



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Nineteenth session
Geneva, 23 to 26 November 2009

Final LIST OF decisions

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Decision 1: The Working Party approved the provisional agenda (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/1).

Item 2: Election of officers

Decision 2: Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden) was elected Chairperson and Mr. P. Lukac (Slovakia) and Mr. V. N. Koreshkov (Belarus) were elected Vice-chairpersons.

Item 3: International Conference on Risk Assessment and Management

Decision 3: Following the recommendations by the Conference on Risk Assessment and Management, the Working Party agreed:

1. to support already established cooperation in the area of Risk Assessment and Management between authorities and stakeholders concerned and encourage further cooperation to achieve a shared regulatory framework, i.e. one that meets societal demand without stifling innovation or creating technical barriers to trade.
2. to continue the dialogue among stakeholders to build an effective regulatory framework, including a common language, to address risks related to products, process and production methods, best practices in the management of hazards that could cause harm or damage to people, the environment, property and immaterial assets.
3. to this end consider the establishment of a Group of Experts on Risk Assessment and Management, the mandate to be given to such a Group including the priorities related to the work areas of WP.6.

Item 4: Standardization and regulatory practice

(a) Review of developments

Decision 4: The Working Party thanked the representative of the European Commission for his presentation on the implementation of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation. The Working Party noted the proposals from the Russian delegation to improve exchange of information concerning the experience in the implementation of REACH among non-EU member States, and requested the Russian delegation to nominate an expert to act as a Rapporteur on facilitating REACH implementation in non-EU countries to coordinate this work. The Working Party also noted the comments made by the representative of the CIS Interstate Council, Belarus and Slovakia.

Decision 5: The Czech proposal to draft quarterly reports and a yearly consolidated report on regulatory and standardization developments in the EU and CIS countries was much appreciated. The Working Party proposed to post the reports on its website and to nominate Mr. Chloupek as a Rapporteur for developments in EU countries.

Decision 6: The Working Party thanked the representative of Belarus for his presentation on the technical regulation system of the Euro-Asian Economic Community and Customs Union among the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Working Party asked Mr. Ivleu to act as a Rapporteur for CIS countries according to the proposal made by the Czech delegation.

Decision 7: The Working Party noted the update by the CEN/CENELEC representative on their activities, and the report of the secretariat on the seminar on “The role of international standards in economic development”, which was organized by the World Trade Organization in March 2009.

(b) Development and update of recommendations on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

Decision 8: The Working Party thanked Belarus for the amendment it proposed to Recommendation D on “Reference to Standards” (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6/Rev.1) and decided to take the proposal into account in its further work revising this recommendation.

Decision 9: The Working Party noted the final version of Recommendation K on “Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing” (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6/Rev.1), which was adopted at the eighteenth annual session of the Working Party, and is now contained in the package of updated recommendations (ECE/TRADE/378).

Item 5: Regulatory cooperation

Decision 10: The Working Party noted the report of activities of its ad hoc team of specialists on STandardization And Regulatory Techniques (START) and its Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) who met in Stockholm in May 2009 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/17).

(a) Regional projects

Decision 11: The Working Party invited countries and regional organizations to provide updated information on their regulatory cooperation activities and projects by the next session of WP.6. They requested the secretariat to include any such reports in the documentation for the next session of the Working Party.

(b) Sectoral projects

Decision 12: The Working Party thanked the Convenor of the Sectoral Initiative on Telecom, Mr. Per Döfnäs (Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, Sweden) for his work and for his presentation, and took note of the progress made by the task force (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/4). It also invited the Secretariat, the Rapporteur and the Task Force to continue to promote the CROs and encouraged countries to implement them.

Decision 13: The Working Party thanked the Convenor of the Task Force on Earth-Moving Machinery, Mr. Dan Roley (ISO TC-127 Chairman), for his work and for his presentation. It took note of the progress made by the Sectoral Initiative and adopted the revised CROs (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/5).

Decision 14: The Working Party thanked the Convenor of the Task Force on Equipment for Explosive Environment, Mr. Frank Lienesch (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt) for his work and for his presentation. It took note of the progress made by the Sectoral Initiative and adopted the proposed CROs (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/6).

Decision 15: The Working Party thanked the representative of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs for her presentation of the progress report of the Sectoral Initiative on Pipeline Safety (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/7) and approved its Terms of Reference. It was noted that the initiative had aroused interest from many countries.

