change in the sequence in which agenda items were discussed.

Item 2 - Election of officers

9. Mr. A. Safarík-Pstrosz (Czech Republic) and Ms. A. Öktem (Turkey) continued their terms as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, of the Committee. Mr. R. van Kuik (Netherlands) and Mr. T. Toichubaev (Kyrgyzstan) were elected as vice-chairs, following the expiry of the terms of office of Ms. S. Aisagaliyeva (Kazakhstan) and Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain). The Committee expressed its particular appreciation for the work undertaken by Mr. Vilchez-Barros for the Committee during the last five years as a Vice-Chair and past Chair of the Committee.

Introductory remarks

10. The Deputy Executive-Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Mr. Paolo Garonna, opened the session. He noted that for both the United Nations and the UNECE these were very exciting times, with many external and internal changes and challenges ahead. He believed that the Committee could play an important role in responding to these new challenges during its current session in three important ways:

- (a) First, by giving its input to the “Strengthening the Organization” initiative, which had been started by the Secretary-General and is supported by the United Nations Member States. He explained that the process had begun with an organization-specific self-assessment, and that among the objectives of the UNECE self-assessment were: to raise the UNECE profile, to integrate and broaden policy dialogue, to have a more cross-sectoral approach, to focus more on the implementation of standards and norms, and to support sub-regional integration.
- (b) Secondly, by reviewing its programme of work, and its prioritization, which should reflect higher priorities within the United Nations as set out in the Millennium Declaration as well

as in other global processes. He also hoped that the Committee, through its work, would play a catalytic role in helping member States to focus their priorities.

- (c) Thirdly, he stressed the importance of trade facilitation and its role in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Doha process and in ongoing trade liberalization. He believed that the new spirit of cooperation between international institutions, and particularly the Bretton Woods institutions and United Nations organizations would help promote the positive aspects of global trade liberalization by creating dialogue and synergies. However, it was important in this new cooperative setting that tasks and roles be clearly defined. One important contribution that the Committee could make was to help overcome the capacity gap in trade facilitation and integrate trade facilitation into development agendas. This was an area where the Committee could build on existing networks to encourage a synergy among all institutions. It was, he felt, a critical time for defining the UNECE's involvement and he planned to have the secretariat develop a policy paper on this topic for discussion with other international organizations. He also noted with appreciation the International Forum on Trade Facilitation that would take place on 29 and 30 May 2002 and its particular relevance within this new framework.

11. In closing, he emphasized that the Committee was one of the most important principal subsidiary bodies of the UNECE and should therefore be at the forefront of new developments.

12. The representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, congratulated the secretariat of the Committee for its excellent work in the area of trade facilitation and public/private partnerships. He stressed the importance of a systematic and coherent approach to the work of the Committee. He also noted the broad nature of the documentation prepared for the meeting and the desirability of it being more focused for future sessions.

Item 3 - Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe

Documentation:

ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/20

Matters arising from the 57th session of the Economic Commission for Europe

ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/21

Draft Statement of the CTIED on "Strengthening the Organization"

13. The Director of the Trade Division, Ms. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks, introduced document ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/20, which highlights those issues discussed at the May 2002 session of the Commission that were of direct relevance to the work of the Committee. These were: the new annual reporting requirements for principal subsidiary bodies (PSBs); the "Strengthening the Organization" document and the request contained therein for PSBs to provide input; a number of issues to be reviewed when developing operational activities; and the input that would be required to the European Regional Preparatory Conference for the World Summit for

the Information Society. She also reported to the Committee on the Trade Division's role during the past year as a focal point for the UNECE in the ICT for Development process. On behalf of Ms. Larissa Kapitsa, Director of the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities, the Director of the Trade Division also briefly outlined how the Coordinating Unit would follow up on the Commission's request to address labour market challenges and the economic dimension of security in Europe within the UNECE activities. The Committee then **noted** document ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/20.

14. The Chairman introduced document ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/21 which had been prepared by the Bureau in response to the document on "Strengthening the Organization", which had been presented and discussed at the May 2002 Commission session (copies are available on the Internet at: http://www.unece.org/commission/2002/57th_index.htm). The intention of this document, he stressed, was to give a positive and constructive response and define the basic framework within which the Committee would progress. Delegations were informed that comments had been requested on this paper at the Commission session. These should be sent by mid-June to the Executive Secretary of the UNECE or to the Secretary of the Committee.

