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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
PROPOSALS FOR THE
2003 AND 2004
FORUMS & ROUNDTABLES**

The Bureau of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development would like to propose the following topics for the 2003 and 2004 Forums and Round Tables. This document is for **approval**.

Proposal for the 2003 Committee Session

Services Supporting Trade

Implications of the GATS, the WTO Doha Development Agenda and ICT

This Forum would identify and discuss the key issues related to services supporting trade (for example transport, insurance, trade financing, government services and related e-business issues). Services have become a critical part of the required infrastructure for trade and when underdeveloped they can slow down or seriously hinder trade growth. In particular, inadequate trade services can inhibit the participation of small and medium sized enterprises in trade because they do not have adequate internal resources to compensate for the lack of publicly available services. As a result, we believe that such a review would be of interest to all member states. However, this topic should be of particular policy interest to transition economies since many of them have underdeveloped service sectors. The development of trade-supporting services is essential to encourage investment as well as trade development.

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The Committee Roundtable would be on "Policies to promote transport services in transition economies," with

a special emphasis on the role that this service sector plays in landlocked countries.

Both events would be organized by the Trade Division in close cooperation with the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities Activities (which it has been proposed become the Division for Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development). The Trade Division would also work with the Transport Division on transport issues.

Proposal for the 2004 Committee Session

Regional Followup Meeting to the World Summit on the Information Society

The UNECE has been asked to organize a regional followup meeting to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and we would like to propose that this be combined with the 2004 Forum. This would be organized by the Trade Division as ECE focal point for the WSIS in close cooperation with other UNECE divisions to promote a cross-sectoral approach.

The Committee Roundtable would then look specifically at the business and employment creation opportunities created by Information and Communications Technologies in transition economies and would be organized by the Coordinating Unit for Operational in close cooperation with the Trade Division.

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