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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

8th SESSION

PROPOSAL FOR THE 2004 POLICY SEGMENT

DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION

Note by the secretariat

1. With June 2004 marking the target date for accession to the European Union for 10 new Member States, the timing of this proposed policy segment - spring 2004 - is ideal for looking beyond enlargement at some of the fundamental questions confronting Governments, the business community and civil society:

- How will EU enlargement affect the region's prosperity?
- How can foreign direct investment, both for acceding and non-acceding countries, be attracted into a wider Europe?
- What trade facilitation arrangements will most suit the new trading environment?

2. The 2004 policy segment meeting would focus on facilitating trade and enterprise development across the future borders of Europe, as well as on how UNECE could contribute to improving communications and cooperation among countries of the region. It would also consider how UNECE could respond to these new challenges through cross-sectoral initiatives and how it could contribute to regional cooperation in this new political context.

3. UNECE, with its 55 State membership, offers an accessible forum for intergovernmental discussion on such post-enlargement issues. It has for years been instrumental in facilitating trade, transit and customs matters and promoting common legal instruments for transport and cross-border cooperation throughout the region.

4. To capitalize on this experience and place it at the disposal of member States, whether or not they are likely to participate in the EU, the UNECE will hold a series of meetings on the theme, "A Wider Europe" throughout 2003 and 2004. The proposed policy segment for 2004 on post-enlargement would take stock of and build upon the outcome of these meetings.

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