15. The representative of Spain informed the Committee that the European Union was preparing a coordinated response to that paper.

16. After further discussion on document ECE/TRADE/NONE/2002/21, a final text containing the Statement of the Committee on "Strengthening of the Organization" was approved and can be found in annex 1.

Item 4 – Review of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/1

"WTO, Doha and transition economies"

ECE/TRADE/2002/NONE/19

Economic Survey of Europe, Chapter 4

17. The Officer-in-Charge of the UNECE Economic Analysis Division, Mr. Dieter Hesse, briefly presented current trends in economic growth in the UNECE region, noting the performance decline in western European and North American member States during 2002 and, in sharp contrast to this development, the very good performance of the transition countries. On average, during recent years, the latter had experienced a growth in real GDP and continued FDI flows even during international and regional economic downturns. He believed this to be, at least in part, a reflection of the longer-term strategic interest of many multinational companies in developing their presence in transition economies. In addition, he highlighted the study on technological activities in the UNECE region contained in chapter 4 of the *Economic Survey of Europe 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.E.7).

18. The delegation of the Russian Federation suggested that, in the future, it would be interesting to focus more on the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as to look at and analyse the factors influencing trade patterns in the region.

19. The Committee **noted** this information and the accompanying document and expressed its appreciation of the high quality of the presentation.

20. The Director of the Trade Division introduced document ECE/TRADE/2002/1, noting that it was for information only and had been drafted as a background paper for a briefing on the same topic, held at very short notice, which had taken place in January 2002. The Committee then **noted** the document and the concerns of some delegations with regard to its contents.

Item 5 – Follow-up to the 2001 Forum and Round Table on Trade in Services

21. The Director of the Trade Division noted that many delegations had requested a follow-up to the 2001 Forum and requested that the Committee consider examining the issue of trade in services again at another of its annual forums. She also noted that the proceedings of the 2001 Forum on “Trading into the Future: E-services for Trade, Investment and Enterprise” was now available (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.E.3). The possibility of creating an e-learning module in the area of trade in services, she explained, was also being examined. The Committee **noted** this information.

Item 6– Trade promotion activities

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/3	Report on Multiplier Points
TRADE/2002/3/Add.1	List of Multiplier Points
TRADE/2002/4	UNECE Trade Directory
TRADE/2002/4/Add.1	Trade Directory, List of Contact Points
TRADE/2002/4/Add.2	Trade Directory, International organizations supporting trade

22. The secretary to the Committee briefly explained that since the decision of the Committee in 2001 to establish a multiplier point [dissemination centre] network, 38 multiplier points in 23 transition economies had been set up and were successfully promoting UNECE trade activities in their countries. Delegations were then asked for their input and recommendations with regard to other organizations in their countries that might be interested in participating. The delegation of the Russian Federation stressed the usefulness of this programme and its desire to have it further extended within Russia.

23. The secretary of the Committee also presented to delegations the first draft of the Trade

26. The Committee was informed of the Working Party's liaison arrangements with sub-regional organizations in the UNECE region and, in particular, with the CIS Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology. The Committee noted that this liaison allowed experts from many countries in transition to follow WP.6 activities and to provide feedback to the secretariat. It was **noted** that such methods for allowing the involvement of experts from countries in transition in the work, when they were lacking possibilities for direct participation at UNECE meetings, might also be of interest to other UNECE subsidiary bodies.

27. Mr. Arvius then went on to report on cross-sectoral cooperation between WP.6 and other UNECE intergovernmental bodies, including the joint work on quality management with WP.8 and the proposed work with the Timber Committee on environmental aspects of certification and conformity assessment. The Committee **noted** these cross-sectoral initiatives and encouraged the Working Party to continue its efforts in strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation.

28. The delegations of the European Community and the Russian Federation expressed their appreciation for the work of WP.6 and emphasized the importance of its new recommendation L on the "International Model", which could be used by interested countries or regions, on a voluntary basis, as a means to achieve regulatory convergence and the facilitation of trade in selected areas. The delegation of the European Community also reported that the Council of the European Union on 1 March 2002 had invited, "the Commission and Member States to continue the promotion of standards-receptive regulatory models with the Community's trading partners, such as those developed by the [UN]ECE".

29. The delegation of Canada voiced a reservation concerning the development and content of the "International Model".

30. A summary of the most recent activities of WP.6, as well as its proposals to the Committee, was made available as document TRADE/2002/6 and was **noted**.

31. The Committee **endorsed** the report of the WP.6 eleventh session (TRADE/WP.6/2001/18 and TRADE/WP.6/2001/18/Add.1), as well as the conclusions of the Workshop on Conformity Assessment Procedures and Trade Facilitation, held in conjunction with that session, and the proposal to further explore with UNECE standard-setting subsidiary bodies, the possibilities for using the principles and concept of the “International Model” in their areas of competence.

32. It then considered and **approved** a proposal for the secretariat to contact other UNECE subsidiary bodies in order to obtain information on the types of recommendations and standards drawn up by them, as well as on any systems they might have for following up on their national transposition. This information will be used to explore the possibilities for implementing WP.6’s recommendation on the national transposition of standards and recommendations.

Item 9 - Trade facilitation

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/7

Summary of UN/CEFACT’s progress achieved since the Committee’s June 2001 session

33. The Chair of the Steering Group and Vice-Chair of UN/CEFACT, Mr. Ray Walker (United Kingdom), presented a summary of UN/CEFACT activities (TRADE/2002/7) and reported on recent developments. The first day of the eighth plenary session of UN/CEFACT had been held the day prior to the Committee session and UN/CEFACT had adopted a new structure for its working sub-groups.

34. He explained that this structure would allow the Centre to adopt a more user-oriented approach to its trade facilitation work, while at the same time creating better coordination and synergies in the technical work and development that are the main focus of the Centre’s programme of work. He also noted that as the implementation of UN/CEFACT recommendations became increasingly important, so too did the issue of communications. To support both of these, the new structure included a policy group and a communication and information group, both of which would report direct to the Plenary.

35. During the discussion, the delegation of Belgium emphasized the need to provide UN/CEFACT with a stable structure that would be beneficial for its users.

36. The Plenary had also adopted a revision of two annexes to recommendation 21. In addition, it had reviewed a draft recommendation on current best practice for the implementers of e-business, and member States had been asked to contribute comments for the finalization of this recommendation.

37. The Vice-Chair then highlighted some of the most important accomplishments and issues that had arisen during the past year.

38. In preparation for the International Forum on Trade Facilitation, UN/CEFACT had published a new brochure in the three working languages, as well as several other publications, and also had revised and published jointly with UNCTAD, the *Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations* (ECE/TRADE/279, UNCTAD/SDTE/TLB/3).

39. The work on UN/EDIFACT and the EDI standards remained very important in the development of e-commerce. For instance, EDI was still very central for e-commerce in the United States, and for specific information on this, the Chairman referred delegations to the “e-stats” review of the United States Department of Commerce (www.census.gov/estats).

40. The first phase of the ebXML (electronic business extended markup language) project had been completed, resulting in 8 technical specifications, 14 technical reports, 1 glossary and 3 white papers (available at <http://www.ebxml.org>). Some of the biggest organizations and companies around the world, such as Rosetta.Net, ALAT, GM, Ford, Daimler-Chrysler and Open Travel Alliance had now adopted ebXML. The Open Applications Group had integrated ebXML into 182 Business Transaction Standards and the Global Commerce Initiative (GCI) had adopted ebXML for business-to-business Trade in Consumer Goods. The Government of Iceland had implemented ebXML for exchanging information on its dairy products.

41. Following the end of the first phase, an agreement with OASIS had been concluded on a second phase. These negotiations had led to OASIS joining, in March 2002, the Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, the International Electrotechnical Commission, the International Organization for Standardization, and the International Telecommunication Union.

