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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development**  
Sixth session, 10 and 11 February 2005  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF MARKET REFORMS IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES:  
NEW CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR**

**ANNUAL FORUM**

UNECE Trade Industry and Enterprise Development Week, 24 and 25 May 2005  
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva

Information Notice No.1 by the UNECE secretariat\*

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\* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form also available from the Internet Web site of the UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division (<http://www.unece.org/ie>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the session, either by fax (+41-22-917-0178) or by e-mail ([marina.dolgova@unece.org](mailto:marina.dolgova@unece.org)). Prior to the session, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact by telephone the UNECE secretariat (internal extension 71964).

## Introduction

1. The Introduction of market reforms in the formerly planned economies of central and eastern Europe fifteen years ago has caused profound economic, social and political changes. Economic efficiency has improved with most of those economies recording positive rates of economic growth in the last five years or so. Import and export flows have dramatically increased as well as the impact of world market trends on the transition economies. In some countries the involvement of foreign direct investors has increased considerably with subsequent inflows of more efficient technologies and better management methods, and sometimes financial resources. This generally positive picture contrasts with the uneven and sometimes declining income of the population in some countries, the collapse of large parts of the industrial sector and the almost across the board lack of employment opportunities except relatively low-skilled and low paid jobs. In addition, because of low economic and industrial competitiveness and the parallel desire to maintain certain levels of income and political stability, the foreign debt of many of these emerging economies have surged to new heights.

2. While a lot of attention has been paid to the growth of the previously neglected service sector, the domestic industrial sector in these countries has suffered from intense international competition as well as from the collapse of military expenditures. At the same time, selected international industrial companies have established their own subsidiaries in this part of the UNECE region albeit focusing on the resource-based, processing, food and automobile industries with comparatively few investments in high-value added industrial activities.

3. Governments in emerging market economies have not been able to support directly their industrial sector as before. Having no choice but to open their markets to full international competition and being unable at times to conduct a supportive economic policy towards the growth and successful structural transformation of their domestic industrial sector, many governments are still struggling with the issues of industrial restructuring and competitiveness, related foreign investments and employment as well as the impact of industrial foreign trade on the trade deficit, currency and balance of payments.

4. All these developments in formerly planned countries have taken place concurrently with a reduction of world trade and investment barriers, the intense industrial restructuring in developed market economies and some major reallocation of economic and in particular industrial activities to previously distant and low-cost areas such as China, India and Brazil. This in turn has provoked intense political and economic debates on the impact of this reallocation on employment and incomes in developed market economies.

## Mandate

5. It is in this environment that the WP. 8 and the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development decided that a Forum on “After Fifteen Years of Market Reforms in Transition Economies: New Challenges and Perspectives for the Industrial Sector” be held during the UNECE Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development Week, on 24 and 25 May 2005.

### Purpose and scope of the Forum

6. The purpose of the Forum is to contribute to the better understanding of trends and developments in the economic and in particular industrial restructuring area in the UNECE region with particular emphasis on economies in transition. As such, the event will be divided into three sessions: “Economic and Industrial Restructuring in the UNECE Region, 1990-2004 – Lessons and Prospects”, “ Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies: Has It Kept Pace with World Trends?” and “Challenges and Opportunities for More Efficient Industrial Development in Economies in Transition - Role of Governments, Domestic Industry and International Companies”.

7. One of the main purposes of the Forum in Geneva is also to identify and review the most important issues related to economic and industrial restructuring in the UNECE region, in particular in economies in transition. The identification and assessment of these issues could serve as the focal point for the further development, refinement and implementation of sound economic and regulatory policies related to industrial sector growth and competitiveness with a tangible impact on economic growth, employment and social trends in the UNECE region and in particular in economies in transition. At the same time, the event will be structured in such a way that an attractive interface can emerge among policy makers in UNECE governments, the international investment and financial institutions, large international industrial corporations and the domestic corporate sector. The Forum is also expected to provide a productive and objective platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience, and ideas among government officials, investors and industry participants. An additional focus will be on the potential policy and corporate responses necessary to promote more effective industrial development and restructuring in general and in transition economies in particular.

### Participation

8. Targeted participants for this Annual Forum are high-level officials from the governments of UNECE member States as well as from the leading international development and financial institutions. In addition, senior executives of large international industrial and financial companies from the UNECE region will be invited. Finally, invitations will be also extended to selected international experts on economic and industrial restructuring and representatives of the industrial sector in economies in transition. Approximately 150 experts and officials are expected to participate.

