



## Economic and Social Council

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### Economic Commission for Europe

#### Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

##### **Informal virtual consultations**

Geneva (online) 29 June 2020

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

##### **Arrangements to move forward with the silence procedure for business-critical decisions**

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#### *Summary*

Because of the postponement of the sixth session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (SCTCS) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to make certain scheduled decisions in order to ensure business continuity. The ECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) encouraged the sectoral committees to explore innovative formats to conduct business remotely, which may on an exceptional basis and for business-critical issues include decision-making through silence procedure outside the regular sessions of the respective bodies.

This note has been prepared to allow the business-critical decisions described in document ECE/CTCS/2020/INF.3 to be taken during this period.

Document ECE/CTCS/2020/INF.3 has been prepared by the Chair. It was translated to Russian by the secretariat to inform the informal virtual consultations for agreement on business-critical work.

Further to EXCOM's "Special procedures during the COVID-19 period" and the "Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards during the COVID-19 period", the SCTCS:

1. The SCTCS took note of work underway for finalizing the ECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade and requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of holding a special event before the end of 2020 for discussing the findings and recommendations emerging from the study once completed.
2. The SCTCS endorsed the report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) as presented in document (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/2) and its Programme of Work for 2021 (ECE/CTCS/WP.6/2019/5) and took note of the results of the evaluation of ECE's support to the advancement of Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies. The Steering Committee endorsed the extension of the mandate for the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems, the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, and the ad hoc Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (START Team) for a two-year period 2021-2022.
3. The SCTCS endorsed the report of Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards as contained in document ECE/CTCS/2019/2 and noted the continued implementation of the "Revised Programme of work of the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards 2019-2020" contained in document ECE/CTCS/2019/11 that the 5th session of the Steering Committee had approved in 2019.
4. The SCTCS endorsed its programme for work for 2021 and requested the Bureau in cooperation with the secretariat to prepare a programme of work for 2022 for endorsement by the next available formal session.
5. If the silence is not broken, the decisions shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the next formal session of the Steering Committee for noting.

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