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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**  
COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
Eighth session, 10 and 14 May 2004

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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

A consolidated document containing all of the Committee's procedures and guidelines including procedures for an inter-sessional decision-making process and CTIED sub-groups (paragraphs 14 and 16).

Renewal of the mandates of the following sub-groups of Subsidiary bodies (paragraphs 20 and 25):

The Real Estate Advisory Group (WP.5)

The Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment (WP.5).

The Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (WP.8)

The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems (WP.6 and WP.8)

The Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship (WP.8)

The Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship (WP.8);

The Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (WP.8)

Under the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6), the establishment of a Telecom task force; as well as terms of reference for the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance approved in 2003.

New terms of reference for WP.6 and a change of name from the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies to the "Working Party for Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies" (paragraph 35).

A proposal by the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) to abolish the Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes by combining its work into that of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (paragraph 37).

The dates for its ninth session: 23 to 27 May 2005 (paragraph 55).

The title of the 2005 Forum: "After Fifteen Years of Market Reforms in Transition Economies: New Challenges and Perspectives for the Industrial Sector" (paragraph 56) and the topic of its 2006 Forum: regulatory cooperation in support of international trade (paragraph 57).

NOTE: Copies of all documents referenced in this report can be found at the following Internet address:

<http://www.unecce.org/trade/tips/docs/ctied8/listdoc04.htm>.

1. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development held its eighth session on 10, 12, 13 and 14 May 2004. The Committee also organized an Executive Forum on “Competing in a Changing Europe” on 11 and 12 May.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated in the Committee session: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan.
3. Representatives of the European Community also participated.
4. In attendance were representatives from the following United Nations organizations and specialized agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
5. Also in attendance were the following inter-governmental organizations: the BSEC – Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
6. Representatives of the following countries participated under Article 11 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe: Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and New Zealand.
7. The following organizations participated at the invitation of the secretariat: ALP-T Tourism Firm, Association Est Recontre Ouest, Association of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Serbia and Montenegro, BIA – Bulgarian Industrial Association, Business and Management University (BMU), CECIDE – CONGAI, CLAM General Secretariat, Commercial International Bank (Egypt) S.A.E., Consultant & Partners C.V., Consulting and Training Center “Adolat”, Danish Plant Directorate, Davies & Davis Law Towers, EACCE, EPFL – Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Ericsson Enterprise AB Sweden, Ernst & Young, European Economic and Social Committee, Galatasary University, Global Executive and Consultants, Intertek International Ltd., IT Consultancy Engineering and Management Group Ltd., “Met-Fur-Servis” Ltd., OASIS – Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards, PP “EKOR” Enterprise, Qualiservice GmBh, Small Business Foundation Albania, Stefanica Dutu & Partners, Swedish Board of Agriculture, University “AI, J. Cuza” iasi, University of Geneva, Women Manager Association of Republic of Moldova.

### **Item 1 – Adoption of the agenda**

#### Documentation:

ECE/TRADE/339

Provisional agenda for the eighth session

#### *Decisions taken*

8. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda.

**Item 2 – Election of officers***Decisions taken*

9. It was confirmed that the current Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs would remain in office for another year, these being: Mr. A. Safarik-Pstrosz (Czech Republic) as Chair and Ms. A. Öktem (Turkey), Mr. R. van Kuik (Netherlands) and Mr. T. Toichubaev (Kyrgyzstan) as Vice-Chairs.

**Item 3 – Opening address**

10. The Chair of the Committee presented the highlights of the Committee's work and accomplishments during the past year.

**Item 4 - Matters arising from the fifty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the inter-sessional meetings of the Committee Bureau**Documentation:

TRADE/2004/1

Matters arising from the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly of Particular Relevance to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

TRADE/2004/2

CTIED Guidelines and Procedures

11. The Director of the Trade Development and Timber Division introduced document TRADE/2004/1, which provides a summary of the decisions taken during UNECE's Annual Session in February 2004 that may affect the CTIED's work.

