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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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WORK ON INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Note by the secretariat

This paper highlights the most important achievements of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) during 2003 and gives an overview of the activities envisaged in the 2004-2007 exercise. It supplements the report of the Working Party (TRADE/WP.8/2004/15) which the Committee will be asked to endorse.

Additional information on the Working Party is available at the following website address:
<http://www.uncece.org/trade/stdpol>

1. 2003 Achievements

1.1 Support for the Committee's overall objectives

The Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development worked to contribute directly to the Committee's overall objectives in the area of industry and enterprise development by:

- Providing a platform for discussion and the exchange of experience on key issues related to industry and enterprise development including the shift to high-value added activities;
- Examining best practices in its areas of responsibility and, in particular, best practices fostering: domestic and foreign investment; entrepreneurship; a focus on the knowledge-based economy; and the adoption of internationally recognized norms and policies, as well as disseminating the relevant information through missions, focused events and publications;
- Cooperating and coordinating its activities with other international organisations, NGOs and the private sector with the aim of promoting investments and the best practices in industry and enterprise development and with a view to avoiding duplication of work;
- Organising and participating in capacity building activities across the region.

1.2 Work on industrial development

In 2003, the secretariat organized a Seminar on "Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils and Ground Water" held in Paris in April 2003. In November 2003, on the invitation of the Russian Federation Government, it co-organized with the ILO a Regional Forum on Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring held in Moscow. The papers presented at those events are available on the Internet site of the UNECE. In early 2004, the secretariat also published the Summary Proceedings of the Workshop "Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in ECE Region" and of the Conference "Innovation as a Vehicle for Industrial Restructuring", held in April 2003, incorporating the major finding of those events.

1.3 Work on enterprise development

In February 2003, the secretariat organized a Second Workshop on Cyberspace Regulatory Framework. In March 2003, it organized a Second Regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs and in July 2003 a second UNECE Forum on Online Dispute Resolution. It also participated in organizing the CIS Forum on Youth held in November 2003 in Kiev (Ukraine). The Forum was attended by about 500 representatives from 25 countries. The second publication on Women's Entrepreneurship dedicated to, "Best Practices in Financing for Women Entrepreneurs and Access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" will have been out of print by the time of the Committee session.

1.4 Cooperation with international organizations and NGOs

The Working Party implements its programme in close cooperation with a number of international organizations, in particular: the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Council (BSEC); Central European Initiative; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunications Union; and Turn-Around Management Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The Working Party also cooperates with a large number of non-governmental organizations, in particular in the area of youth and women's entrepreneurship.

1.5 Participation

In 2002-2003, participation in the activities of the Working Party significantly increased (by about 70 per cent) as compared with the baseline period of 2000-2001. One should note here a growing interest of the private sector in those activities.

1.6 Capacity building

The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems operating under the auspices of WP.8, initiated feasibility studies to explore the establishment of Total Quality Centers in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. It also elaborated a project proposal on Quality Management Systems for Russian light industry based on the ISO 9000 series of standards and on a Group Training and Implementation Methodology.

2. Overview of the proposed activities for the 2004-2007 exercise

Within the framework on its new programme of work, which focuses on entrepreneurship, industrial restructuring and knowledge-based economy, and was adopted during its annual session held on 12-13 February 2004 in Geneva, the Working Party will continue to support the overall objectives of the Committee under the heading of Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development. Its activities will focus on assisting UNECE Governments to establish an enabling environment, as well as norms, standards and cost-effective strategies in this area. Among other activities and events, the Working Party will:

- Organize forums on best practices in national policies for entrepreneurship promotion, including one on the Romanian and Slovak experience to be held in March 2004;
- Promote further discussion of problems related to youth and women's entrepreneurship (Regional Forums on those subjects might be organized in 2005-2006);
- Prepare a summary report on the status of the information economy in transition economies and consider preparing a second round of country assessment reports;
- Prepare a report on corporate governance issues in developed market and transition economies.

The Working Party will also endeavour to secure extra-budgetary funding for its activities, in particular in the areas of the knowledge-based economy and corporate governance.

3. Meetings under the auspices of the Working Party to be held in 2004

9-10 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialist on Youth Entrepreneurship
10 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED
11 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
12-13 Feb.	Fifth session of the WP.8
31 March	6 th Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition: The Romanian and Slovak Experience
1 – 2 April	Expert Meeting on Good Governance for SMEs
6-7 May	Sub-regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, Istanbul, Turkey
7 May	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship, Istanbul, Turkey
3-4 November	Forum "Problems of Single Industry Towns and Areas: The Role of Public Private Cooperation"*
5 November	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
November	Expert meeting on Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Excellent Quality Models

Subject to changes and modifications.

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