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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  
Item 10 of the provisional Agenda

**PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES**

**Table of priorities**

Note by the secretariat<sup>(\*)</sup>

*Summary*

At previous sessions, the Working Party decided that delegations should take part in ongoing appraisals of the programme of work (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/12 and ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 81). This also reflects a specific request made in the UNECE Reform Plan (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) to overview the programme of work.

This document sets out in tabular form the status of Working Party initiatives under way, as well as their mandates. It also sets out the priorities for 2009-2010. The document is based on the vision, mission and long-term strategic directions for the Working Party, and on its

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<sup>(\*)</sup> The present document has been submitted after the official documentation deadline by the Trade and Timber Division due to resource constraints.

*Summary (Cont'd)*

programme of work for 2008-2010, as approved at the 2008 session, (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1), as well as discussions held at the meeting of the WP.6 Bureau, rapporteurs and coordinators, "START" Team and "MARS" Group, that took place in Stockholm, from 27 to 29 May 2009.

The table of priorities is submitted to the Working Party for further discussion and adoption.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE AND KEY TO THE TABLE****Provisional priority levels for the programme of work were assigned as follows:**

Priority A:	2009-2010
Priority B:	Ongoing work
Priority C:	Postponed

**The Working Party has six major areas of work, namely:**

Stand	Standardization policies
RC	Regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation: Support to the Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team)
MS	Market surveillance: support to the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
CA	Conformity assessment
M	Metrology
CB&TA	Capacity-building and technical cooperation.

**The source documents are as follows:**

ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6 /2008/18	Report of the eighteenth session
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1	Programme of work, 2008-2010
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6 /2007/13	Report of the seventeenth session

**The list of abbreviations:**

WP.6	Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies
START	WP.6 Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team)
MARS	WP.6 Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
MS	Market surveillance
SIIEE	Sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments
SIEMM	Sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery
SIPS	Sectoral initiative on Pipeline Safety
SIT	Sectoral Initiative on Telecom

## TABLE OF PRIORITIES

### Status of the initiatives under way, together with their mandates and priority levels

Priority	Area of work	Mandate	Description	Chair/Team/ Group/ Task Force Leader	Current Status (as of July 2009)
A	Stand	2006 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/13, para. 25(c))	The Working Party agreed on the inclusion of the revised text of Recommendation "J" in the set of UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies.	secretariat	Incorporated into the revised publication
A	Stand	2007 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para 56)	The Working Party agreed on the inclusion of the revised text of Recommendation "M" in the set of UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies.	secretariat	Incorporated into the revised publication
A	Stand	2007 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 58)	The Working Party agreed on the inclusion of the revised text of Recommendation "K" in the set of UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies.	secretariat	Incorporated into the revised publication
A	Stand	2007 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 58)	Following a proposal by Kenya, and statements made by UNCTAD and the EC on the issue of private standards (company specifications), the Working Party asked its Group of Rapporteurs to consider possible actions	secretariat	Panel on private standards organized

Priority	Area of work	Mandate	Description	Chair/Team/ Group/ Task Force Leader	Current Status (as of July 2009)
B	Stand	2008 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 35)	At its 2007 session, the Working Party discussed the challenges faced by the Russian regulatory authorities in their work. As follow-up based on the background documents, the panel discussion and the UNECE-WP.6 International Forum on Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade, the Working Party entrusted Office bearers and the UNECE secretariat to: (1) Prepare a reference/information document for interested regulatory authorities in the UNECE and other regions; (2) Initiate work on the revision of Recommendation D: "Reference to Standards".	WP.6 and secretariat	A publication following up on the International Forum on Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade was prepared. The secretariat awaits further inputs for the revision of Recommendation D.
C	Stand	Programme of work 2007-2008 (ECE/TRADE//C/2007/11)	Complete the sixth revision of the "UNECE Regulatory and Standardization List"* based on an ongoing dialogue with member States and international standardization organizations.	WP.6 and secretariat	At its meeting in March 2008, the Bureau recommended postponing the revision of this document to the next biennium.
C	Stand	Programme of work 2007-2008 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/11)	Explore the interest of other regional commissions of the United Nations in using the principles and criteria laid down in the List for identifying the interest of member States in standardization and regulatory cooperation.	WP.6 and secretariat	The Working Party will explore this after the revision of the "UNECE Regulatory and Standardization" list.