12. The Director drew the attention of delegates to Annex I of the document, which calls for Principal Subsidiary Bodies, including the Committee, to provide additional inputs to the programme of work planning process, including directions and priority areas. She also highlighted the procedures proposed by the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (and described in Annex II) to facilitate technical cooperation, which calls for the Principal Subsidiary Bodies to inform, on an annual basis, the UNECE's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work as to priority areas for technical cooperation that are under-funded.

13. She also informed the Committee that the Commission had decided to have an in-depth independent evaluation made of the work of the UNECE in the light of changes in the European institutional architecture, and that the CTIED should be involved in this evaluation process.

14. The Secretary to the Committee then introduced the document TRADE/2004/2, which combined all existing and proposed Committee procedures and guidelines into one reference document and introduced the three items that were for the Committee's approval:

- The inter-sessional approval process, for approvals between Committee sessions;
- Procedures for the establishment and renewal of Sub-Groups
- Guidelines for Naming Conventions for Sub-Groups, developed to help those unfamiliar with UNECE's structure more easily understand the relative importance and differences between the different bodies working under the Committee.

*Decisions taken*

15. The Committee requested its Bureau to develop any inputs required by the Economic Commission for Europe as part of its programme of work planning process for 2006-2007 and for the external evaluation of the UNECE to take place during 2004.

16. The Committee approved the proposals for new CTIED guidelines and procedures as contained in document ECE/TRADE/2004/2.

**Item 5 - Programme of Work – Biannual review and approval of budget activities (2004 -2007)**

**Item 5.1 - Activities of other UNECE principal subsidiary bodies with possible impact on the programme of work**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/6

Environment and Trade – Activities of the UNECE Committee on Environment Policy of Interest to the CTIED

17. The Secretary to the Committee presented document TRADE/2004/6, describing the activities of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy that are of interest to the CTIED.

18. The Environment Committee's main activity is supporting the implementation of UNECE environmental conventions and protocols in the region. However, some of the Environment Committee's cross-sectoral programmes represent areas of possible cooperation with the CTIED, such as the Environment Committee's Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme ("THE PEP"), and its awareness-raising and information dissemination activities. In addition, the Committee's Multiplier Points, which distribute Committee documents to potential users in countries in transition, could be sent relevant documents from the Environment Committee, such as documentation on the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ("Aarhus Convention").

*Decisions taken*

19. The Committee noted document TRADE/2004/6.

**Item 5.2 - Legal and commercial practice (WP.5)**

Documentation:

TRADE/WP.5/2003/10

Report of the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5), held on 17-19 November 2003

TRADE/2004/7

Work on International Commercial and Legal Practices

20. The Secretary to the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5) presented the report of the November 2003 WP.5 session (TRADE/WP.5/2003/10), an update on the work undertaken since then (TRADE/2004/7), and a statement with further clarifications on the work from the WP.5 Chair, Bob Hall (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

*Decisions taken*

21. The Committee endorsed the “Report of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice” (TRADE/WP.5/2003/10). It also approved, as requested, the renewal of the mandates for the following sub-groups of the Working Party: the Real Estate Advisory Group, and the Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment. However, the Committee noted that, in the future, the renewal of sub-groups should be requested in accordance with the new procedures contained in document TRADE/2004/2, which require, among others, the submission of a full report to the Committee on what the sub-group has accomplished.

22. The Committee noted document TRADE/2004/7.

**Item 5.3 - Industry and enterprise development**

Documentation:

TRADE/WP.8/2004/15	Report of the 5 <sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8), held on 12 and 13 February 2004
TRADE/2004/8	Work on Industry and Enterprise Development

23. Ms. Tatiana Skameykina (Russian Federation), Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) reported on its activities. She highlighted the major achievements and successes of WP.8 during the past year, including the decision at its last session to streamline the programme of work around three major, coherent and mutually reinforcing headings: industrial development, the knowledge-based economy and enterprise development.

24. Several delegations expressed their support for grouping the activities of the Industry and Enterprise Development sub-programme under these three major clusters, and encouraged the efforts of the Secretariat to reduce the heterogeneity of some of WP.8’s activities, in particular in the area of entrepreneurship.

25. Delegates welcomed the Working Party’s efforts to develop synergies both with other international organizations and within the Secretariat. The Secretariat was asked to apply resources to the activities with the highest added value, for the benefit of all member States.

