

Background

Hazardous toys, faulty car-engine parts, falsified electrical consumer goods are just a few examples of the many dangerous and fraudulently produced goods which currently pose a serious risk to workers, consumers, and the natural environment throughout the world.

In the countries of South East Europe this problem is particularly severe. It also undermines the local industry, unable to compete against goods that do not meet basic requirements.

Public authorities – through information campaigns, inspections, product recalls and other tools – work to remove from the national market products that do not comply with the regulations in force and are unsafe. Building capacity in these institutions is therefore a key priority to protect consumers, increase business competitiveness and promote environmental conservation.

Goals of the event

The conference aims at:

- Providing a forum for authorities to discuss common challenges;
- Sharing information about recent regulatory developments in the UNECE region;

BEST PRACTICE IN MARKET SURVEILLANCE 23-25 APRIL 2014, BELGRADE

- Train officers in key technical areas, i.e. risk assessment and conformity assessment.

The organizers

The event is co-organized by:

- the United Nations “Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)”,
- the Ministry of Foreign and Internal Trade and Telecommunications of the Republic of Serbia (MTT) supported by the IPA 2010 Project “Strengthening of the Serbian System of Market Surveillance for non-food and food products” and the GIZ-Open Regional Fund for South East Europe Foreign Trade Promotion.

WP. 6 is an intergovernmental group, also open to business executives, the academia, and civil society that promotes regulatory policies that protect the health and safety of consumers and workers, and the natural environment, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade and investment.

Market surveillance and WP. 6

Since 2002, the UNECE WP. 6 has established a dedicated “Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group)” that develops and shares best practice in market surveillance.

Deliverables of the MARS Group include:

- Recommendation M encouraging Governments to involve market surveillance authorities in the fight against counterfeit goods;
- Recommendation N setting out practical steps that authorities can implement to increase the effectiveness of market surveillance activities;
- A database of market surveillance authorities and glossary of market surveillance terms;
- A general model for supporting the decision making process of market surveillance authorities from the phase of planning of inspections to the phase of product recall, in accordance with their own national legislation

Format of the event

- 23 April:** Formal opening and meeting of the UNECE MARS Group
Evening: official dinner
- 24 April:** Forum of the Market Surveillance Authorities of Serbia and South East Europe
- 25 April:** UNECE MARS group meeting - continuation (AM)
Social activity in Belgrade (PM)

Issues for discussion:

- Use of risk assessment in market surveillance actions in the non-food area;
- The hidden cost of counterfeit products;
- Update on the general model on market surveillance

A separate and detailed programme will be shortly available on the UNECE MARS web site.

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Best practice in Market Surveillance

23-25 April 2014
Belgrade

Organized by:

the United Nations Economic
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