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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

**Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies****Fourth session**

Geneva, 12–13 May 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and election of officers****Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session<sup>1</sup>**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 12 May 2011

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Substantive segment
3. Review of the work carried out since the third session
4. Implementation plan for the remainder of 2011 and proposals for the programme of work in the next programmatic cycle
5. Other business

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<sup>1</sup> Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/ie/welcome/dc/regfe.pdf> and transmit it to the secretariat either by email ([icp@unece.org](mailto:icp@unece.org)) or by fax (+41 22 917 01 78). Prior to the session, delegates (with the exception of delegates from the Geneva-based Missions) are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, (a map is attached to the registration form) for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/ceci/addinf.html>.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers**

1. The objectives of the fourth session are to discuss and address topical substantive issues related to the Programme of Work of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP), to review the outputs and activities carried out since the third session, including in conjunction with other relevant thematic areas under the Programme of Work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), to agree on the implementation plan for the remainder of 2011 and to make proposals for the programme of work in the next programmatic cycle.

2. The Team may review the composition of the TOS-ICP Bureau and may decide to introduce changes in the Bureau membership.

### **2. Substantive segment**

3. The CECI Programme of Work for 2011, which was adopted at the fifth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration in Geneva on 1-3 December 2010 (ECE/CECI/2010/2), envisages the undertaking of an Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. This project should build on the successful completion of the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus, which was discussed at the Substantive segment of the fifth session of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration and is due to be presented in its final form to this session of the Team of Specialists of Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

4. Effective collaboration between innovation stakeholders and, in particular between the private and the public sector, to overcome coordination problems and reduce the uncertainties inherent in risky innovative projects through appropriate risk-sharing mechanisms, appears as a central consideration in the design of innovation policies and instruments. This collaborative and risk-sharing dimension has played an important part in the policy discussions regarding the Innovation Performance Reviews.

5. In view of the rising importance of collaboration and partnering in the innovation process and their relevance for contemporary innovation policies, the Substantive segment of this session will be held as an Applied Policy Seminar under the title "Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Broadening the Horizons of Collaboration and Risk-Sharing". This Applied Seminar will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in these areas, including the relevant lessons learned from the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. Its conclusions will also serve as an input in the implementation of future Reviews.

6. In view of the recommendation to strengthen the international integration component in future activities made at the fifth session of CECI (ECE/CECI/2010/2), the programme of this Substantive segment will pay special attention to the international aspects of the topic under consideration.

7. In accordance with the agreed strategic orientation of the TOS-ICP work towards capacity-building activities and the importance of Innovation Performance Reviews in future work, the discussions are expected to emphasise the practical policy aspects of developing mechanisms and arrangements for collaboration and risk-sharing.

8. 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.

9. 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.

### **3. Review of the work carried out since the third session**

10. The Chairperson will brief the TOS-ICP members on key outcomes and highlights of the work carried out since the third session:

(a) Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector. Review of Experiences and Policies (ECE/CECI/9);

(b) Policy Options for Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector (ECE/CECI/2010/5);

(c) Innovation Performance Review of Belarus (ECE/CECI/11);

(d) Contribution to the International Conference on Policies to Address Financing and Entrepreneurial Challenges in High-Growth Innovative Firms, Helsinki, Finland, 2-4 June 2010 (ECE/CECI/CONF.7/2);

(e) Synopsis of Good Practices and Policies to Address Financing and Entrepreneurial Challenges in High-Growth Innovative Firms (ECE/CECI/2010/6); and

(f) Contribution to the International Conference "From Applied Research to Entrepreneurship: Promoting Innovation-driven Start-ups and Academic Spin-offs", Kiev, Ukraine, 9-11 November 2010 (ECE/CECI/CONF.9/2).

11. The CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 envisaged 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 introduce to the Team's members a software training tool which has been developed in the area of financing for innovative development and which could serve as a model for the elaboration of training modules on promoting entrepreneurial opportunities and growth in new innovative firms.

12. The fifth session of CECI underlined the importance of an integrated approach in policy-oriented and capacity-building activities while addressing specific issues and topics that cut across several focus areas. The secretariat will brief the Team's members on relevant work done in conjunction with other focus areas of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme in order to put the Teams' activities into a broader perspective and help identify links and other possibilities for future cross-sectoral work.

