ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Nineteenth session
Geneva, 24-26 November 2009
Item 6 (b) of the provisional Agenda

REGULATORY COOPERATION

SECTORAL PROJECT

Progress Report on the Sectoral Initiative on Telecom

Note by the secretariat

1.   At its eighteenth session, the Working Party asked the secretariat to provide annual updates on the work of all the sectoral initiatives (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/18, para. 63). Accordingly, this report contains concise information on the status of initiative, and describes the main activities that they have been completed or under was. The information is organized on the basis of a template prepared by the secretariat.

2.   The progress report is presented for information to the Working Party.

I.   PROJECT OBJECTIVE AND KEY DELIVERABLES

3.   The objective of the Telecommunications Initiative is to create greater market access for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products. This is achieved through developing common regulatory objectives (CROs) for ICT products that will constitute agreements among interested countries on regulatory convergence in support of legitimate requirements (see: TRADE/WP.6/2003/16/Add.2).

4.   For this purpose, CROs have been developed for the following equipment: personal computers (PCs); PC peripherals, legacy Public Switched Telephone Network terminals; Bluetooth, Wireless Local Area Network; Global Standard for Mobile Telecommunication; and International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT-2000). These are available at http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/Telecom/CROs.htm

II.   CURRENT STATUS OF PROJECT

5.   So far, there has been limited interest in applying the CROs.

6.   The possible use of CROs in the context of the World Trade Organization non-tariff barriers (NTB) discussions for the ICT sector could be further explored, as well as initiatives under way in the International Telecommunication Union (see http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/wtsa-08/res76/index.html). The CROs can provide practical examples of good regulatory practice in this sector.

III.   PROGRESS IN 2008 AND DELIVERABLES FOR THE ANNUAL SESSION

7.   In 2009, the secretariat completely reorganized the website of the Initiative, as requested by the Working Party at its last session.

IV.   PROJECT MEETINGS AND/OR CONFERENCE CALLS HELD IN 2009

8.   No meetings of the Telecommunications Task Force were held in 2009.

V.   RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK

9.   Mr. Per Döfnäs is responsible for the continuation of this project.

VI.   ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT (SPECIFIC TASKS)

10.   The Sectoral Initiative recommends that the secretariat assist it in initiating a discussion about the CROs with the main producers and Governments of East Asian countries (e.g. Republic of Korea, China, Japan).

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