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OPERATIONAL AND REGIONAL ADVISORY ACTIVITIES

Note by the secretariat

This document is being submitted to the Committee **for information only**.

1. The present note provides an overview of the operational and regional advisory activities on entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), on investment promotion, on trade facilitation and on women's entrepreneurship. Details of their various missions during 2001 are given in the annex.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

2. Efforts are oriented towards creating a unique platform by understanding the means and tools of sustainable entrepreneurship development, among other things by elaborating a sub-regional Declaration on SMEs, especially within the framework of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), and for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

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3. Following the Ministerial Meeting and adoption of the CEI Declaration of SMEs at the Dawn of the 21st Century in November 2000 in Budapest, a Ministerial Meeting on the future and support of SMEs in the BSEC countries was held on 27 September 2001 in Istanbul, Turkey, where a similar BSEC Declaration on SMEs was adopted. Assistance was provided to the Chairman of the Advisory Board on Support and Development of Small Businesses in the CIS member States, the Minister for Entrepreneurship and Investments of Belarus. These activities could lead to the elaboration of comprehensive SME support guidelines for all the countries in economic transition (CITs) and to the convening of a UNECE Ministerial Conference in Geneva in 2003 or 2004.
4. The Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs assisted in organizing an International Conference on "Economies in Transition Share their Experience in SME & Entrepreneurship Development" held on 6-7 June 2001 in Šibenik (Croatia) jointly sponsored by the Government of Croatia, UNECE and the Secretariat of the CEI. More than 500 participants attended this conference.
5. The Regional Adviser has also contributed to the preparation of forums on best practice on national policies and programmes of promotion of entrepreneurship and SMEs in CITs, and expert meetings on benchmarking of various aspects of supporting and operating SMEs, which have been organized by the UNECE Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities in cooperation with the relevant UNECE principal subsidiary bodies, as well as with United Nations agencies and other international organizations. He assisted in compiling the UNECE document on Guidelines on Best Practice in Business Servicing, based on the materials of the Expert Meeting on "Best Practice in Business Advisory, Counselling and Information Services" (ECE/TRADE/282).
6. The Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities prepared two Forums on "Best Practice in Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in CITs: The Polish Experience" and "The Belarusian Experience" on 23 and 24 October 2001 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. More than 200 policy-makers and experts attended these events. Preparation of UNECE publications on the Polish and Belarusian experiences are in progress and will be available by the end of 2002. He will contribute to organizing the fifth Forum on "Best Practice Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in CITs: The Croatian and Slovenian Experiences" on 23 October 2002 in Geneva.
7. Some operational activities for SME development were oriented to respond to the special requirements of governmental authorities, national SME-infrastructure institutions and non-governmental organizations. These activities were to promote sub-regional, national and local entrepreneurship. Assistance was provided in support of increasing the competitiveness of SMEs through benchmarking and the creation of special business service institutions, e.g. quality development centres for the implementation of quality management systems and ISO 9000 and 14000 series standards.
8. The Regional Adviser assisted in organizing the BSEC Workshop on "Standardization, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Systems for SMEs" held on 29 and 30 March 2001 in Istanbul. He made a keynote presentation on "Towards a European Vision of Quality – The Way forward the 21st Century". The proceedings were published with the financial assistance of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

9. An Expert Meeting on “Best Practice in Creation of Quality Assurance Systems for Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises” was held on 25 and 26 October 2001 in cooperation with the working parties on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies, and on Industry and Enterprise Development. The meeting was attended by high-level government officials, experts from 28 countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia), 10 international organizations, and representatives of several non-governmental organizations (see Discussion Paper OPA/AC.18/3 (TRADE/WP.6/2001/14/Add.1) and Report of the Expert Meeting OPA/AC.18/5). Based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Meeting, an Advisory Group of Experts on Quality Management Systems was created (see UNECE document OPA/AC.28/1).