*Decisions taken*

26. The Committee endorsed the Report on the Fifth Session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (TRADE/WP.8/2004/15). It also approved, as requested, the renewal of the mandates for the following sub-groups/Teams of Specialists under the Working Party: Industrial Restructuring; Quality Management Systems; Youth Entrepreneurship; Women’s Entrepreneurship; and Internet Enterprise Development. However, the Committee noted that, in the future, the renewal of sub-groups should be requested in accordance with the new procedures contained in document TRADE/2004/2, which require, among others, the submission of a full report to the Committee on what the sub-group has accomplished.

27. The Committee requested that the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) review its work and allocation of resources with a view to achieving greater focus. The Committee requested that the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), at its November 2004 session, take a decision concerning taking over the responsibility for the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems and identifying the required resources and inform the Bureau of the Committee.

28. The Committee noted document TRADE/2004/8.

**Item 5.4 –Activities directly under the responsibility of the Committee**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/9                      Work Directly under the CTIED

29. The Secretary to the Committee, Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, presented an overview of the most important achievements of the CTIED for 2003 as well as deviations from the original planned activities for the 2003 budget period. Achievements include:

- **The Multiplier Point Network** (for promotion of the Committees work at the national and regional level): At the beginning of May 2004, 59 organizations from 27 countries in transition now belong to the network. In addition, the Multiplier Point Coordinator undertook a mission to three participating countries (Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) in November 2003.
- **The first edition of the Trade Directory**, which lists organizations important for trade in each UNECE Member State, was made available on the UNECE website in March 2003 (at [http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/tradedir/trddir\\_h.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/tradedir/trddir_h.htm)). Member states would be contacted in 2004 in order to update the information about organizations in their country.
- **A new version of the CD-ROM on “Norms, Standards and Practices for International Business”** will be published in 2004 to update the CD-ROM published in 2002 entitled “Best Practice for International Business from the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development”. The new CD-ROM will offer multilingual support and a sophisticated document search engine, capable of operating in all three official UNECE languages.

*Significant Deviations from the Original Plans for the 2002-3 Budget Period*

30. The Secretary reported that during the year 2003, the UNECE had implemented a number of activities under the Committee, which were not foreseen in the 2002-2003 budget (that had been prepared in 2000). These activities are related to:

- Providing support for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- Development of the UNeDocs project;
- The UN Development Account project “Capacity-building activities in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean”;
- Seminars/Workshops on a “Wider Europe”; and
- Two seminars looking at the linkage between trade facilitation and security.

31. The U.S. Delegation asked about a possible joint project with other Regional Commissions related to the WSIS. The Director of the Trade Development and Timber Division replied that a proposal for the UN Development Account for 2006-07 was being developed, but that no significant commitment had yet been made. In addition, any such project would be under the responsibility of UNECE and not the CTIED, as it would be involve more than one subsidiary body and their supporting divisions.

*Decisions taken*

32. The Committee noted the report on the activities carried out directly under the Committee during the last year as found in document TRADE/2004/9. It also noted with satisfaction the publication of a CD-ROM containing a compendium of materials prepared under the aegis of the Committee in a tri-lingual, English, French and Russian version with search capacities in all three languages (document ECE/TRADE/327).

**Item 5.5(a) - Trade facilitation (UN/CEFACT): Report of the Regional Advisor for Trade Facilitation**

33. The Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation reported on his work, which has four main focuses: policy advice on trade facilitation and trade issues for transition economies; support for national trade facilitation bodies ("PRO" committees); concrete projects promoting trade facilitation and international trade facilitation standards, including UNECE standards; and cooperation with other regional initiatives and national and international institutions.

34. Among the Regional Advisor's many activities promoting the CTIED's work in trade facilitation, during the past year, he had: assisted with a meeting organized by UNECE on trade facilitation and security in November 2003; developed a special publication in Russian to promote trade facilitation in Russian Federation; worked to increase cooperation within the context of the Czech project for technical assistance in selected Eastern European transition economies; improved cooperation with the Stability Pact; and organized, together with the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) a workshop on "Managing Globalization, Trade Facilitation and WTO Accession" which would take place in Sarajevo on 3 and 4 June 2004.