Priority	Area of work	Mandate	Description	Chair/Team/Group/Task Force Leader	Current Status (as of July 2009)
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment (SIEEE) was established by the Working Party at its seventeenth session in 2007, and its Terms of Reference were approved at the eighteenth session in 2008.	Mr. F. Lieniesch	The task force held a meeting in Stockholm on 28 May and will meet in Melbourne – back to back to the meeting of the IECEX scheme on 2 September to discuss the first draft of the CROs with IEC Ex experts. The first draft of the CROs is now being submitted to the nineteenth session for discussion
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Telecom Products (SIT) started work in 2002, and its terms of reference were approved by the Working Party in 2003..It drew up common regulatory objectives (CROs) for the following equipment: personal computers (PCs); PC peripherals; legacy Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) terminals; Bluetooth, Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN); a Global Standard for Mobile Telecommunication (GSM); and International Mobile Telecommunications	Mr. P. Döfnäs	The possible use of the International Model in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) non-tariff barriers (NTB) discussions for the ICT sector should be explored. The CROs can provide practical examples of good regulatory practice for WTO Members

Priority	Area of work	Mandate	Description	Chair/Team/Group/Task Force Leader	Current Status (as of July 2009)
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Earth Moving Machinery (SIEMM) started work in 2003 and developed a proposal for CROs in 2004, which was endorsed by the Working Party at its fourteenth session.	Mr. D. Roley	At the current session, SIEMM will present a proposal for revised CROs to address the requirement for third-party certification in countries where the use of the supplier declaration of conformity (SDoC) is not possible.
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1, para. 15)	At its seventeenth session, the Working Party took note of a preliminary proposal for the establishment of a Taskforce on Oil and Gas Pipeline Safety based on Recommendation "L".	Pipeline Task Force Leader to be elected	At its nineteenth session the Working Party will decide whether to establish a new initiative on pipeline safety. Preliminary work has already started: a questionnaire to document regulatory practices in this sector was prepared and five countries (Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Kazakhstan and Turkey) have replied.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Area of work</b>	<b>Mandate</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Chair/Team/ Group/ Task Force Leader</b>	<b>Current Status (as of July 2009)</b>
B	rc	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 15)	Support new sectoral or regional initiatives for projects using the mechanisms and principles of the International Model for Technical Harmonization, in cooperation with interested Governments, international organizations and private operators.	WP.6 and secretariat	Ongoing
A	RC and Stand	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 12)2	Provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences on issues of concern to UNECE member States, other States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and representatives of business and civil society, in the area of standardization and related activities.	WP.6 Bureau and secretariat	Ongoing
A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 18(b))	The initiative began in 2007 and its terms of reference were approved by the Working Party at its last session (see ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/13)	Mr. I. Hendrix	The model is under development and a revised draft has been prepared (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/11). It is supplemented by a non-technical, introductory document developed by the secretariat (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/12).

Priority	Area of work	Mandate	Description	Chair/Team/ Group/ Task Force Leader	Current Status (as of July 2009)
A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 18c)	At its last session, the Working Party endorsed the proposal by the MARS Group to reinforce the work on common definitions.	Mr. Willem Kool	A draft document has been prepared and delegations are invited to submit additional terms that they feel should be included in this list and any deviating definition from their national legislation of the terms listed.
A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 19)	The Working Party agreed to explore the interest of ISO/CASCO in reinforcing cooperation in the area of market surveillance.	MARS and secretariat	UNECE regularly attends the meetings of the ISO/CASCO STAR Group.
B	M	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, paras. 23 and 24)	<u>Continue</u> providing a discussion forum for metrology issues of concern, with special emphasis on countries in transition. <u>Maintain</u> contact with interested UNECE member countries and metrology organizations (e.g. the International Organization of Legal Metrology and the Euro-Asian Cooperation of State Metrology Institutions) to explore their interest in developing new recommendations for guidelines on the methodology for measuring procedures.	Mr. W. Kool, Bureau and secretariat	Ongoing



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B	CA	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 21),	Continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information and experience on conformity-assessment issues of concern to UNECE member States, other States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and representatives of business and civil society.	WP.6 Bureau secretariat	Ongoing
B	CB and TC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 25),	To support implementation of its recommendations and other programmes, the Working Party will evaluate and, when appropriate and financially possible, respond to requests for training and capacity-building from countries and organizations in the UNECE and other regions. To that end, it will continue working with donors to obtain extra-budgetary resources for financing such projects.	WP.6 and secretariat	
B	CB and TC	2008 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/18, para. 18(d))	The Working Party recommended that the UNECE member States, as well as all other States, where legal and institutional frameworks permit, encourage their national market surveillance bodies to use the approaches proposed in Recommendation "M".	WP.6 and secretariat	Ongoing

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