10. In the field of infrastructure building, the requirements are very high. However, due to lack of financial and human resources, the Regional Adviser can provide only a modest contribution. Several project proposals were elaborated or are in the pipeline. The two main project proposals under further elaboration and development are the following: creation of a microcrediting financial scheme for the Republic of Moldova with the financial and technical assistance of the CEI and IFC (World Bank); and creation of business incubation facilities for the Russian Union of Industrialists in the field of management training, quality consultancy, marketing, leasing, etc. The Regional Adviser has continued his cooperation on the first project with the ECE-CEI Coordinator, Ms. Sonia Heptonstall (ActInvest), IFC and the World Bank, while on the second project with ROSLEGPROM, Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Russian Federation, TESCO and Ministry of Economy of Hungary, GTZ from Germany, UNIDO and other intergovernmental organizations.

11. In the field of entrepreneurship training the following activities were carried out: the Regional Adviser assisted ICS-UNIDO in organizing a Training Course on “Technology Management for Women Entrepreneurs” on 11-13 July 2001 in Trieste; he also assisted in preparing a Training Course on “Training of Trainer in Vocational Business Education” jointly with the Ministries of Economy and Education of the Republic of Moldova, the European Training Foundation (Turin), and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Grenoble; and a project document was prepared for the Russian Federation on “Preparation and Group Training of Enterprises” for establishment of quality assurance systems in accordance with the ISO 9000 standard.

12. He has provided support for the Virtual Network of SME National Focal Points based on the highest governmental authorities, which are responsible for the development of entrepreneurship and the SME sector. The network serves as a basis for policy formulation, statistics, and organizing SME related events. The updating of this net is a continuous process.

13. He also developed its home page called "Index of SME Development", which is similar to that of the European Commission. It currently contains more than 50 UNECE documents and 20 international links, and is continuously updated. In 2001, the SME website was enlarged by a new sub-site on Quality Management Systems and on Women's Entrepreneurship. Every month, between 200 and 600 people visit the UNECE website. The website address is: <http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/ece-sme.htm>

Investment Promotion

14. Technical assistance in this field helps improve the legal, regulatory and institutional environment for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the transition economies of central and eastern Europe and the CIS. The work is being carried out under the auspices of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice (WP.5), which prepares guides and manuals for improving the legal and regulatory frameworks for investment. The Working Party established three expert advisory groups to provide technical assistance in specific areas:

- The BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) Group provides advice on attracting private investment into infrastructure services such as energy, telecommunications, transport, water, waste disposal and environmental services.
- The Advisory Group on Intellectual Property Rights provides support to Governments for improving the enforcement and protection of IP rights to attract investment in innovative, creative and high technology industries; and
- The Real Estate Advisory Group helps attract investment in the financial services, mortgage banking, insurance and real estate brokerage industries.

15. In order to improve the legal, regulatory and institutional framework, the Groups provide assistance using the following methods: consultative visits to the relevant government departments; training of civil servants and other officials; and project development.

16. The BOT Group convened two meetings in February and May 2001 aimed at establishing a PPP Alliance to help Governments implement projects through building partnership in infrastructure, particularly in the countries of central and eastern Europe and the CIS. The Regional Adviser on Investment Promotion participated in the fourth meeting of the Working Table II of the Stability Pact in May 2001 presenting the assistance which UNECE could provide in improving the legal and regulatory framework, building the capacity of Governments and identifying pilot projects through launching a special programme on PPPs under the Investment Compact of the Stability Pact. A special session with the Government of Romania and the Stability Pact on PPPs was organized at the Stability Pact Regional Conference in Bucharest, on 24 October 2001. The inaugural meeting of the PPP Alliance was held on 12 March 2002. The purpose of the UNECE PPP Alliance is to bring together all of Europe's PPP units to exchange experience and promote cooperation.

17. The UNECE Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment organized consultative meetings in the Russian Federation (23 and 24 April 2001) and Ukraine (23 and 24 October 2001). The reports of the consultative visits to Latvia and Lithuania were finalized and issued. The Advisory Group organised a regional Seminar for participants from Bulgaria,

Hungary and Romania from the Judiciary and Enforcement Agencies (Sofia, 3-5 April, 2001) and substantively contributed to the organisation of the USPTO Symposium on the Internet and intellectual property crime (London, 1-3 March 2001), and an EPO/WCO/UNECE training Seminar for the Customs and Police officers on IPR enforcement (Tallinn, 8-10 October 2001).