### Provisional programme

9. The UNECE secretariat has developed a provisional programme for the Forum. The programme will be refined in due course and individual slots of time will be assigned to speakers, both from the private sector and UNECE governments.

10. Interested government officials, senior executives and experts are invited to submit their proposals to the UNECE secretariat for presentations on the topics indicated in the programme. The proposals should be received by 21 January 2005 while a brief outline of the proposed presentation should be sent to the UNECE secretariat by 21 February 2005 at the latest.

## Provisional programme

### **Tuesday 24 May**

9.00 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.15	<u>Welcome and introduction:</u> Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary
10.15 – 10.45	<u>Key note Speech:</u> Global Restructuring, Opportunities and Challenges for Economies in Transition

### **Session 1. Economic and Industrial Restructuring in the UNECE Region 1990-2004 – Lessons and Prospects**

Chairman: to be nominated, Vice-Chairmen: two or three, to be nominated

10.45 – 11.05	Restructuring of Economies and Industries in Developed Countries in the UNECE Region
11.05 – 11.25	Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies: Achievements, Risks and Opportunities
11.25 – 11.40	Coffee Break
11.40 – 12.00	The Asian Shock to the World Economy and the Restructuring Implications
12.00 – 12.20	Industrial and Economic Restructuring in a Key Transition Country (for example, Russian Federation, Ukraine)
12.20 – 13.00	Breakaway session One: Identifying and Implementing the Best Government Policies for Efficient Economic Restructuring, Chairman: to be nominated
12.20 – 13.00	Breakaway session Two: Identifying and Implementing the Best Corporate Policies for Efficient Economic Restructuring, Chairman: to be nominated
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch Break

**Session 2. Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies: Has It Kept Pace with World Trends?**

- 15.00 – 15.20 Framework for the Industrial Restructuring in Economies in Transition: Alternative Policies and Outcomes
- 15.20 – 15.40 The Impact of the Asian Shock on the Industrial Restructuring in Economies in Transition: Costs and Opportunities
- 15.40 – 16.00 Financing the Industrial Restructuring in Economies in Transition: What Role for Alternative Financing Mechanisms?
- 16.00 – 16.20 Employment Implications of Industrial Restructuring in Economies in Transition: Strategies for the Future
- 16.20 – 16.40 Coffee Break
- 16.40 – 17.00 Transition Economy Case One Presentation on Industrial Restructuring (Estonia)
- 17.00 – 17.20 Transition Economy Case Two Presentation on Industrial Restructuring (Bulgaria)
- 17.20 – 18.00 Breakaway session One: Improving the Competitiveness and Attractiveness for Foreign Investment in Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies, Chairman: to be nominated
- 17.20 – 18.00 Breakaway session Two: Role of Governments of Transition Economies in Improving the Competitiveness and Attractiveness for Foreign Investment in Industrial Restructuring in their Countries, Chairman: to be nominated

**Wednesday 25 May 2005****Session 3. Challenges and Opportunities for A More Efficient Industrial Development in Economies in Transition - Role of Governments, Domestic Industry and International Companies**

- 10.00 – 10.45 Summary paper, by Mr. George Kowalski, Director, UNECE Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division
- 10.45 – 12.00 Discussion on policy implications of restructuring in the UNECE region

12.00 – 13.00 Concluding remarks by Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Wolfgang Petritsch, Chairman of the Economic Commission for Europe

Note: Programme and titles of individual presentations are subject to change and will be refined in due course.

### Organisational Matters

The official language of the meeting will be English, French and Russian with simultaneous interpretation provided.

The Forum will take place in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

All participants are expected to cover their travel and lodging cost. In the case of a few selected participants from economies in transition, the UNECE might consider providing limited financial assistance to attend the Forum. Preliminary enquiries should be directed to Ms. Marina Dolgova and Mr. Iouri Adjoubei, UNECE secretariat (contact details below).

For all visa enquiries for Switzerland, please contact Ms. Marina Dolgova and Mr. Iouri Adjoubei, UNECE secretariat.

Interested participants are invited to complete and return the attached registration form, preferably by e-mail, to:

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Conference Registration Form

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Annual Forum "After Fifteen Years of Market Reforms in Transition Economies: New Challenges and perspectives for the Industrial Sector", 24-25 May 2005

Organization or Agency

Participant

Mr.  Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mrs.  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ms.

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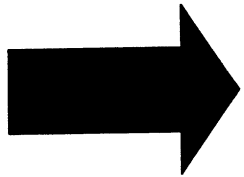
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