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Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Fifth session

Geneva, 12–13 April 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on 12 April 2012

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Substantive segment
3. Review of the implementation of the programme of work since the fourth session and review of the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the 2005 ECE reform
4. Implementation plan for 2012-2013
5. Other business

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28471> and transmit it to the secretariat either by email (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 for the issuance of an identification badge. Additional information for delegates, including a map of the premises, is available on the UNECE website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

1. The objectives of the fifth 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 fourth session, including in conjunction with other relevant thematic areas under the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) and to agree on the implementation plan for 2012-2013.

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), envisaged the undertaking of an Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan. The draft conclusions and recommendations of this Review were discussed at the sixth session of the CECI on 30 November 2011. The final version of the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan will be presented at this session of the Team of Specialists of Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

4. The globalisation of research and development activities and the increased relevance of cross-border issues for innovation has been accompanied by the persistence of agglomeration effects, where particular regions within countries act as innovation drivers, which have sometimes a global significance. Innovation policies need to take into account these trends, while, at the same time, supporting regional efforts to increase innovation performance and incorporating regional aspects in the design of innovation strategies. These concerns have clearly emerged in the policy discussions regarding the Innovation Performance Reviews conducted in Belarus and Kazakhstan.

5. The CECI Programme of Work for 2012-2013, adopted at its sixth session (ECE/CECI/2011/2), identified the territorial dimensions of the knowledge economy and the related policy options to boost competitiveness as a topic to be considered in a policy-oriented event. In accordance with this indication, the substantive segment of this session will be held as an Applied Policy Seminar under the title "Policies for Innovation and Knowledge-based Development in the 21st Century: Building Strategies for Regions of Innovation". The Applied Seminar will provide a platform for international knowledge-sharing and policy-learning in this area, including the relevant lessons learned from the Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan.

6. Following 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, including international linkages of regions and cross-border cooperation initiatives.

7. 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.

8. 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 implementation of the programme of work since the fourth session and review of the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the 2005 ECE reform

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

(a) Contribution to International Conference Promoting Eco-innovation: Policies and Opportunities, Tel Aviv, Israel, 11-14 July 2011 (ECE/CECI/CONF.10/2);

(b) Contribution to the International Conference on Knowledge-based Development and Innovative Entrepreneurship, Baku, Azerbaijan, 24-25 November 2011 (ECE/CECI/CONF.13/2);

(c) Policy options to foster the financing and development of clean technologies (ECE/CECI/2011/3);

(d) Contribution to the review of the draft innovation strategy of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, 27 October 2011; and

(e) Innovation Performance Review of Kazakhstan (ECE/CECI/14).

10. 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. This approach has been reinforced in the programme of work adopted at the sixth session of CECI. 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 identifying links and other possibilities for future cross-sectoral work.

11. Team's members will also be briefed on the work on ICP since the 2005 ECE reform (ECE/CECI/ICP/2012/3). The Team will review its work in the light of the modalities of the 2011-2012 review of the 2005 ECE reform.

12. Members of the Team will 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 other focus areas.

4. Implementation plan for 2012-2013

13. The secretariat will inform members of the Team on the main outcomes of the sixth session of CECI (30 November - 2 December 2011) and their implications for the activities of TOS-ICP, in particular regarding the renewal of the mandates of the Teams of Specialists and the programme of work for 2012-2013.

14. At its sixth session, CECI noted with satisfaction the work carried out by the TOS-ICP and its other CECI Teams of Specialists. The Committee also took note of the position of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) that "... the relevant existing subsidiary bodies should continue to function until the end of the review process and do not need further approval for their extension from EXCOM" (EXCOM Informal document No. 2011/21).

15. The programme of work of CECI for 2012-2013 (ECE/CECI/2011/5) was adopted at its sixth session. In line with the recommendations of the Executive Committee, the

programme is presented in a new format, with activities being grouped into clusters with specified expected outcomes. Four thematic areas (innovation and competitiveness policies; entrepreneurship and enterprise development; financing innovative development and intellectual property for knowledge-based development) are integrated into one broad cluster "promoting innovation and knowledge-based development".

16. In accordance with the modalities of the 2011-2012 review of the 2005 ECE reform, the programmes of work of CECI and the other UNECE sectoral committees will be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee in the last quarter of 2012.

17. The Team will discuss the implementation plan for the work envisaged for 2012-2013 in accordance with the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation (CECI) as agreed at its sixth session.

18. In accordance with this programme of work, the Team is expected to contribute to policy-oriented events under the common theme "Policies for Innovation and Knowledge-based Development in the 21st Century", which will provide inputs for publications and information materials. Proposed topics include the territorial aspects of innovation, which is the subject of the of the substantive segment of the fifth session of the TOS-ICP, and innovation in the public sector.

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

20. The preparation of national Innovation Performance Reviews, subject to the demand of interested countries and the availability of resources to conduct them, has 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.

21. The Government of Ukraine has expressed its interest in the undertaking of an Innovation Performance Review in 2012. At the sixth CECI session, the delegations of Azerbaijan and Moldova also invited the secretariat to consider undertaking innovation performance reviews for these countries.

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. The programme of work of CECI for 2012-2013 envisages field-based policy advisory workshops to present and discuss the main findings and conclusions of the Innovation Performance Reviews of Kazakhstan, Ukraine and other countries in which reviews may be conducted over this period.

23. The Team is also expected to contribute to integrated/cross-cutting or thematic subregional capacity-building and knowledge sharing conferences and workshops on policies for promoting innovative, knowledge-based development, subject to demand from Member States and the availability of extrabudgetary funding.

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. In accordance with the programme of work of CECI for 2012-2013, the Team is also expected to contribute to the elaboration of training materials and toolkits on policies to promote knowledge-based development.

26. The Team will also have the opportunity to make concrete proposals regarding methods of work and mechanisms to communicate the policy messages resulting from its

activities in a cost-effective way that ensures wide dissemination. According to the programme of work of CECI for 2012-2013, the Team is expected to contribute to the preparation of:

(a) Policy briefs on selected topics related to the knowledge-based economy, building on the outcomes of meetings (electronic format); and

(b) A regular newsletter on innovation-related issues, presenting the activities of the subprogramme, which may be open to external contributions.

27. 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

28. The Team will consider the procedure for the adoption of the report of the fifth 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 sixth session.

Annex

Tentative timetable

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda Item</i>
Thursday, 12 April 2012	
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)
Friday, 13 April 2012	
10:00-13:00	Item 2. Substantive segment (continued)
15:00-18:00	Item 3. Review of the implementation of the programme of work since the fourth session and review of the activities of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies since the 2005 ECE reform Item 4. Implementation plan for 2012-2013 Item 5. Other business