18. In March 2001, the UNECE Real Estate Expert Advisory Group organized a seminar at the annual MIPIM Conference in Cannes (France) to promote a dynamic, viable and well-regulated market in real estate in the transition economies. On 13 September 2001, the Advisory Group agreed to designate 2002 the "Land for Development" year, which was launched at the first annual Summit for a United European Real Estate Market in Rome on 4 and 5 March 2002. The Summit, which was held with Tecnoborsa of Italy, attracted representatives from Governments committed to creating more active and socially dynamic real estate markets. The development programme will inter alia promote European standards of valuation, social housing and real estate financing mechanisms in the transition economies in cooperation with high-level NGOs such as the Royal Institute for Chartered Surveyors, FAO and the World Bank.

19. The Regional Adviser on Investment Promotion contributed to promoting cooperation with OSCE, CEI and the Stability Pact, in particular by providing advisory assistance and contributions to the OSCE Economic Forum (Prague, May 2001) and to the organization of the UNECE/OSCE/NATO Colloquium on Conflict Prevention (Villars, Switzerland, November 2001).

Trade facilitation

20. Since 1997, assistance in the area of trade facilitation has been provided by the UNECE and the Czech Republic within the framework of a project entitled "Support to Trade Facilitation Measures and UN/EDIFACT Implementation in Selected Eastern European Countries". Funding for this project was first approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in 1996 and, subsequently, was regularly extended on a yearly basis. This project has been implemented in cooperation between Czech experts (specifically, the Czech national trade facilitation body - FITPRO), UNECE and specialists from the beneficiary countries. During 2001, Ukraine, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Lithuania were among the project beneficiaries. Seminars, consultations, and an exchange of experience and information targeted at government officials and representatives of the private sector have been organized: training workshops on trade facilitation and electronic business (Geneva, 26-29 March 2001), and on successful services exporting (Geneva, 11-12 June 2001); and workshops on trade facilitation and electronic business for Lithuanian private and public sector representatives (Vilnius, 29-30 October 2001), and for Moldovan private and public sector representatives (Chisinau, 6-7 December 2001).

21. Advisory assistance was provided to the Yugoslav Electronic Data Interchange Association and Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce and Industry on trade facilitation and electronic business standards during a one-day seminar held in Belgrade on 18 June 2001.

22. In the framework of the World Bank TTFSE programme, the UNECE Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation participated in the last working session and the evaluation round of the Executive Training Course held from 5 to 7 July 2001 in Thessaloniki (Greece). This training course was organized by the American College of Thessaloniki. It included the key executives from the national PRO Committees in the

SECI region that will be in charge of the national implementation of the training facilitation component in the context of the TTFSE programme. Advisory assistance was provided to BULPRO and TURKPRO during the meeting in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, on 28 June 2001. This meeting of high-level representatives of Bulgarian and Turkish governmental agencies and business communities concentrated mostly on problems concerning visas for the business community and professional truck drivers in the sub-region, in particular bilaterally between Bulgaria and Turkey.

23. Under the SECI programme, advisory assistance was provided during the meetings of the Agenda Committee and Business Advisory Committee as well as SECIPRO. The Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation provided a contribution to the implementation of the SECI Danube project, the SECI VISA project, as well as assistance to the SECI Crime Prevention Centre in Bucharest. He also participated in advisory missions to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (February 2001) in an attempt to launch a South Caucasian Initiative aimed at promoting sub-regional economic cooperation.

24. At the request of the Government of Belarus to provide assistance in sorting out the problems accumulated at a terminal on the Belarusian-Polish border, consultations with PHARE, TACIS and the World Bank have been initiated. A joint fact-finding mission of experts was undertaken in December 2001 to explore possible solutions, including a BOT scheme.

25. Technical assistance has continued to be provided under the project on "Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Russian Timber Sector" (funded from the extra-budgetary sources) which is being implemented in the Arkhangelsk and Leningrad Oblasts of the Russian Federation. The project covers the following issues: sustainable management practices for the Russian timber industry; improved trade procedures in the timber industry; innovative trade finance techniques; capacity building for improved foreign investment; and timber port operations. Under this project the following meetings were held in 2001: workshop on sustainable development of biomass logistics (Arkhangelsk, 27 February-2 March); workshop on sustainable development and certification in the Russian Forest industry (St Petersburg, 5-6 March) fact finding mission on sustainable development of biomass in Norway and Sweden (7-11 May); workshop on sustainable development and biofuel use in the Russian Forest industry (St. Petersburg, 24 July); and workshops on sustainable development in the forest sector (Rotterdam, Netherlands, 17-19 September and St. Petersburg, 7-18 December).