42. One of the issues for which UN/CEFACT was currently seeking a solution is the intellectual property rights associated with its work. The United Nations Office for Legal Affairs (OLA) had suggested that all intellectual property rights resulting from the work jointly carried out by UN/CEFACT and OASIS should be exclusively owned by the United Nations. However, this was very likely to discourage contributions from industry participants in UN/CEFACT deliverables and, therefore, seriously affect the work of UN/CEFACT. The UN/CEFACT Plenary had requested that the secretariat make every effort to resolve the question of policy on this matter in a way that was both consistent with the principles of the United Nations and with the objectives of UN/CEFACT.

43. For further work to take place in some of the above areas (and particularly ebXML) considerable additional support, both in terms of finance and personnel resources, would be required. To this end, the Plenary had agreed to help define the core competencies and tasks of the UNECE secretariat in relation to UN/CEFACT activities and then to seek the advice of the OLA on the appropriate legal framework for obtaining an external support service provider.

44. As a result of the following discussions, the secretariat was invited to provide member States with existing examples inside the United Nations System, regarding the use of external service providers. The necessity to have a multilingual capacity in the external services provided was also emphasized.

45. The Committee noted the progress achieved.

Item 10 – Agricultural quality standards

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/8	Summary of WP.7 progress achieved since the November 2001 session
TRADE/WP.7/2001/9	Report of the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7)

46. The Secretary to the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development (WP.7) presented documents TRADE/2002/8 and TRADE/WP.7/2001/9. As additional information to the revised and new standards listed in these documents, he reported that during the last year a number of standards had been updated to adapt them to new trade practices. New standards for pineapples and ovine carcasses and cuts were close to completion. A solution to the mentioning of trade marks in UNECE Standards had been adopted and work on the review of the Geneva Protocol (which defines the context of the Standards) and the harmonization of produce coding had started.

47. The Committee had, at previous sessions, discussed possible support by UNECE for the work on explanatory brochures which is currently done under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme. The secretariat reported that, at present, the UNECE was not able to allocate the additional resources necessary for undertaking this work to the Agricultural Standards Unit, but that the cooperation with the OECD Scheme functioned very well.

48. A seminar on Safe and High-quality Food for International Trade had been co-organized on 4 and 5 April 2002 in New Delhi by the UNECE with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and EAN India, at the invitation of the Government of India. The seminar had focused on building the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises to apply international standards and participate in international supply chains. The seminar was well received and it is planned to organize a follow-up event in 2003 in Bangkok together with ESCAP and, possibly, further seminars, one of which could be in a central Asian member State of the UNECE.

49. The delegation of the European Community said that it continued to consider the UNECE work on agricultural standards as very important and relevant. Many EC standards within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy are based on these UNECE standards. The delegation also indicated its encouragement for making the standards better known in other parts of the world. It noted the excellent cooperation with the FAO and the OECD Scheme. However, it hoped that it would be possible for UNECE to support the development of explanatory brochures to speed up this work in the future.

50. The delegation of Switzerland said that the work of WP.7 and its specialized sections was a positive example of how the UNECE and the Committee could make a contribution that was recognized in international trade.

51. The delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Chairman of WP.7, Mr. Vilchez-Barros, for his contribution to UNECE work on agricultural standards, which had helped WP.7 become a global forum in this area, with participation of experts from all continents. He particularly stressed the importance for his country of the standards for seed potatoes and meat and the use of UNECE agricultural standards in negotiations with trading partners. He also expressed the wish to see more operational work by the UNECE secretariat, i.e. the organization of training courses on how to apply the standards.

52. The Committee **endorsed** TRADE/WP.7/2001/9 and **noted** TRADE/2002/8. The points raised by the European Community and the Russian Federation would be discussed by the WP.7 bureau.

Item 11– Legal and commercial practice

Documentation:

TRADE/WP.5/2002/12

Report of the fiftieth session of the Working Party on Legal and Commercial Practice

53. A member of the secretariat introduced this item and presented a report on the Working Party on Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5) on the behalf of its Chairman, Mr. David Winter. He highlighted the Public-Private Partnership Alliance programme, as well as the activities of the following groups working under WP.5: the Build-Operate-Transfer Group, the Real Estate Advisory Group and the Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment.

54. A number of delegations **supported** the work of WP.5 and emphasized the importance of its work in public-private partnerships. They also noted the relevance of its cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on issues related to the economic aspects of security. The secretariat was called upon to continue and develop its analytical support for this joint activity.

55. The meeting **endorsed** the report of the Working Party as presented in document TRADE/WP.5/2002/12; and its programme of work for 2002-2003, with the exception of the proposals to establish a task force on private/public partnerships and conflict prevention and to organize a Forum on that topic in 2003.

56. The Committee left open the possibility of considering such a request again, provided that there is a clear division of responsibilities between the UNECE and the OSCE in this area, bearing in mind the OSCE Platform for Cooperative Security, and based upon the comparative advantage that the OSCE would be exploiting in organizing such a conference in Vienna with UNECE support (rather than it being organized by UNECE with some support from the OSCE). Concern was also expressed with regard to the resources that might be required to support this activity, given the high importance that the Committee placed on the existing activities under the Working Party.

Item 12 – Industry and enterprise development

TRADE/WP.8/2002/10

Report of the third session of the Working Party on
Industry and Enterprise Development

57. The Vice-chair of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8), Ms. Tatiana Skameykina, introduced this item and highlighted the decisions taken by that Working Party at its third session.

58. The Committee **endorsed** the report of the Working Party as presented in document TRADE/WP.8/22002/10 and its programme of work for 2002-2003. It also approved the Working Party's decision to establish two new Teams of Specialists, on industrial restructuring and quality management systems. The latter will be a joint Team of Specialists, reporting to both WP.6 and WP.8.

Item 13 – International commercial arbitration

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/10

Activities of the Advisory Group on
Commercial Arbitration

TRADE/2002/NONE/22

Arbitration Advisory Group

59. The Secretary to the Committee introduced document TRADE/2002/10, containing a report on the activities of the Arbitration Advisory Group and noted that the date for the proposed formal preparatory meeting to consider the text of an optional protocol to the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration would take place in the first half of 2003. The Committee **noted** this report.

60. She also introduced TRADE/2002/NONE/22, which calls for the maintenance of the work on the 1961 European Convention directly under the Committee, the transfer of the Arbitration Advisory Group to WP.5, with the consequent amendments to the Advisory Group's terms of reference, as found in annex 2 to this report. The Committee **approved** the proposals put forth in this document.

Item 14 – Reports on cross-sectoral activities, coordination and cooperation**(a) Operational and regional advisory activities in support of the work programme**Documentation:

TRADE/2002/12

Operational and regional advisory activities

61. A member of the secretariat introduced document TRADE/2002/12, which had been prepared by the secretariat, and the Committee **noted** this document.

(b) Technical cooperation in support of the implementation of trade-related norms, standards and recommendationsDocumentation:

TRADE/2002/11

Technical cooperation in support of trade-related norms, standards and recommendations (March 2001 – February 2002)

62. The Director of the Trade Division briefly reviewed the three projects described in document TRADE/2002/11 and the Committee **noted** this document.

Item 15 – Cross-sectoral activities in sustainable development, gender mainstreaming and ICT for developmentDocumentation:

TRADE/2002/13

Cross-sectoral activities in sustainable development, gender mainstreaming and ICT for development

63. In introducing document TRADE/2002/13, the Director of the Trade Division briefly outlined the cross-sectoral activities being undertaken in response to the request from the Commission for such activities. She mentioned that the cross-sectoral activity on certification, conformity assessment and environment standards (involving WP.6 and the Timber Committee) was one of the areas where the UNECE had truly unique expertise. With regard to gender issues, she noted the intention to develop cooperation between UN/CEFACT and the programme on women and the knowledge-based economy that had been developed by the Regional Advisor on Gender and the Economy.

64. She also informed the Committee that the Trade Division was the UNECE focal point for work on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for development and the World Summit for the Information Society.

65. The Committee **noted** this document.

Item 16 – Cooperation with other organizations in support of the work programme

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/14

Cooperation with other international organizations

TRADE/2002/14/Add.1

Cooperation with other international organizations

66. The Director of the Trade Division explained that documents TRADE/2002/14 and TRADE/2002/14/Add.1 had been prepared at the request of the Bureau to make sure that any duplication of work with other organizations was avoided. A more in-depth document on cooperation with WTO was currently being prepared and would be available shortly. The Committee welcomed this information and then **noted** these documents.