Decision 16: The Working Party requested the secretariat to continue providing an update on the work of all the sectoral initiatives on an annual basis.

Item 6: Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation

Decision 17: The Working Party thanked the representative of ISO/CASCO for his presentation on the activities of his organization related to conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance. The Working Party invited delegations as well as regional and international organizations to continue an exchange of information and experiences on conformity assessment and accreditation.

Item 7: Market surveillance

(a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group)

Decision 18: The Working Party adopted the report of the meeting of the MARS Group, which was held in Bratislava on 8-10 October 2009 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/9).

Decision 19: The Working Party thanked the European Commission for its update on the implementation of the EU Common Regulatory Framework for Market Surveillance and the New Approach.

Decision 20: The Working Party noted the report on market surveillance activities under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/10). It requested the secretariat to continue to make reports on market surveillance activities received from Member States available as part of the documentation for the annual session.

(b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative

Decision 21: The Working Party noted the document “Market surveillance: general concept and how it relates to the activities of the Working Party” (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/11).

Decision 22: The Working Party noted the new version of the draft guide to the use of the General Market Surveillance Model and decided to endorse it as a training document while continuing its improvement and promotion. The Working Party also asked the secretariat to coordinate with EASC in order to translate the document into Russian.

(c) Common definitions and terminology in Market Surveillance

Decision 23: The Working Party thanked the representative of the International Organization of Legal Metrology, and requested the secretariat to incorporate contributions from member States and regional organizations, and to circulate a second draft of the document on common definitions and terminology in market surveillance (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/13).

Decision 24: The Working Party asked the delegations to provide to the secretariat with contact information of market surveillance authorities so that the secretariat can compile a compendium and to post it on its website. It also encouraged the MARS Group to continue to promote the implementation of Recommendation M.

Item 8: Metrology

Decision 25: The Working Party thanked the representative of the International Organization of Legal Metrology for his presentation on developments in the area of metrology.

Item 9: Capacity-building

Decision 26: The Working Party noted the presentation and document of the secretariat on Aid for Trade (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/18).

Decision 27: The Working Party thanked the representative of UNITAR for his presentation on the possibilities offered to design and produce interactive training modules, and the representative of EURAS for his presentation and welcomed the proposal for further cooperation. The Working Party also thanked the Coordinator of the General Market Surveillance Procedure for his presentation.

Decision 28: The Working Party requested the secretariat to explore the possibility to establish a Trust Fund for WP.6 activities, in order to assist the member States in coping with the challenges they meet. Partnerships with training centres and institutions, including UNITAR, ICES, and EURAS should be considered so as to relay the deliverables of WP.6 effectively to a wider audience

Item 10: Matters arising from the meetings of the Committee on Trade and the UNECE Executive Committee and the International Conference on “Risk Assessment and Management”

Decision 29: The Working Party noted the report of the third session of the Committee on Trade (ECE/TRADE/C/2009/12) and the recent developments concerning the future of the Committee on Trade.

Item 11: Programme of work and priorities of the Working Party

Decision 30: The Working Party approved the proposed changes to the table of priorities (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/15), including the suggestions of the Russian Federation, Mozambique, Belarus and Georgia. It requested the secretariat to prepare the programme of work for 2010-2012, taking into account the outcome of the International Conference and the annual session, and to present it to the Working Party at the next annual session.

Decision 31: The Working Party noted the results of the self-evaluation exercise conducted at the previous session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/16). It observed that the evaluation forms that had been received were not sufficient for a satisfactory evaluation and encouraged delegations to invest more time in the evaluation of the session from now on.

Item 12: Other business

Decision 32: The Working Party thanked the secretariat for its outreach activities, in particular the publication on “A Common Regulatory Language for Trade and Development” (ECE/TRADE/375), the brochure and the revamping of the WP.6 website.

Decision 33: The Working Party decided to amend the organizational chart to better match the programme of work and asked the secretariat to issue a new version before the next annual session.

Decision 34: The Working Party proposed the following tentative dates for the twentieth annual session: 1-2 November 2010.

Item 12: Adoption of the report

Decision 35: WP.6 reviewed the decision list and asked the secretariat to prepare the formal report of the session.

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