*Decisions taken*

35. The Committee noted the oral report of the Regional Advisor for Trade Facilitation.

**Item 5.5(b) - Trade facilitation (UN/CEFACT)**

Documentation:

TRADE/CEFACT/2003/21	Report of the 9 <sup>th</sup> session of the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
TRADE/2004/10	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) – Summary of main activities and developments
TRADE/CEFACT/2004/Misc.1	Report of the UN/CEFACT Steering Group Chairman

36. The Chair of the UN/CEFACT Steering Group, Mr. Ray Walker (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) provided an update to the Committee on recent developments under the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) as outlined in TRADE/CEFACT/2004/Misc.1. Important issues to be addressed at the next meeting of UN/CEFACT, from 17-19 May 2004, included: finalizing its structure; a project proposal for a support service provider and an intellectual property rights policy. At its session, UN/CEFACT would also discuss how to strengthen its work on trade facilitation and how to ensure that its work in trade facilitation is coordinated with its work in electronic business standards in a way that allows the harmonious development of the two within the UN context.

*Decisions taken*

37. The Committee endorsed the report of UN/CEFACT's ninth session (TRADE/CEFACT/2003/21) in 2003 and noted document TRADE/2004/10. The Committee also noted document TRADE/CEFACT/2004/Misc.1.

38. In the light of the important discussions, which will take place during the UN/CEFACT session of 17 to 19 May 2004, the Committee requested the Chair of the Committee to inform UN/CEFACT that the Committee wishes to see the following guidelines adequately taken into account in any new structures, terms of reference and procedures:

- Restoring a balance between non-electronic trade facilitation and electronic business standards;
- Stabilizing its organizational structure following the newly adopted guidelines and procedures in document TRADE/2004/2;
- The requirements of belonging to the United Nations system; and
- The need for greater transparency and good governance.

**Item 5.6 - Technical harmonization and standardization (WP.6)**

Documentation:

TRADE/WP.6/2003/16	Report of the 13 <sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
TRADE/WP.6/2003/16/Add.1	Addendum to Report of 13 <sup>th</sup> session of WP.6 – International Seminar on Regional Experiences in Good Governance for Regulatory Practices (with special reference to the Balkan countries)
TRADE/WP.6/2003/16/Add.2	Addendum to Report of 13 <sup>th</sup> session of WP.6 – Terms of Reference of the WP.6 and its Ad Hoc Groups of Experts
TRADE/2004/11	WP.6 – Summary of main activities and developments

39. The Chair of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6), Mr. Christer Arvius, highlighted the latest developments in the Working Party's activities and projects. He reported, in particular, on the results of the November 2003 International Seminar on Regional Experiences in Regulatory Practices, which focused on regulatory obstacles to trade in the Balkan region.

40. The Chair emphasized the work of WP.6 on sectoral and regional projects based on the UNECE's Recommendation "L" (the "International Model for Technical Harmonization"). These include:

- Work with the CIS Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology, including assistance to the Council during 2003 in the elaboration of an agreement for the preparation of uniform technical regulations among CIS countries that is expected to be signed in 2004.
- With support from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), a project on regulatory convergence in the Balkan region.



- On the sectoral level, the “UNECE Telecom Initiative” which seeks to harmonize technical regulations for a number of telecom products. It is gaining support from public telecom authorities and the private sector in the UNECE region and beyond. A “Telecom Task Force” was established in November 2003 to manage this project.
- A new sectoral project, “UNECE Earthmoving Machinery”, was launched in 2003 at the request of industry representatives from Europe, North America and Japan.

41. The advisory group on market surveillance (“MARS” Group), which had its first meeting in September 2003, was studying a proposal to organize a second International Forum on Market Surveillance in the autumn of 2005.

42. In the past, the CTIED had recommended that its subsidiary bodies revise their terms of reference to take into account global UN mandates. As a result, WP.6 had revised its terms of reference and recommended the modification of its name to the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies in order to better reflect its activities.

#### *Decisions taken*

43. The Committee endorsed the report (TRADE/WP.6/2003/16 and TRADE/WP.6/2003/16/Add.2) of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP. 6). As requested by WP.6 in its report and in TRADE/2004/11, the Committee further approved:

- The establishment of a Telecom task force and its terms of reference;
- The terms of reference of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance;
- The new terms of reference for WP.6, as found in annex to TRADE/2004/11; and
- The change of name from the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies to the “Working Party for Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.”

44. The Committee noted the remainder of TRADE/2004/11.

#### **Item 5.7 - Agricultural quality standards (WP.7)**

##### Documentation:

TRADE/WP.7/2003/6	Report of the 59 <sup>th</sup> session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)
TRADE/2004/12	Work on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

45. The Chairman of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards, Mr. David Priester (United States of America) introduced document TRADE/2004/12 summarizing the major achievements of the Working Party during the past year. Participation had increased and progress had been made in all areas of work namely:

- The creation and updating of quality standards (20 standards have been updated and 2 new standards created);
- Cooperation with other organizations, in particular the European Commission, FAO, OECD, WHO, BSEC and the other UN Regional Commissions; and
- The organization and participation in implementation activities such as the international seminar on implementation of the beef standard held in Moscow and the workshop on international trade in agriculture in Chisinau.

46. For the 2006/7 budgets it is planned to extend implementation activities to more countries to promote the uniform application of quality standards and fair competition in international trade.
47. In order to streamline its activities, the Working Party proposed to the Committee abolishing the Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes and integrating its work into the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fruit and Vegetables.
48. The delegation of the European Commission said that their continued support to this activity was evidenced by the use they made of the standards. They welcomed the plans of the secretariat to increase implementation activities and suggested that the UNECE regional advisors or possibly a special regional advisor on agriculture could support these activities.
49. The delegation of the Russian Federation said that they gave the highest priority to this work and intended to remain very active. They thanked the secretariat for their work but felt that the time had come to provide further resources and supported the proposal of the European Commission to use the regional advisor system for this. They continued to be very interested in questions dealing with genetically modified organisms and wished that this subject was discussed under WP.7. In addition, they believed that implementation activities should concentrate especially on non-acceding countries.
50. The Director of the Trade Development and Timber Division recalled that the activities of both WP.6 and WP.7 were each serviced by only one professional and that they were performing well, but had reached the limit of what was feasible. She informed the meeting that the Division had requested one further P-2 post to be shared between WP.6 and WP.7 as part of the 2006-2007 budget.
51. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Safarik-Pstrosz stressed the global impact of the work under the Committee and the need for more resources in this area and noted that this question would be discussed in the enlarged bureau.

#### *Decisions taken*

52. The Committee endorsed the report (TRADE/WP.7/2003/6) of the fifty-ninth session of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards. It approved the proposal in TRADE/2004/12 to abolish the Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes by combining this work into that of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, and noted the remainder of TRADE/2004/12.

#### **Item 5.8 – Interactive policy discussion**

53. After a brief introduction by the Chair of the CTIED, the delegates considered the following question: “In promoting its objectives, what activities should the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development give priority to?”
54. Delegates requested that the major points raised during the discussion be made available to delegates and these can be found in the addendum to this report (TRADE/2004/340/Add.1).

*Decisions taken*

55. The Committee requested its subsidiary bodies to take into consideration in their work the results from the Forum discussions and the Rapporteurs' conclusions from the Forum sessions. The Committee requested that the Secretariat and the Bureau provide to the Committee's subsidiary bodies a summary from the discussion concerning the main directions to follow in considering development, implementation and capacity building issues related to their work.

56. The Committee requested the Bureau and its subsidiary bodies to pay particular attention to issues related to implementation and to be involved in the fundraising process in cooperation with the Secretariat and member States.

57. The Committee requested the Secretariat to brief, in writing, the member States' missions on the main conclusions and results from the Forum and the discussion under this agenda item. The purpose of the Forum discussions was not to come to a consensus, so the inclusion of any point of view does not reflect agreement or disagreement by the Forum or UNECE.

