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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
Seventh session, 13 and 16 May 2003  
Item 19 of the provisional agenda**Proposed Topic for the 2004 Forum of the  
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)*****Promoting Trade, Industry and Enterprise in a Wider Europe*****DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL**Note by the secretariat**Introduction**

1. It is proposed that the topic for the Committee's Forum in May 2004 be "*Promoting Trade, Industry and Enterprise in a Wider Europe*". The Forum would discuss practical means of meeting the challenges that the region will face following the enlargement of the European Union, and especially those challenges facing the "new neighbours". This would be particularly timely in the light of the 1 May 2004 accession date and is a discussion to which both subprogrammes under the Committee, i.e. the Trade Development subprogramme and the Industry and Enterprise Development subprogramme, can make substantive contributions (although the Trade Development subprogramme would have the lead role due to resource considerations).

**Overview**

2. It is very important that the enlargement of the European Union should not create new barriers for trade and enterprise in the region. The challenges for the EU's new neighbours will include: ensuring their economic integration into this new regional framework; learning how to capitalize on new opportunities that these changes offer; and improving their integration into both sub-regional and multilateral trade and enterprise networks. The 2004 Forum would focus on practical means for them to do so.

3. To meet these challenge, the new neighbours will need to implement modern trade practices and improve their ability to operate under widely used international and regional technical norms and standards -- like their EU counterparts. In this context, the UNECE has much to offer these countries since UNECE norms, standards and recommendations are essential “trading tools” as well as offering the foundations for practical trade and enterprise development policy and the related legal framework.

4. To assist countries in using the UNECE’s work to support economic integration and development, the Forum would examine these issues from a hands-on perspective. Speakers would include representatives from the business community, trade associations, ministries of trade and international organizations involved in trade. These speakers would have experience in trying to improve the market integration of local enterprises, and could discuss the following practical aspects of increasing economic integration:

- Regulatory convergence as a policy to support economic integration and increased regional and sub-regional trade;
- Transparency as a prerequisite and tool for economic integration;
- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in trade and economic integration;
- International supply chains in a Wider Europe.

5. Each of the above issues will be looked at from the perspective of the work being undertaken by the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, and the contribution that implementation of this work could make to greater economic integration in the region.

6. In addition, the Forum would seek input from the speakers and participants as to what kinds of norms, standards, instruments, recommendations and projects the Committee could develop or promote in order to contribute to greater economic integration in a wider Europe.

## **Goals**

7. The Forum is expected to:

- Provide feedback to the CTIED on the implementation of its norms, standards, instruments, recommendations and projects in increasing the economic integration in the region;
- Raise the awareness of interested members of the business community, trade associations, Governments and international organizations with regard to CTIED norms, standards, instruments, recommendations and projects that could help them improve their economic integration;

- Inspire new ideas for future CTIED norms, standards, instruments, recommendations and projects;
- Give an opportunity for beneficiaries to comment on CTIED capacity-building projects and allow member States to evaluate the potential for replicating these projects in other countries or sub-regions.
- Provide the CTIED with information about, and evaluations of, other organizations' norms and projects in this area, and possibly stimulate CTIED cooperation with these organizations;
- Help the CTIED evaluate its contribution to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals<sup>1</sup>, the World Summit on Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup> as well as its own mandate.

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1 United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000, A/RES/55/2, para. 13.

2 *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum).