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## Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

### Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies session

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 24-26 November 2014

## Report of Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-fourth session

### Introduction

1. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) held its twenty-fourth session from 24 to 26 November 2014. On 25 November, the meeting included a Conference entitled: "Safer products and workspaces, safer communities".
2. The following countries were represented: Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the European Commission (EC).
4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies participated: the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
5. The following inter- and non-governmental organizations participated: the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), the European Committee on Electrotechnical Standardization (CEN-CENELEC), GS1, Ingénieurs du Monde, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organisation for Legal Metrology (OIML), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Risk Governance Council (IRGC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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6. Observers present at the invitation of the secretariat included representatives of private-sector companies, associations, universities and civil-society organizations from various regions.

7. The Secretary of the UNECE Committee on Trade, on behalf of the Director of the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division and the Chair of the Working Party opened the meeting.

## I. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/1	Decision

8. The Working Party approved the provisional agenda (**Decision 1**).

9. The coordinator of the Planetary Boundaries Research Laboratory of the Stockholm Resilience Centre gave a keynote speech on *Quality infrastructure of planetary boundaries*. Human-caused climate change, chemical pollution, biodiversity loss, and the perturbation of Earth's biogeochemical cycles have clearly become unsustainable. Sustainability requires better measurement, monitoring and management of environmental change, from local to global scales. Standardisation and quality infrastructure to support these activities thus have a key role to play in policy and real-world action, but are often under-recognised.

10. The discussant, a Professor of the Delft Institute for Research on Standardization from the Netherlands commended the opening speech and concurred with the need to overcome silo mentalities in order to make progress in understanding these complex adaptive systems. She noted the difficulty of developing standards and policy for ecosystems interacting with unpredictable outcomes. Ways need to be found to develop resilient and adaptive standards. To deal with this level of uncertainty and change, a paradigm shift is required of institutions historically focused on consolidation and stability (e.g. metrology, standardization, certification and regulatory bodies).

## II. Election of officers

11. The Working Party decided to increase to two the number of its Vice-Chairs (**Decision 2**).

12. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party elected Mr. Miroslav Chloupek (Czech Republic) as second Vice-Chair of the Bureau (**Decision 3**).

## III. Matters arising from recent meetings, and areas of priority action for the Working Party.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-third session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/2	Decision

13. The secretariat introduced the report of the previous session, highlighting important political progress made under various work items in the intersessional period.
14. The Working Party adopted the report of its last session (**Decision 4**).
15. The secretariat gave a short report of the annual planning meeting in June and the Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS) meeting on metrology, accreditation and standardisation for developing countries. These items were reviewed in further detail under the agenda item 10.
16. The secretariat further informed the delegations that staffing issues in the unit had been resolved, with a second professional regular budget post secured for servicing the Working Party having been filled temporarily two weeks prior to the session. The permanent post was to be advertised shortly.
17. The secretariat explained that the Executive Committee of the UNECE (EXCOM) had not yet achieved consensus on the future form and structure of the existing Committee on Trade. A decision was expected by the end of 2014 or early in 2015.
18. The secretariat briefly presented a study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kazakhstan and said similar studies were planned in: Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Further information was available on the website of the Committee on Trade.
19. The Working party noted the report of the secretariat on the activities of the Committee on Trade and EXCOM (**Decision 5**).

#### IV. Item 6: High Level Segment on International Regulatory cooperation

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Avoiding Technical Barriers to Trade: best practice in mutual recognition and equivalency	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/11	Decision

20. The Special advisor to the WP.6 Bureau presented instruments which are used to avoid technical barriers to trade. These different tools corresponded to different levels of ambition with regards to the extent of regulatory cooperation that partners aimed at achieving (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/11). The speaker recommended that the UNECE “International Model” (Recommendation L) should be reviewed, to assess what has worked well and less well in implementation. A suggestion was made to consider dividing initiatives based on the Recommendation into two parts, one on best practice in regulatory work in a given sector or regulatory field, and the other on making formal agreements on transnational mechanisms to facilitate trade between parties concerned.

21. The representatives of Belarus and Ukraine supported the ideas put forward by the Special advisor to the WP.6 Bureau regarding the revision of Recommendation L. The representative of UN/CEFACT suggested the International Model should be more receptive to standards from private sector consortia. The representative of the ISO/TC 262<sup>1</sup> from Turkey remarked that of greatest importance in trying to achieve success, but regulatory cooperation is the buy-in by upper level management.

<sup>1</sup> The ISO Technical Committee on Risk Management (ISO/TC 262).

22. The Working Party decided to update Recommendation L and gave a mandate to the secretariat and the Bureau to initiate consultations, with a view to:

- - including not only international standards but also consortia standards and
- - separating more clearly the high level policy issue from administrative arrangements (**Decision 6**).

23. The representative of OECD presented ongoing work on international regulatory cooperation (IRC) in her organisation. This work focused on the effectiveness of mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) and the role of international organizations in supporting international regulatory cooperation. The objectives of this work is to document the benefits, costs and conditions for success of various cooperation mechanisms, and to collect best practice and shared principles on rule-making and regulatory management practices of international organizations. UNECE is one of the eight international organizations that constitute the core group of participating partners in the project.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Telecom	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/6	Decision
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/7	Decision
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/8	Decision

24. The Chairman of the ISO/TC 127<sup>2</sup> gave an overview of the Earth-moving machinery (EMM) industry, and made a brief presentation on the history of this sectoral initiative and outlined its current activities and future challenges. Among current activities, the two areas mentioned were promoting the initiative for EMM and providing training for the initiative in China, India, Canada, the Gulf Area and Australia; and the start of an ISO standards development process to support the EMM project. Future plans for EMM included continuing training and assistance using the WP.6 EMM Model Regulation, providing training seminars for 2015 in the Gulf Region and in Canada and creating an ISO Technical Report for EMM conformity assessment and certification processes.

25. The Special advisor to the WP.6 Bureau gave an update on the Telecom initiative on behalf of its coordinator. The Common Regulatory Objectives (CROs) had been approved in 2004. He also provided practical examples of good regulatory practice. Members, however, had so far expressed little interest in applying the CROs. He mentioned that as the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) was being expanded with regard to products and countries it might now also consider covering non-tariff-barriers. In such further discussions on NTBs within the ITA it should be promoted to use the International Model and the CROs in the Telecom initiative to achieve best practice results.

26. The secretary to WP.6 conveyed the apologies of the initiative coordinator and recalled the aims and achievements of the IEEE initiative, in particular the CROs adopted by WP.6 in 2010, encompassing international standards and acceptable means of establishing conformity to standards, notably, the IECEx System. Since 2008 twelve UNECE- IECEx workshops had been organised worldwide. The next steps for the initiative

<sup>2</sup> The ISO Technical Committee on Earth-moving Machinery (ISO/TC 127).

were: enlarging the scope and completing the CROs, in particular by strengthening the part relating to “market surveillance”, and continuing awareness-raising and training activities.

27. The Working Party noted information on regulatory cooperation provided by the OECD and the European Commission and adopted the reports of the three sectoral initiatives (**Decision 7**).

28. A representative of the Russian delegation reported that the Eurasian Economic Commission was preparing technical regulations for the safety of pipelines and reminded the meeting that information on a possible sectoral initiative on transboundary pipelines safety had been previously provided during the 21st session of the Working Party. This initiative targeted the whole pipeline system, taking into account new approaches, technologies and solutions. A representative of the Russian Union of Entrepreneurs commented that cooperation with the ISO/TC 67<sup>3</sup> on oil and gas was also ongoing.

29. The Working Party approved the proposal to revive the initiative on the safety of pipelines, agreed on appointing Mr. Roman Samsonov as the acting chair for the initiative and instructed the secretariat and the Bureau to start consultations for drawing up its terms of reference (**Decision 8**).

## V. International Conference “Safer products and workplaces, safer communities”

### a) Opening session

30. The *Vice-Chair of the WP.6 and Minister of Technical Regulations of the EEC* opened the Conference stressing the importance of eliminating technical barriers to trade while at the same time ensuring safety of products through market surveillance (MS) activities. He praised the valuable activities of the MARS Group where many topics previously discussed have now reached implementation phase. He further stressed the importance of independence of surveillance bodies and the need to guarantee them full set of resources and authority in order to gain efficiency in their work. He then outlined plans of the Customs Union from the beginning of 2015 in the area of identifying and isolating non-compliant goods and ways to better monitor circulation and legality of food and non-food products. A single surveillance system is planned for the Customs Union enabling better monitoring and enforcing liability for violations. Technical refurbishments and modernisation of infrastructure for monitoring are also planned together with flexible mechanisms of response.

#### *Ingredients of an effective Market Surveillance system*

31. The *Representative of Ministry of Trade and Services of Serbia* focussed on several important tenets of an effective MS system including its legal framework and the organization and management of its activities and resources. She also explained how cooperation of MS authorities with the Customs Administration could be made more effective, in particular by making explicit requirements and making risk assessments readily available to the Customs Administration. She further described the Network of Market Surveillance Institutions in South East Europe, which aimed at exchanging information on unsafe products found on the markets of the countries and on measures taken and on follow up actions.

32. The *Representative of the Inspectorate for Transport, Energy and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia* observed that sampling of products and subsequent testing of

<sup>3</sup> The ISO Technical Committee on Materials, equipment and offshore structures for petroleum, petrochemical and natural gas industries (ISO/TC 67).

samples in the laboratory is the most effective method to check whether the products fulfil essential health and safety requirements according to national legislation. The process of sampling requires substantial financial resources, highly skilled inspectors, and it is time-consuming. For that reason, it is necessary to determine which procedures can be simplified and how reduce costs in order to guarantee the safety of a larger number of products with the same budget.

33. *A market surveillance expert* from the World Bank Group presented lessons that can be learned and applied to market surveillance issues from the "better regulation" sphere and in particular from work of the World Bank Group, OECD and UK Better Regulation Delivery Office (UK BRDO) on improving regulatory inspections and enforcement. He also pointed out some areas where international experience suggests that there is scope for significant improvements in how market surveillance is conceived and implemented, in particular by looking at drivers of compliance. In conclusion he provided links to some useful sources from the named groups and organisations.

