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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Third session
Geneva, 25-26 March 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 25 March 2010

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Substantive segment
3. Review of the work carried out since the second session
4. Implementation of the mandated work in 2010
5. Capacity-building activities
6. Future programme of work
7. Other business

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

1. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) will adopt the agenda of its third session.
2. The increasing focus on capacity-building in the Programme of Work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) implies a greater involvement of the CECI Teams of Specialists in field-based activities at the expense of less frequent formal meetings of the Teams. In turn, the exigencies of smooth planning and management of the Team's current work and the need to respond to new and ad hoc requests by UNECE member States raise the requirement for close and efficient coordination both among the members of the Team's Bureau (Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons) and between the Bureau and the secretariat. In view of these developments, the Team may review the membership of the TOS-ICP Bureau and may decide to introduce changes in the Bureau membership.

Item 2. Substantive segment

3. As envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 (ECE/CECI/2008/2), this substantive segment will be held as an Applied Policy Seminar on the topic "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector" with the participation of policymakers, innovation practitioners and representatives of international organizations, industry associations and academia, in addition to members of the Team.
4. The discussions will be structured around a number of subtopics and presentations, leaving space for interaction between participants. The deliberations under this item will provide an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to participate in the discussions on an equal footing.
5. In accordance with the agreed strategic orientation of the TOS-ICP work towards future capacity-building activities, the discussions are expected to emphasise the practical policy aspects of promoting innovation in the services sector.
6. The detailed programme of the Applied Policy Seminar will be structured in consultations with the TOS-ICP Bureau and will be made available to participants no later than one week before the session.

Item 3. Review of the work carried out since the second session

7. The Chairperson will brief the TOS-ICP members on key outcomes and highlights of the work carried out in 2008-2009:
 - (a) Comparative review "Enhancing the Innovative Performance of Firms. Policy Options and Practical Instruments" (ECE/CECI/8);
 - (b) Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development (ECE/CECI/2008/3);

- (c) Contribution to the International Conference on Knowledge-based Development, Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 10-12 June 2009 (ECE/CECI/CONF.5/2);
- (d) Contribution to the International Conference on Promoting Innovation-based Entrepreneurial Opportunities in the UNECE Region, Geneva, 28-29 September 2009 (ECE/CECI/2009/2); and
- (e) Contribution to the Regional Capacity-building Seminar on Financing Innovative Enterprises, Commercialization of Intellectual Property and Public-Private Partnerships, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 10–11 November 2009.

8. The CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 envisages the development of training materials and modules on the basis of policy-oriented normative documents approved by the Committee to be used in capacity-building seminars and training courses. The secretariat will inform the Team's members on the progress in the elaboration of training modules on promoting entrepreneurial opportunities and growth in new innovative firms in accordance with the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010.

9. At its third session held from 3 to 5 December 2008, CECI suggested considering an integrated approach in some policy-oriented and capacity-building activities by addressing specific issues and topics that cut across several focus areas. The secretariat will brief the Team's members on work done in other focus areas of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme as well as on cross-cutting activities carried out in conjunction with other relevant CECI thematic areas in 2009 in order to put the Teams' activities into a broader perspective and help identify links and other possibilities for future cross-sectoral work.

10. Members of the Team will then have the opportunity to take stock of past activities, discuss effective means for the dissemination of the Team's outputs and reflect on how to take advantage of synergies with the work that is being done in other focus areas. In view of the increased emphasis in the CECI Programme of Work on capacity-building activities, the Team may consider various options on how its policy-oriented and normative outputs could be used and adapted for these purposes.

Item 4. Implementation of the mandated work in 2010

11. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010, the Team is expected to contribute to the preparation of the document "Policy options for promoting innovation in the services sector" which will be submitted for consideration at the fifth session of the CECI.

12. This document will draw on the main conclusions of the Applied Policy Seminar "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector" and will be developed and refined further through a process of consultations with Team's members and other experts. The secretariat will invite Team's members to consider the possible preparation of other associated outputs, including a UNECE publication containing authored contributions and short policy briefs, so as to better disseminate policy messages across the UNECE constituency.