26. At the invitation of the Government of Slovakia, workshop on standardization and conformity assessment matters in the transition economies was organized in Bratislava on 12 and 13 December 2001 with regular budget funding and contributions in kind from the Government of Slovakia.

Women's entrepreneurship

27. During the last year, special attention was given to providing assistance to women entrepreneurs. The Regional Advisory Services focused on raising the awareness and improving the knowledge with regard to women entrepreneurs in UNECE member States, promoting role models and best practices, building business and professional networks among women entrepreneurs and developing a more gender sensitive culture of entrepreneurship.

28. Activities have included the organization of the First UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs and sub-regional discussions on women's entrepreneurship, establishing a Team of Experts on Women's Entrepreneurship within the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8), and the creation of a virtual Gallery of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs at the UNECE website. The latter project aims at raising awareness of the need to provide support for women's entrepreneurship in the region as a whole. The Portrait Gallery is developed by the Regional Advisor on Entrepreneurship and SMEs and located on the following website address: www.unece.org/operact/gallery. Its rapid expansion proves that women substantially contribute to various sectors of economic activities. As of 1 December 2001, the Portrait Gallery had 150 women entrepreneurs from 25 countries. Many of these women met for the first time in Geneva at the First UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs.

29. In implementing programmes and activities, attempts were made to improve co-operation with UN agencies, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and UNIFEM, signed in February 2001, includes women's entrepreneurship as one of areas for cooperation and development of joint projects.

30. The First UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs (21 October 2001, Geneva) was attended by women entrepreneurs from eastern, central and southern Europe, central Asia and the South Caucasus, women entrepreneurs from western countries as well as experts, representatives of Governments and international organizations. The Forum gathered over 350 participants from 30 countries. The Regional Adviser on Gender and Economy was responsible for its organization.

31. The main purpose of the Forum was to create a regional platform to (a) discuss key issues and best practices; (b) establish business and professional contacts; (c) strengthen and expand links among women's business associations; and (d) discuss proposals prepared by the UNECE secretariat and propose recommendations for new activities to be implemented with all interested partners.

32. The discussion focused on three major themes: personal experiences of successful women entrepreneurs, the role of professional and business networks among women entrepreneurs, and access to new technologies and markets. The following documents were prepared by the UNECE secretariat: Information Note (OPA/AC.21/1); Connecting SMEs Owned and Led by Women to the Global Digital Economy: A Proposal for Action (OPA/AC.21/2); UNECE Euro-Asian Foundation of Women Entrepreneurs (OPA/AC.21/3), Women Entrepreneurs of the Year (OPA/AC.21/4) and Building Regional Networks Among Women Entrepreneurs (OPA/AC.21/5). All documents are available in English and in Russian at the UNECE website (www.unece.org).

33. There was agreement on the positive trends in women's entrepreneurship during the 1990s. In all UNECE countries, women have contributed to the development of the private sector and economic growth. It was underlined that women benefited from the emergence of women's business associations and NGOs to build personal contacts, share experiences and get encouragement when business goes down. It was also acknowledged that progress in information and communication technologies (ICT) opened new opportunities to do business in a global environment.

34. The participants agreed, however, that much remains to be done. Gender specific barriers that prevent the development of women's entrepreneurship are seen in all countries. There are gaps in data and information on the situation of women entrepreneurs in their region. Access to ICT and global markets is very limited and women's business networks are relatively weak and isolated in a number of countries.

35. The Forum provided unanimous support to the following initiatives:

- Convening the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs on an annual basis in October each year and extending its duration to 2-3 days;
- Building region-wide networks of women's business associations on the Internet;
- Creating a UNECE regional cyber-market for business-to-business contacts;
- Developing new programmes to improve women's capabilities and capacity in e-commerce;
- Exploring the possibility of establishing an Euro-Asian Foundation for women entrepreneurs through approaching bilateral donors, the business community and international organizations; and
- Exploring the possibility of establishing an Annual Award for Excellent Women Entrepreneurs in the UNECE region in five categories.

36. Two initiative groups were established by the participants of the Forum to prepare specific proposals for action for the CIS countries and for the Caucasus countries.

37. In 2001, the UNECE organized the following three events on women's entrepreneurship for South-Eastern Europe, BSEC and CEI countries: Workshop on Women's Entrepreneurship in South-Eastern Europe at the fifth conference on SME in Croatia (Sibenik, Croatia, 7-8 June 2001); Workshop on "Women's Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the BSEC region" (Moscow, 11 and 12 June 2001); and Round Table on Networking and access to ICT for Women Entrepreneurs at the fourth CEI Economic Summit (Trieste, Italy, 27 November 2001).

38. Their purpose was a more detailed discussion on specific problems of development of women's entrepreneurship in respective sub-regions and individual countries. These meetings underlined that good education levels and women's energy are important assets in the process of market building, creating jobs and reviving economic growth. The role of entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation was also stressed.

39. These meetings stressed the necessity to develop new programmes and activities aimed at providing more support to women entrepreneurs through training, better information on access to finance, business services, and new technologies, especially ICT. It was recommended to strengthen the UNECE activities and increase cooperation with Governments, women's business associations and other actors. It was agreed that UNECE, in cooperation with sub-regional organizations and interested partners, would continue to organize such meetings.

42. The Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development at its second session decided to establish a Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship. At its first meeting on 15 February 2002, the Team considered its work plan (objectives, programme of work, key deliverables, work schedules and procedures for reporting to the Working Party) and adopted its programme of work to be included into the programme of work of WP.8.

Annex

ADVISORY MISSIONS UNDERTAKEN IN 2001

Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs

14-16 March	Minsk, participation in the ceremony on entrepreneurship award 2000 and discussion of a SME national policy for the years 2002-2003
22-25 March	Szeged (Hungary), participation and delivering a lecture on the third Szeged Conference organized within the framework of the Stability Pact
28-31 March	Istanbul (Turkey), co-organizer of the BSEC Workshop on “Standardization, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Systems for SMEs”
1-4 May	Chisinau, advisory mission relating to economic development
22-26 May	Budapest, participation in the thirty-seventh European Meeting of the World Tourism Organization
28 May - 1 June	Moscow, advisory mission related to restructuring of the Russian light industry
6-9 June	Sibenik (Croatia), organizing International Conference on “Small Business – Economies in Transition share their experience in SME & Entrepreneurship Development”
11-12 June	Moscow, organizing BSEC Workshop on “Women’s Entrepreneurship and SMEs”
10-11 September	Brussels, participation in the Baltic Sea Partenariat Seminar and discussions with the European Parliament and EC
25-28 September	Istanbul (Turkey), BSEC Meeting of the Senior Officials and Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers responsible for SMEs
3-7 October	Bishkek, discuss women entrepreneurship based on the mutual credit unions
6-8 November	Portoroz (Slovenia), organizing an International Conference on “Internationalization of SMEs”
21-24 November	Trieste (Italy), assist in organizing the Meeting of the CEI Working Group in SMEs and moderate session on SMEs during the fourth CEI Summit Economic Forum

Regional Adviser on Investment Promotion

7-9 January	Warsaw, to service the Steering Group meeting of the UNECE Advisory Group on Intellectual Property Rights
30-31 January	Brussels, to participate in, and present a paper at the OSCE/ECE preparatory seminar on good governance in the public and private sectors
15-16 February	Vienna, to contribute to the OSCE meeting on the preparation of the OSCE Economic Forum
1-7 March	London, to participate in the meeting of Chairpersons of WP.5 Groups and EBRD/Donors meeting
15-16 March	Cannes (France), to participate and represent UNECE at MIPIM Conference
27-28 March	Bucharest, to contribute a paper to, and chair a session of the OSCE preparatory seminar
22-24 April	London, to participate in the IBRD annual meeting
10-11 May	Zagreb, to participate in, and present a paper at the meeting of the CEI Working Group on Reconstruction
15-18 May	Prague, to participate in, and contribute to the OSCE Economic Forum
21-23 May	Tirana, to participate in the fourth meeting of the Working Table II of the Stability Pact and the meeting on the Investment Compact of the Stability Pact
12 June	Zagreb, to present UNECE activities on financing and PPPs at the meeting of Regional Development Banks under the Stability Pact
13 June	London, to present UNECE activities on financing and PPPs at the Public-Private Finance Conference 2001
17-19 June	Belgrade, to participate in consultations with Yugoslav authorities on possible UNECE assistance to Yugoslavia
26 June	Brussels, to represent UNECE at the Conference "Business and the Balkans"
2-4 July	Vienna, (Austria), to present UNECE activities on PPPs at the International Colloquium of UNCITRAL