Item 17 – Activities of the Commission's other principal subsidiary bodies: Trade, Timber and Environment

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/15

Trade, Timber and Environment

67. The Director of the Trade Division briefly reviewed the activities of the Timber Committee related to trade as outlined in document TRADE/2002/15. This document provided information on the trade-related activities of another UNECE principal subsidiary body in order to assist the Committee in identifying potential areas for cooperation. The Bureau of the Committee had decided to make an in-depth review of only one PSB per session, beginning this year, rather than a very general overview of the activities in all subsidiary bodies as this had proved, over a period of a number of years, to be of limited use.

68. The Committee **noted** this document.

Item 18 – Programme of workDocumentation:

TRADE/2002/16	Programme of work (2002-2003)
TRADE/2002/16/Add.1	Programme of work (2002-2003) - Priorities
TRADE/2002/17	Strategic Goals and Objectives

69. The Chair of the Committee introduced the Programme of Work (document TRADE/2002/16) and its list of priorities (TRADE/2002/16/Add.1), documents which had been agreed and submitted by the Bureau of the Committee.

70. The programme of work was approved by the Committee, with the following changes:

- In paragraph 86, deletion of the reference to the European Union as an “international organization” and deletion of the Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA) in the last sentence, since it does not belong to the group of organizations that “have a political character and do not develop their own programmes in substantive areas”. In fact, the opposite is the case.
- The deletion of paragraph 149, which calls for the organization of an international conference on the role of public-private partnerships in conflict prevention (and which the WP.5 Chair in his report had indicated would be the Forum organized on the occasion of the next WP.5 meeting).
- The modification of paragraph 151, from “A second ‘Villars’ meeting to be held at the OSCE in Vienna” to “A second ‘Villars’ meeting to be organized by the OSCE in Vienna, in cooperation with the UNECE.”

71. Based upon concerns regarding the programme of work for WP.5 and WP.8, all delegations present, including Spain on the part of the European Union, indicated that it would be highly desirable if, for future work programmes, a strategic, coherent, and focused framework could be presented. These should show how the activities under each Working Party are linked and how they build upon the UNECE’s comparative advantages. They further entrusted the Bureau to follow up on this.

72. The Committee then discussed the proposed prioritization of activities, as submitted by the Bureau using the form which the Commission requests its subsidiary bodies to submit and which was developed by its Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (TRADE/2002/16/Add.1).

73. The priorities as outlined in section 1 (Prioritization) of the form were **approved** by the Committee, and the Committee **agreed** not to submit any information under section 2 (Activity Options). Further, several delegations wished it to be noted that the information requested under section 2 (i.e. with the addition or subtraction of one staff member, which activities the Committee would consider adding or reducing) did not respond to management reality. They were of the view that, if a staff member were to be taken away (the likelihood of additions being small), this would be accommodated, in most cases, through reductions and changes in a number of different areas rather than through the complete elimination of entire activities. In conclusion, the Committee **agreed** that, in the case of any change in the allocation of resources, the Bureau would be entrusted with agreeing upon the changes to be made, in consultation with the secretariat.

74. Document TRADE/2002/17, which contains the Terms of Reference, Policy Objectives and Supporting Strategic Goals for the Committee, had already been agreed and approved at the June 2001 session and had been tabled only in order to present the final version.

Item 19 – Round table on “Implementation of Trade Facilitation in Transition Economies”

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/18	Implementation of Trade Facilitation in Transition Economies: Current Aspects and Issues
TRADE/2002/19	General Trends in the Growth of Exports of Transport Services and More Effective Use of Ukraine’s Geographical Situation as a Transit State

75. The Committee thanked the secretariat for the organization of the Round Table, which delegations had found to be both interesting and informative. The Committee then **noted** the background documents that had been prepared for the Round Table, as listed under this agenda item and the secretariat was requested to publish the proceedings within as brief a delay as possible.