13. 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 on capacity-building activities in the CECI Programme of Work, the Team may consider various options on how its policy-oriented and normative outputs could be used and adapted for these purposes.

#### **4. Implementation plan for the remainder of 2011 and proposals for the programme of work in the next programmatic cycle**

14. The secretariat will inform members of the Team on the main outcomes of the fifth session of CECI with direct implications for the activities of TOS-ICP, in particular regarding the renewal of the mandates of Teams of Specialists and the future programme of work.

15. The Committee recommended the renewal of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies exceptionally for the period of three years (2011-2013) in view of the envisaged alignment of the CECI biennial programming cycles with the UN biennial budgeting cycle starting from 2012-2013. The fifth session of CECI adopted the Programme of Work only for 2011 in line with this envisaged alignment.

16. The Team will discuss the implementation plan for the work envisaged for the remainder of 2011, in accordance with the Programme for Work for 2011 adopted at the fifth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (ECE/CECI/2010/2):

(a) Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. This Review will incorporate the relevant lessons drawn from the main conclusions of the Substantive segment of the fourth session of TOS-ICP and the experience accumulated in the implementation of the pilot Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. The main outcomes of the draft Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan are due to be presented and discussed at the Substantive segment of the sixth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which will take place in Geneva on 30 November - 2 December 2011;

(b) Field-based workshop on presenting the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus and its main conclusions combined with a knowledge-sharing component, Minsk, Belarus.

17. The International Conference "Promoting Eco-Innovation: Policies and Opportunities", which was scheduled to take place in Tel Aviv, Israel on 7-9 March 2011 has been postponed at the request of the Government of the State of Israel, the co-organiser of this event. The Conference could take place later this year, if a suitable date is found.

18. The Team is also expected to contribute to the International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan and will be jointly organized with the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the second half of 2011.

19. Building on the initial discussions at the third session of TOS-ICP (ECE/CECI/ICP/2010/2) and the guidance provided at the fifth session of CECI (ECE/CECI/2010/2 and ECE/CECI/2010/4), the members of the Team are requested to consider putting forward at this session concrete proposals for future activities and outputs. These proposals will be then reviewed by the Bureau in consultations with the secretariat with a view of preparing a draft CECI Programme of Work for 2012-2013 to be submitted for consideration by the sixth CECI session.

20. Members of the Team are invited to take into consideration, in particular, the increased priority given to capacity-building activities and policy advisory services, mostly due to growing demand for such activities by countries with economies in transition.

21. The preparation of national Innovation Performance Reviews, subject to the demand of interested countries and the availability of resources to conduct them, could become an important focus for the activity of the TOS-ICP, in cooperation with other Teams of Specialists and networks of experts in other thematic areas.

22. The assessment resulting from such Reviews could serve to better identify needs, so these can be addressed through follow-up capacity-building activities, which will remain a main direction of the future CECI work. The preparation of the Reviews would also provide opportunities for targeted training and knowledge-sharing workshops between international and national experts.

23. The Team will also have the opportunity to make concrete proposals regarding methods of work, including the creation of taskforces to cover specific topics, and the programme of publications, including the preparation of short policy briefs and volumes with authored contributions, so as to better disseminate policy messages across the UNECE constituency.

24. Participants are encouraged to bring to the session any expressions of interest by UNECE Member States or other stakeholders for receiving, delivering, or hosting capacity-building activities in areas related to the work of the Team.

25. Participants are also encouraged to indicate any expression of interest by the UNECE Member States and other stakeholders to provide various types of extrabudgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including organization of seminars, twinning schemes or networking initiatives) to the activities in this thematic area.

## **5. Other business**

26. The Team will consider the procedure for the adoption of the report of the fourth 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 fifth session.

## Annex

### Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
<b>Thursday, 12 May 2011</b>	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers Item 2. Substantive segment
15:00-18:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (continued)
<b>Friday, 13 May 2011</b>	
10:00-13:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (continued)
15:00-18:00	Item 3. Review of the work carried out since the third session Item 4. Implementation plan for the remainder of 2011 and proposals for the programme of work in the next programmatic cycle Item 5. Other business

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