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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

**Fourth Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship**

Warsaw, Poland, 21 November 2003

Information Notice

**Background**

The Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship was established at the second session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (W.P.8) in 2001 (TRADE/WP.8/2001/5). The Team reports to the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (W.P.8) and operates within the mandate and procedures established for its teams of specialists (TRADE/WP.8/2002/7).

The mission of the Team of Specialists is to assist Governments and women in the ECE region in fully utilizing women's skills, knowledge and entrepreneurial potential to stimulate economic growth and job creation in their countries, which is a condition to improve living conditions and alleviate poverty. To this end, the Team of Specialists:

- collects information on the situation of women-entrepreneurs and identifies gender specific barriers to entrepreneurship in countries and sub-regions;
- collects best practices of national policies supporting women's entrepreneurship in the ECE region;
- organizes the exchange of information and experiences involving governments, business community and civil society;
- prepares recommendations how to incorporate concerns of women-entrepreneurs into institutional and legal frameworks for business activities and address other gender specific barriers;
- promotes organization of training courses and life-long learning for women -entrepreneurs to facilitate start-ups and developing business activities under the conditions of globalization and rapid progress in information and communication technologies (ICT);
- creates a web-site within the framework of the UNECE web-system in cooperation with the participating specialists in order to expand networks among women-entrepreneurs, improve access to information; and raises the awareness in the member States on women's

entrepreneurship through the enlargement of the UNECE Portrait Gallery of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs and other relevant activities.

### **Summary of the third meeting**

The third meeting of the Team of Specialists (TOS) on Women's Entrepreneurship was held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva on 19 March 2003. It was organised by the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division (IREEDD) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The meeting was attended by 20 members.

During the meeting the following officials were elected for the period of March 2003-February 2004: Chair: Mr. A. Fiddaman, Director, The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (UK) and Deputy –Chair: Ms. Elzbieta Raciniewska, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Affairs (Poland).

It was decided to follow up to the Second Forum through the organisation of sub-regional and national events. The programme of work for 2003 – 2004 was adopted; it is included into the Summary Report attached.

The Teams established four sub-regional initiative Groups in Belarus and Ukraine, in Russia, in Central Asia and in South Caucasus; it also established two thematic groups: one on training and human resources and one on data and statistics. The Summary Report of the Third TOS meeting (TRADE/Wp.8/AC.4/2003/1) is available at [www.unece.org/oes/gender](http://www.unece.org/oes/gender).

### **Objectives of the fourth meeting**

The main objectives of the meeting are: to evaluate progress in the TOS programme of work and to discuss the follow up to the Round Table on "Women Entrepreneurs in a Wider Europe".

### **Date and venue**

The meeting will be held during the CEI Summit Economic Forum in Warsaw (Poland) on 21 November 2003.

### **Provisional agenda**

1. Welcome by Ms. E. Raciniewska, Deputy Chair of TOS
2. Summary report of the third TOS Meeting; Ms. E. Ruminska-Zimny, TOS Co-ordinator
3. Progress in the implementation of the work programme 2003-2004
  - Training and Human Resources (Ms. I. I. Vanore-Speer (Switzerland))
  - Sub-regional Initiatives Groups (Russia -Ms. O. Politova; Ukraine and Belarus –O. Apatenko; L. Bernardina; L. Pidkamina)
4. Information on the preparation of the sub-regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, Istanbul, Turkey (April, 2004)
5. Evaluation of the results and proposals for the follow up of the UNECE - CEI Round Table
6. Other matters