Item 20 – Recommendations from the International Forum on Trade FacilitationDocumentation:

TRADE/2002/20	International Forum on Trade Facilitation: Programme
TRADE/2002/21	Trade Facilitation in a Global Trade Environment
TRADE/2002/22	The Single Window Concept
TRADE/2002/23	Landlocked Countries: Opportunities, Challenges, Recommendations
TRADE/2002/NONE/3	E-Commerce and Export Promotion Policies for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: East Asian and Latin American Experiences
TRADE/2002/NONE/4	Facilitación del comercio: un concepto urgente para un tema recurrente

76. The Delegation of Switzerland introduced the “Conclusions from the Chairman” of the Forum and the Committee then **noted** this document (copies are available from the secretariat and on the Committee’s WWW site). The Committee then asked the secretariat to follow up on any items in the conclusions where this would be appropriate.

77. The Committee also **noted** the background documents which had been prepared for the Forum and which are listed under this agenda item, **requested** that the conclusions from the Forum be included in the Forum proceedings and **asked** the secretariat to publish the proceedings from the Forum as soon as possible.

Item 21 – Any other business

78. A provisional date for the next session of the Committee and its forum was **approved**, this being the week of 22 June 2003 (IMPORTANT NOTE: because of conflicts with other meetings, this has subsequently been changed to the week of **12 May 2003**).

79. The Committee was informed that the WP.6 recommendation “International Model for Technical Harmonization” had been presented at the intergovernmental meeting of the CIS standardization agencies (28-30 May 2002, Minsk) and that, as result of the following discussions, the CIS States had decided to begin elaborating a strategy for the harmonization of technical regulations between the CIS States. Such work will be based on the principles proposed in the “International Model” and has the potential to improve dialogue and cooperation on regulatory matters in the UNECE region.

Item 22 – Adoption of the report

80. The Committee adopted its report on 31 May 2002.

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ANNEX 1**Statement of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
on “Strengthening the Organization”****Fifty-Seventh Session of the Economic Commission for Europe**

Taking account of the conclusions of the fifty-seventh session of the ECE, the CTIED agreed on the following comments, proposals and conclusions:

The CTIED:**1. Welcomes:**

1.1. The ECE’s intention to define ways and measures to enable the strengthening of the organization’s role and making it better known;

1.2. The requirement to report regularly to each ECE annual session on the CTIED’s accomplishments, problems, challenges, current structure and other relevant information;

1.3. Being involved in a review of the performance of PSBs with the goal of making it more simple, coherent, efficient and systematic.

2. Declares its readiness to:

2.1. Review its work programme with the aim of focusing its activities where the CTIED clearly has proven expertise, can develop cross-sectoral issues, has a comparative advantage, adds value and clearly meets the needs of all the member States;

2.2. Review its structure, including relations, interlinkages and possible links with other existing PSBs;

2.3. Develop solutions that increase the efficiency and attractiveness of the CTIED’s work for member States and all other interested parties.

2.4. Work for greater coherence and coordination in the many diverse elements of its work.

3. Confirms its desire to:

3.1. Maintain as the most important objective of the CTIED's work the development of trade and business in a sustainable environment;

3.2. Maintain as its principal orientation setting, and supporting the implementation of, recommendations and standards for the development of trade and business.

3.3. Increase its efforts to promote implementation of the CTIED's norms, standards and recommendations, in collaboration with the other regional commissions and UNCTAD.

4 Requests:

- 4.1 That the Directors and secretariats of the Trade Division and the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities prepare proposals for strengthening and focusing the capacity for technical assistance and operational activities that support the implementation of the CTIED's work.

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Reference Sources:

- a) For a copy of the document: "*Strengthening the Organization (UNECE secretariat's self evaluation)*", please go to the following Internet site and under "Conference Room Papers", look for CRP.3 (copies are available in English, French and Russian): http://www.unece.org/commission/2002/57th_index.htm
- b) For a record of the discussion at the ECE annual session of the above document, please refer to the report from the 2002 ECE annual session (document E/ECE/1395, which also has the number E/2002/37).

ANNEX 2

Revisions to be made to the Terms of Reference of the Arbitration Advisory Group as found in Annex to TRADE/2001/14:

Replace under Objectives

“1 (a) To finalize the text for presenting the agreed amendments to the 1961 Convention and to organize the necessary meeting of plenipotentiaries to approve them”

with

“1 (a) To provide expert advice to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development on the revision of the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration.”

Delete under Deliverables

2(b) “An amended 1961 European Convention Text, approved by the contracting States.”

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