13. The Team will discuss the implementation details of the work envisaged for 2010, including the concrete orientation of the work to be undertaken and the deadlines for its completion.

Item 5. Capacity-building activities

14. The CECI Programme of Work assigns an increasing focus on demand-driven technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in requesting countries with economies in transition. Many recent capacity-building activities have been the result of collaboration between different Teams of Specialists and networks of experts, thus drawing synergies across thematic areas (ECE/CECI/2009/4). CECI at its fourth session welcomed the growing volume of technical cooperation services and capacity-building activities and asked the secretariat to continue seeking synergies between the activities and capacity-building events organized by different Teams of Specialists and networks of experts (ECE/CECI/2009/2).

15. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 and reflecting the expression of interests received so far, the secretariat will inform Team's members of projected capacity- building and advisory activities to be implemented in 2010, in collaboration with other Teams of Specialists and networks of experts.

16. Participants are encouraged to bring to the meeting expressions of interest by UNECE member States' governments and other stakeholders to offer various types of extrabudgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including the organization of seminars, twinning schemes or networking initiatives) to capacity-building activities. The members of the Team, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, would also be welcome to present their views on specific needs for policy advisory assistance that could serve as a reference to guide the planning of future capacity-building activities.

Item 6. Future programme of work

17. At its fourth session held from 28 to 30 September 2009, CECI noted the need to start preparatory steps related to the CECI programme of work in the next programmatic cycle and invited the Teams of Specialists to consider at their next sessions in 2010 proposals for their future work and submit them to the fifth CECI session to be held on 1-3 December 2010 (ECE/CECI/2009/2).

18. The secretariat will inform the Team's members on the discussions with the Bureau of CECI regarding possible directions of the future work, so as to provide guidance and facilitate the deliberations on possible future TOS-ICP activities. The Team's members will be invited to share their views on proposals made and put forward other considerations on possible activities and Team's efforts in the next programmatic cycle.

19. The Team's members are encouraged to take into account the results of the Performance Evaluation of the Subprogramme for 2008-2009 (ECE/CECI/2009/5) when presenting and assessing proposals for the future Programme of Work, in particular, regarding the need to develop policy recommendations that are more country or subregion specific, the involvement of local experts in the preparation of studies and the suggestions concerning the organization of training activities.

20. The secretariat will inform the Team and will seek the views of Team's members on the possibility of undertaking and conducting national Innovation Performance Reviews in selected countries who are willing to participate in this exercise. Such an activity could provide a

new focus for the work of the Team and would contribute to raising further its international visibility. The secretariat will inform the Team on some preliminary exploratory steps made in this direction, in particular, the possibilities of undertaking a pilot Review. The Team may consider the relevance of preparing a draft proposal to be submitted for the consideration of the fifth session of CECI.

Item 7. Other business

21. In view of the dynamism in professional affiliations and the variety of tasks undertaken by the CECI Teams of Specialists, CECI at its fourth session invited the secretariat to review the membership in the Teams and, wherever appropriate, approach member States with a request for new nominations of Team's members (ECE/CECI/2009/2). The secretariat will inform the Team on progress in this ongoing effort. Members of the Team are encouraged to actively support the strengthening of the group through new nominations of interested parties.

22. The Team will consider the procedure for the adoption of the report of the third session of the TOS-ICP. The draft report would be prepared by the secretariat not later than ten days following the session and would be reviewed and approved by the Bureau (Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons) on behalf of the TOS-ICP. The Team will also decide on possible dates for its fourth session.

Annex**TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

Time	Agenda items
Thursday, 25 March 2010	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Item 2. Substantive segment: Applied Policy Seminar on "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector"
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 2. Substantive segment: Applied Policy Seminar on "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector" (cont'd)
Friday, 26 March 2010	
10:00-13:00	Item 3. Review of the work carried out since the second session Item 4. Implementation of the mandated work in 2010 Item 5. Capacity-building activities
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 6. Future programme of work Item 7. Other business
