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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Eighth session, 10, 13 and 14 May 2004
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Overview of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise
Development and its Subsidiary Bodies**

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Note by the secretariat

This document has been prepared by the secretariat as background information for
discussions on the Committee's work

INTRODUCING ...

THE COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/ctied/ctied_h.html

1. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, one of the principal subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, has four main objectives:

- ❖ To facilitate and strengthen the involvement of all member countries in harmonious economic relations;
- ❖ To assist in integrating all countries, in particular those in economic transition, into the European and global economy;
- ❖ To help avoid the creation of new barriers to trade within the region;
- ❖ To contribute to creating a clear, predictable and supportive environment for industrial and enterprise development activities.

2. In support of these objectives, the Committee:

- ❖ Facilitates and develops the infrastructure for international trade, such as trade-related norms and best practices, standards, tools and policy recommendations.
- ❖ Reduces the main internal and external obstacles to trade and economic cooperation in our region.
- ❖ Develops regional and international contact networks for national ministries and business communities.
- ❖ Encourages the best legal and commercial practices relevant to trade, investment, finance and commercial dispute resolution.
- ❖ Creates an enabling environment for the development and increased competitiveness of private enterprises.
- ❖ Promotes the integration of countries with economies in transition into the global economy and helps to ensure the sustainable development of their industry.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Annual Forums <http://www.unece.org/trade/forums/forum04/index.htm>

3. Every year, the Committee organizes a high-level forum on topical issues. The 2004 Forum, “Competing in a changing Europe”, will focus on the consequences of enlargement of the European Union (EU), especially for those UNECE member States which are not acceding to the EU this year.

Policy Dialogue

4. The Committee holds regular policy dialogues. Over the last 12 months, it has organized a series of sectoral workshops to explore the future shape and direction of economic integration in the UNECE region (as part of the UNECE “Wider Europe” project).

New Publications

5. To bridge existing information gaps and stimulate trade and investment within the region, the Committee has recently published a *Trade Directory*. The *Directory*, which is available online at http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/tradedir/trddir_h.htm, is a “one-stop shop” reference guide for small and medium-sized enterprises requiring institutional information for their export or investment activities. It is also intended to make regulations and trading requirements more transparent. Other recent publications include the Trade and Investment Guide series, and CD-ROMs on Best Practices.

Outreach http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/multiply/multip_h.htm

6. The Committee actively promotes its work throughout the region, but especially in countries with economies in transition. In order to reach the private and public sectors in these countries, it set up a Multiplier Point network of information and dissemination centres.

7. Multiplier Point organizations promote, distribute and translate into national languages reports, recommendations, standards, documents, publications, guidelines and other information in order to promote the effective implementation of UNECE’s work. Fifty-nine organizations from 27 transition economies in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have joined the network and participate in its activities.

THE COMMITTEE’S SUBSIDIARY GROUPS

8. The Committee has five subsidiary bodies:

- ❖ UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
- ❖ Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5)
- ❖ Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
- ❖ Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)
- ❖ Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8)

The UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) (<http://www.unece.org/cefact>) works to expand global commerce, reduce bureaucracy and increase transparency, create better data flows through electronic commerce, lower transaction costs, develop a network of supporting institutions and improve private and public sector management. Its recent initiatives include:

- ❖ Developing standards and Recommendations on trade facilitation, aiming to facilitate international transactions through simplifying and harmonizing procedures and information flows.
- ❖ Carrying out a comprehensive review of and harmonizing the many existing trade facilitation measures in the security area throughout the trade transaction process, and consolidating the efforts of all organizations to ensure a mutually beneficial and mutually reinforcing partnership between trade facilitation and security.
- ❖ Drawing up a recommendation to allow traders to lodge information with a single body to fulfil all import- or export-related regulatory requirements (The Single Window initiative).
- ❖ Developing and maintaining standards for electronic business.
- ❖ Maintaining and extending the UN Codes for Locations.

The Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5) (<http://www.unece.org/ie/Wp5/Welcome.html>) works in the following areas:

- ❖ Enforcement of intellectual property rights and related institutional improvement through policy dialogues with Governments and training and capacity-building programmes for judges, customs, and police.
- ❖ Promotion of Public- Private Partnerships (PPP) by helping Governments develop successful PPP policies, establish national PPP units, achieve good governance and transparency, create sound legal and regulatory frameworks and access new financing tools for privately financed projects in transport, energy, telecommunications, and municipal services infrastructures.
- ❖ Development of viable markets in real estate in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS so that the benefit and the value of the real estate can contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation.
- ❖ Analysis of ways to improve and harmonize legal and commercial practices related to governance, transparency, judicial procedures, dispute resolution and contract enforcement in the UNECE region.
- ❖ Support for International Commercial Arbitration in the region.

The Working Part on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) (http://www.unece.org/trade/tips/wp6/wp6_h.htm)

- ❖ Develops and maintains recommendations on standardization and regulatory policies in order to help ECE member States create business-friendly standardization and regulatory environments and at the same ensure the protection of health, environment, etc. of their population.
- ❖ Prepares proposals aimed at harmonizing conformity assessment procedures in the region in order to find agreed objective criteria for metrology and conformity assessment procedures to achieve mutual confidence between partners.
- ❖ Analyses ways to achieve wider use in trade of agreements on mutual recognition of tests and certificates.

9. Recently, the Working Party adopted a recommendation on the International Model for Technical Harmonization based on good regulatory practice for preparing, adopting and applying technical regulations via the use of international standards. It is currently working on implementing a number of sectoral standardization projects, such as the TELECOM initiative, which aims at developing common regulatory objectives for information and communication technology.

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) (<http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>) develops and maintains quality standards for agricultural products. Its work includes:

- ❖ Standards and produce-coding for fresh fruit and vegetables
- ❖ Eliminating external quality criteria that could form technical barriers to trade.
- ❖ Standards for dry and dried produce (fruit)
- ❖ Developing new standards for chicken, veal, turkey and lamb and maintaining the standards for beef and pork.
- ❖ Standards for seed potatoes and early and ware potatoes

The Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8)
(<http://www.unece.org/ie/wp8/intro.htm>) is currently addressing:

- ❖ Knowledge-based economies: analysis of the emerging digital economy and how it is affecting economic development, social progress and regional cooperation in UNECE member States.
- ❖ Entrepreneurship: studying ways to support economic development through entrepreneurial activities and the development of SMEs.
- ❖ Women's entrepreneurship: assisting countries in eliminating gender specific barriers (inadequate access to information, business networks, traditional attitudes towards the role of women), which limit women's capacity to set up businesses.
- ❖ Industrial restructuring: addressing the problem of globalization, as well as the transition from centrally planned to market-based industrial activities, especially in the area of resources re-allocation.
- ❖ Quality management system: promoting international quality standards and quality management systems among enterprises in countries in transition.

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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (CTIED)

CHAIR PERSON:

Mr. A. Safarik-Pstrosz (Czech Republic)

VICE-CHAIRPERSONS:

Ms. A. Öktem (Turkey)

Mr. T. Toichubaev (Kyrgyzstan)

Mr. J-R. Van Kuik (Netherlands)

United Nations Centre
for Trade Facilitation
and Electronic
Business

UN/CEFACT

- CEFACT Steering Group (CSG)
- UN/CEFACT Forum Coordination Team (FCT)
- Applied Technologies Group (ATG)
- Information Content Management Group (ICG)
- Legal Group (LG)
- The International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG)
- Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG)
- UN/CEFACT Policy Group
- Promotion and Communications Group

Working Party on
Legal and
Commercial Practice

WP.5

- Build-Operate and Transfer (BOT) Advisory Group
- Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG)
- Advisory Group for the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment (IPR)
- Arbitration Advisory Group

Working Party on
Technical
Harmonization and
Standardization
Policies

WP.6

- Ad hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team)
- Ad hoc Team of Specialists on Metrology
- Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems (jointly with WP.8)
- Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

Working Party on
Agricultural Quality
Standards

WP.7

- Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (WP.7/GE.1)
- Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (WP.7/GE.2)
- Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes (WP.7/GE.5)
- Specialized Section on Coordination of Seed Potatoes (WP.7/GE.6)
- Specialized Section of Standardization on Meat (WP.7/GE.11)

Working Party on
Industry and
Enterprise
Development

WP.8

- Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship
- Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation
- Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development
- Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
- Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems (jointly with WP.6)
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