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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Nineteenth session
Geneva, 24-26 November 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION^{1 2}

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 24 November 2009

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. International Conference on Risk Assessment and Management.

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6> and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting either by e-mail (regulatory.cooperation@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0037). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2774/2481.

² Back to back with the annual session of the Working Party, an International Conference on “Risk Assessment and Management” will be held on 24 and 25 November.

4. Matters arising from the meetings of the Committee on Trade, the UNECE Executive Committee and the International Conference on Risk Assessment and Management.
5. Standardization and regulatory practice.
 - (a) Review of developments;
 - (b) Development and Update of Recommendations on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.
6. Regulatory cooperation.
 - (a) Regional projects;
 - (b) Sectoral projects.
7. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation.
8. Market surveillance.
 - (a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group);
 - (b) Update on the General Market Surveillance Procedure;
 - (c) Common definitions and terminology in Market Surveillance;
 - (d) Update on the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).
9. Metrology.
10. Programme of work and priorities of the Working Party.
11. Capacity-building.
12. Other business.
13. Adoption of the report.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/1 - Annotated provisional agenda

1. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and are presented here for approval.

Item 2. Election of officers

2. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party is expected to elect a Chairperson and two vice-chairpersons. At the eighteenth session, Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden) was elected Chairperson, and Messrs. V. Koreshkov (Belarus) and P. Lukac (Slovakia) were elected vice-chairpersons.

Item 3. International Conference on Risk Assessment and Management

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/2 - Provisional programme of the Conference
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/3 - Background document by the secretariat
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/14 - Background document on the Conference

3. Delegates at the last annual session expressed interest in exploring the issue of risk assessment and management in the context of standards and technical regulations.

4. The International Conference will aim at:

(a) Promoting an exchange of experience on the use of risk assessment and management techniques in the areas of technical regulations, standards, conformity assessment, accreditation, metrology, and market surveillance;

- (b) Sharing best practice in the use of risk assessment and management tools for:
- The choice of technical regulation objectives and tools;
 - Drafting and implementing technical regulations;
 - The evaluation of alternative conformity assessment options;
 - Alternative market surveillance procedures.

Item 4. Matters arising from the meetings of the Committee on Trade and the UNECE Executive Committee and the International Conference on "Risk Assessment and Management"

5. The secretariat will report on matters arising from recent meetings of the Committee on Trade and of the UNECE Executive Committee of relevance to the Working Party.

6. The Working Party will discuss if and how its programme of work should be adapted to respond to the outcome of the Conference and to the decisions by the UNECE Executive Committee.

Item 5. Standardization and regulatory practice

(a) Review of developments

7. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on their standardization and regulatory activities, as well as on technical cooperation programmes with other countries or regions. In particular, as a follow-up to the discussions held at the previous sessions, the European Commission will provide information on the Common Regulatory Framework for the Marketing of Products, the work of a special Expert Panel for the Review of the European Standardisation System (EXPRESS) (see http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/review_of_standardisation/index_en.htm) as well as a brief update on the implementation of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation.

8. The Working Party will receive an oral report from the secretariat on the Seminar on “The role of international standards in Economic Development”, organized by the World Trade Organization in March 2009.

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

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/378 - UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6/Rev.1 - Final version of Recommendation “K”
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/8 - Proposal for revision of Recommendation “D”

9. At its seventeenth session, the Working Party revised Recommendation “K” on Assurance of Conformity Assessment and Testing, the final version of which is now submitted to delegations for information.

10. At its last session, the Working Party also discussed the possible revision of Recommendation D “Reference to standards”. Delegations are hereby invited to send to the secretariat any proposals for its amendment that they would like to table for discussion.

Item 6. Regulatory cooperation

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/378 - UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/17 - Report of the Meeting of WP.6 Bureau, Rapporteurs and Coordinators, “START” team and “MARS” group, Stockholm (27-29 May 2009)

11. The Working Party will receive an update on the activities developed on the basis of Recommendation “L”, International Model for Technical Harmonization based on good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards.

12. The Working Party will be informed about the activities of its Team of Specialists on Standardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team), which met in Stockholm in May 2009.

(a) Regional projects

13. The Working Party will be informed about the status of regional projects to reinforce regulatory cooperation in the context of regional or bilateral trade agreements, especially in Southeast Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC).

(b) Sectoral projects

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/4 - Progress Report on the Sectoral Initiative on Telecom
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/5 - Progress Report on the Sectoral Initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/6 - Progress Report on the Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/7 - Progress Reports on the Sectoral Initiative on Pipeline Safety

14. The Conveners of the ongoing sectoral initiatives will report on current activities and recent achievements, in particular, on the Explosive Environments Equipment Initiative; the Telecom Initiative; the Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative and the Initiative on the Safety of pipelines.

15. Any proposals for regulatory convergence dialogues will be considered. The Working Party will also consider what it can do to identify new sectors where similar projects could be initiated.

Item 7. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation

16. National delegations and international and regional organizations are invited to report on trade-related aspects of conformity assessment and accreditation.

Item 8. Market surveillance

17. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on relevant developments regarding market surveillance, including the implementation of Recommendation “M”.

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

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/9 - Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meeting
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/10 – Information from the CIS on market surveillance
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/11 – Market surveillance: general concept and how it relates to the activities of the Working Party

18. The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) will report to the Working Party on the activities of the Group and on its meeting. Delegations will be updated on market surveillance activities under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The European Commission will present an update on the implementation of the EU Common Regulatory Framework for Market Surveillance.

(b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/12 - Draft guide to the use of the General Market Surveillance Model

19. The convener will present a further draft guide to the use of the General Market Surveillance Model.

(c) Common definitions and terminology in Market Surveillance

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/13 - Draft common definitions and terminology in market surveillance

20. The convener will present a first draft of the text on common definitions and terminology in market surveillance.

(d) Update on the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

21. Delegations will be invited to discuss the possible role of Recommendation “M” in the context of the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

Item 9. Metrology

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6/Rev.1 - Final version of Recommendation “K”

22. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on relevant developments in metrology.

Item 10. Programme of work and priorities of the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2009/12 - Report of the third session of the Committee on Trade
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/15 - Revised table of priorities
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/16 - Evaluation of the Working Party

23. The Working Party will review its priorities for its future work, based on the updated table of priorities.

24. The Working Party will be invited to discuss the evaluation document prepared by the secretariat and methodologies for the evaluation of its future work.

Item 11. Capacity-building

25. The Working Party will receive an update on plans to launch a capacity-building initiative to promote the application of Model "M".

Item 12. Other business

26. The Working Party will review recent outreach activities: in particular, the recent publications and brochures and the revamping of the WP.6 website. It will give directions to the secretariat for continuing this work.

27. The Working Party will consider the organizational chart annexed to this document and discuss the responsibilities of its coordinators and rapporteurs in the light of its programme of work.

28. The Working Party will select tentative dates for its meeting in 2010.

Item 13. Adoption of the report

29. According to agreed practice, during its session, the Working Party will approve a list of main decisions. The secretariat will subsequently draft the descriptive part of the report, in consultation with the office bearers, taking into account the contributions made during the session.

III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 24 November	10.00 – 10.15	Items 1-2
	10.15 – 13.00	Item 3 (Conference on Risk Assessment)
	15.00 – 18.00	
Wednesday, 25 November	10.00 – 13.00	Item 3 (continued)
	15.00 – 18.00	Items 4-6
Thursday, 26 November	10.00 – 13.00	Items 7-8
	15.00 – 18.00	Items 8-13

Annex
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE WORKING PARTY