**Item 5.9 – Approval of the 2004-2007 Programme of Work**

Documentation:

TRADE/2002/16/Add.1	Proposed Prioritization of Activities
TRADE/2004/3	Review of Programme of Work Implementation for 2002-2003
TRADE/2004/4	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Strategic Directions
TRADE/2004/4/Corr.1	Corrigendum to the English version only of TRADE/2004/4
TRADE/2004/4/Add.1	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Trade Development Subprogramme Work Items
TRADE/2004/4/Add.2	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Trade Development Subprogramme Work Items
TRADE/2004/4/Add.3	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme Work Items
TRADE/2004/4/Add.4	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme Summary Table of Work Items
TRADE/2004/4/Add.5	Draft Programme of Work, 2004-2007 – Trade Development Subprogramme Summary Table of Work Items
TRADE/2004/17	Biennial Programme Plans 2006-2007 – Trade Development Subprogramme, Industry and Enterprise Development Subprogramme

58. The secretariat introduced the documents related to the programme of work, which the Committee needed to approve or note and called the attention of the meeting to the fact that the majority of the content of these documents had been discussed in some detail earlier in the session under agenda items 5.1 through 5.8.

*Decisions taken*

59. The Committee approved documents: TRADE/2004/4 and TRADE/2004/4/Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3.

60. The Committee noted documents TRADE/2002/16/Add.1, TRADE/2004/3, TRADE/2004/4/Add.4 and Add. 5 and TRADE/2004/17.

61. The Committee requested the Bureau to consider proposals concerning reallocation of resources between the sub-programmes, including in view of the need to increase cooperation with the OSCE.

**Item 6 – Panel discussion by Forum Rapporteurs**

62. The results of this panel discussion will be included in the report from the Forum that will be presented to the next session of the Committee.

**Item 7 – Review of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems**

63. This agenda item was cancelled since it had not been possible to arrange the presentation that had originally been foreseen.

**Item 8 – Information**

**Item 8.1 - Cooperation with other organizations in support of the programme of work**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/18

Cooperation with other International Organizations

64. The Director of the Trade Development and Timber Division introduced the Secretariat's paper (document TRADE/2004/18) outlining the Committee's and the secretariat's widespread cooperation with other international organizations in all areas of its programme of work. UNECE's partners include international organizations, the private sector, regional bodies and non-governmental organizations, in areas such as trade facilitation, standardization policies, agricultural quality standards and industrial best practices. Cooperation with other organizations helps avoid duplication and ensures that work is carried out as efficiently as possible. However, effective cooperation also requires significant Secretariat resources and delegations need to keep this in mind.

65. As examples, the secretariat gave a short introduction to the single window approach to clearing imports and exports which is being developed in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and numerous industry organizations, and which seeks to integrate trade facilitation and security through advance information. In the area of trade security, another example is the November conference organized jointly with the World Customs Organisation, and with active participation from the UNECE Transport Division. As result, the UNECE had been urged to continue working on this issue, and has since followed up with other relevant agencies to develop a multilateral approach to secure trade facilitation.

66. The delegation from the European Commission thanked the Secretariat for work undertaken in the area of trade and security in cooperation with the OSCE. They believed this to be an important area where there were significant potential benefits to be drawn from such cooperation. The European Commission would be organizing a technical conference on this subject in September 2004, and would keep the UNECE informed about developments.

*Decisions taken*

67. The Committee noted document TRADE/2004/18.

**Item 8.2 - Capacity-building and implementation activities; report on the Workshop “EU Enlargement: Regulatory Convergence in Non-acceding Countries”**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/19	Capacity-Building and Technical Cooperation in Support of the Programme of Work
TRADE/2004/20	Report on the Workshop on “EU Enlargement: Regulatory Convergence in non-Acceding countries” (held on 7 and 8 November 2003, Athens, Greece)

68. The Acting Chief of the Global Trade Solutions Branch of the UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, Mr. Jean Kubler, introduced document TRADE/2004/19 which describes the Committee’s capacity-building and implementation activities. He then drew the attention of delegations from transition economies, and especially lower income transition economies, to several capacity building activities that could potentially be implemented or replicated in their countries and requested delegates’ feedback on the importance of these activities. Among the specific projects described were:

- **The Joint UNECE and Czech Republic Project for Technical Assistance in Trade Facilitation** This project works with representatives of relevant government authorities and institutions, and the business sector to more effectively implementation trade facilitation at a national level. UNCTAD has been assisting with the project administration, but in 2004 this function will be taken over by UNECE. The Secretariat is grateful to the Czech Republic for its generous support of this project.
- **Capacity-building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean:** Funded during 2002 and 2003 by the United Nations Development Account, this project’s objective was to use trade facilitation and e-business to increase the trade competitiveness of companies, and especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), from non-EU countries in the Mediterranean region. It was a joint project between UNECE, ESCWA and ECA, with the ECE leading. A number of e-learning tools were developed through the project and can now be used in other capacity building work.
- **United Nations Extensions for electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs):** seeks to develop paper and electronic trade documents based on UNECE trade document standards and best practice, to facilitate automated document processing and the validation and harmonization of documentary procedures. UNeDocs recently released the International Document Set, consisting of 12 key trade documents that can be used in an Internet setting. Implementation will depend on the availability of external resources. The Secretariat thanked both SITPRO and the Swiss Government for their support to this project.

- **Capacity Building Workshop for Trade Facilitation Promotion Bodies, Geneva, October 2004:** In cooperation with SITPRO (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the World Bank, the Secretariat was planning a capacity building workshop for National Trade Facilitation Promotion (PRO) Organizations in October 2004. The workshop will seek to enhance the knowledge and skills of PRO Organizations for implementing, and encouraging the implementation of, trade facilitation initiatives in their countries and region.

69. The Director of the Trade Development and Timber Division reported on the Workshop on “EU Enlargement: Regulatory Convergence in Non acceding Countries”, organized by UNECE, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece and the Institute of International Relations of the Panteion University on 78 November 2003 in Athens. Participants discussed how non-acceding countries in Southern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia could increase their trade and economic cooperation with the enlarged EU by harmonizing their legislation and their technical regulations and standards. The workshop was viewed as a good capacity building tool and had been much appreciated by the participants.

*Decisions taken*

70. The Committee endorsed the directions for capacity building and implementation activities as outlined in document TRADE/2004/19, and noted document TRADE/2004/20.

**Item 8.3 - Cross-sectoral activities in sustainable development, gender mainstreaming and ICT for development**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/21 Cross-Sectoral Activities in Sustainable Development, Gender Mainstreaming and ICT for Development and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

71. The secretariat introduced document TRADE/2004/21 on cross-sectoral activities and emphasized their importance within the UN system.

*Decisions taken*

72. The Committee noted document TRADE/2004/21.

**Item 9 - Any other business**

Documentation:

TRADE/2004/22 Dates of the next session: Topics for 2005 and 2006 Forums and Policy Segments

**Dates of the next session**

*Decisions taken*

73. The Committee agreed to hold its ninth session from 23 to 27 May 2005.

**Topics for the 2005 and 2006 forums and policy segments**

74. In the discussion on Forums, among the comments made by delegates were a desire to: continue with the practice of smaller group discussions during the Forums; have future-oriented topics for the Forums; and create some continuity between the Forums from one year to the next.

*Decisions taken*

75. The Committee approved the proposal for the 2005 Forum, with the title of the 2005 Forum changed to "After Fifteen Years of Market Reforms in Transition Economies: New Challenges and Perspectives for the Industrial Sector".

76. The topic for the 2006 forum [Regulatory Cooperation in Support of Trade] was approved, however, the Bureau was requested, in coordination with WP.6, to develop a proposal for a more attractive title.

77. The Committee further requested that UN/CEFACT focus a 2005 forum on trade supply chains and security issues.

78. The Committee evaluated the work of the Extended Bureau and it was stated that the Extended Bureau works very effectively. To build upon this, and further strengthen the work of the Committee, it requested the Bureau and the Secretariat to circulate to Missions the Extended Bureau meeting reports, and the draft decisions for each Committee session 10 days in advance. It invited the Extended Bureau to also consider other suggestions for improving the interrelationship between the Committee session and the Forum.

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