27 September	Helsinki, to participate as a keynote speaker at the twelfth meeting of the European Business Congress
2-3 October	Rome (Italy), to have consultations with TECHNOBORSA representatives on organizing two workshops on real estate
10-12 October	Dublin, to participate in the second annual Public-Private Partnership Summit
24-26 October	Bucharest, to participate in the meeting of the Working Table II of the Stability Pact
18-20 November	Villars (Switzerland), to participate in the UNECE/OSCE/NATO Colloquium on conflict prevention
21-24 November	Trieste (Italy), to present four papers at the CEI Summit Economic Forum
3-4 December	Bucharest, to participate in the ninth OSCE Ministerial Council meeting

Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation

24 January	Zagreb, to represent UNECE and SECI at the first meeting of the Stability Pact WG on e-SE Europe
14 February	Tirana, to contribute to the Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe (TTFSE) Regional Steering Committee meeting
22-23 February	Yerevan, to consult with governmental officials on launching the South Caucasian Initiative
24-25 February	Tbilisi, to consult with governmental officials on launching the South Caucasian Initiative
26-27 February	Baku, to consult with governmental officials on launching the South Caucasian Initiative
12-16 March	Washington D.C. (United States), to conduct consultations with the US State Department, USAID and the World Bank
20-23 March	Belgrade, to participate in SECI meetings: SECIPRO, BAC and Agenda Committee
30 March	Zurich (Switzerland), to present SECI programme at the session of the International Association of Freight Forwarders (FIATA)
23-25 May	Sarajevo, to participate in SECI meetings: SECIPRO, BAC and Agenda Committee

18-19 June	Vienna, to conduct consultations with the SECI Coordinator and secretariat
25-26 June	Bratislava, to participate in the preparatory meeting for the Bratislava Competition Forum
27-28 June	Plovdiv, (Bulgaria), to participate in the bilateral meeting BULPRO-TURKPRO
5-7 July	Thessaloniki (Greece), to participate in the evaluation part of the SECI/TIFSE trainers training seminar
11-12 July	Belgrade, to participate in the meeting of the SECI Danube project
14-19 September	Bucharest, to participate in the expert group meeting under SECI VISA project
16-17 October	Vienna, to participate in meetings with the Austrian Ministers of Finance and Interior concerning their participation in pending SECI projects and cooperation with the SECI Crime Prevention Centre
7-8 November	Cavtat (Croatia), to participate in the meeting of Regional Steering Committee under the TTFSE project
9 November	Dubrovnik (Croatia), to participate in the second Task Force meeting under SECI project on crime prevention
12-14 December	Tirana, to chair the second expert group meeting under SECI VISA project and participate in SECIPRO and BAC meetings

Regional Adviser on Gender and Economy

15-17 January	Warsaw, organizing a Regional Workshop on Gender and Labour Market, in cooperation with the World Bank and UNIFEM presentation at the opening session
19 May	Brussels, presentation at the Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, the Third UN Conference on Least Developed Countries
6-9 June	Sibenik (Croatia), chairing a session on women's entrepreneurship at the International Conference on "Economies in Transition Share their Experience in SME & Entrepreneurship Development"
11-12 June	Moscow, presentation at the BSEC Workshop on Women's Entrepreneurship
10-15 July	Krakov (Poland), training the participants of a Regional Workshop on Gender, International Financial Institutions, Trade and Labour Standards

- 3-4 October Bratislava, discussion on cooperation with UNIFEM 2002-2003 at the Strategic Planning Workshop
- 4-5 October Bucharest, presentation on Gender and ICT at the second Conference on Digital Economy in South-East Europe
- 21-23 November Trieste (Italy), organizing a Round Table on Women's Business Networks and Access to ICT at the fourth CEI Summit Economic Forum

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