34. The *convener of General Market Surveillance Model initiative* recalled the milestones of the development of the market surveillance general model (GMSP). He described the scope and structure of GMSP and reviewed the new work items, which had been added after the third draft had been published on the UNECE website in 2009. He further outlined the work done in setting the vision, strategy and objectives for a modern MS authority and how quality management mechanism could be incorporated into its operations. He finally proposed changes to the existing procedure that would need to be agreed on at a further MARS Group meeting.

35. Representatives of Turkey and EU Commission asked explanations on the formula on non-conformity rate and had exhaustive explanations from the presenter. Discussion also rose on what should the MS authority measure and how to strike a balance between the competing demands of ensuring safety of products and promoting regulatory compliance. The representative of Croatia explained that he did not see a competition between the two priorities. A GS1 representative praised the presentations in this session gave a suggestion to take into consideration in further work on MS authorities the standards that are already used by MS operators in their practical work.

36. The secretariat commented that cost is an important part of the equation in allocation of resources for MS activities and asked also information on databases participants are using in their work.

#### *Best practice in cooperation between Market Surveillance Authorities and Customs*

37. The *Representative of EU Commission from DG Enterprise and Industry* presented best practices in cooperation between EU market surveillance authorities and customs administrations. Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 is applicable and introduces clear obligations with regard to controls of products entering the European Union market. She presented the guidelines that had been developed by Member States and which were non-binding and contained recommendations that could followed at a national level and be included into national agreements between customs and MS authorities. The Guidelines were available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info\\_docs/customs/product\\_safety/guidelines\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/info_docs/customs/product_safety/guidelines_en.pdf)

38. *A Representative of Customs Administration from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* explained that in his country, cooperation between the Customs Administration and the MS authorities was based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011. Additionally, a simple database allowed sharing data on cases of suspended release of products, and conducting risk analysis and profiling of risk criteria. Future challenges included the need for specialized training for MCA and customs inspectors and for increased cooperation between MSA, CA and economic operators.

39. Answering a question by *Delft Institute for Research in Standardization* if training programmes are available the conference was informed that a few such programmes exist at both national and EU levels and trainings are organized on case-by-case basis.

40. The *representative of the Ukrainian Academy of Customs* gave an overview of important milestones in the development of the Academy and outlined the role of the higher educational institutions of Ukraine in the development and implementation of national educational standards focussing on professional standards. National educational standards serve as a modernization tool in education. She explained that national customs trainings are implemented by using international tools, in particular WCO standards and UNECE Conventions, standards and recommendations, adapted in accordance with national needs.

**b) Afternoon session: Lessons learned from cooperation in regional groups**

41. The *Representative of PROSAFE* presented the background of the organization, explained why there are engaged in joint actions between 28 EU member state market surveillance agencies and listed all these actions. He then analyzed what had worked well and concluded that the developed concept of joint actions could well be transferred to other areas under certain conditions.

42. The *Representative of Open Regional Fund for Southeast Europe, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* explained that the organisation promotes regional cooperations as an instrument for improving framework conditions for free trade and competitiveness in the South East Europe (SEE) and its sub-programme on market surveillance aims to improve coordination and cooperation of market surveillance institutions in SEE in order to increase their effectiveness and efficiency. As conclusion he outlined the expected results of this work and lessons learned.

*New challenges for market surveillance authorities*

43. An *independent consultant on policy and regulation* working for the World Bank Group argued that although market surveillance is primarily aimed at objects rather than businesses, it can still have a damaging economic impact through its interference with businesses. There are some simple ways that unnecessary burdens on businesses can be reduced without affecting regulatory effectiveness. Some may involve the regulatory agency incurring the cost, such as buying products for sampling at market value rather than seizing them. But a more focused, risk-based targeting of businesses should both reduce the agency's overall costs as well as those of businesses but should also increase the regulatory effectiveness of the enforcement system. There is a growing practice of experience and learning on risk-based inspections, and in new OECD Guidance Principles.

44. The *Representative of EU Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry* spoke about e-commerce as key to sustainable growth and to consumer benefits. At the same time this way of activity brings also challenges with regards to product safety for MS authorities because controls take place in a fairly incidental, fragmented and uncoordinated manner and consumers are less protected against unsafe products sold online. Also business models are changing and responsible economic operators are difficult to identify. She then outlined some best practices gathered in EU countries and presented the project to prepare a guidance for national authorities on how to perform market surveillance online, in particular in cross border situations.

*ISO/CASCO Online tool for regulatory authorities*

45. The *Representative of ISO/CASCO* informed the conference on the background of the development of the online tool. In 2012 the CASCO Chairman's Policy and Coordination Group (CPC) mandated the CASCO Secretariat to develop supporting material that could be used by National Member Bodies (NMBs) in order to assist regulators when in designing and implementing conformity assessment requirements. She

then made a demonstration of the tool and explained that it would also be used for a series of trainings on conformity assessment and regulation to be delivered in 2014 by the ISO Academy. The tool itself is now available at <http://www.iso.org/sites/cascoregulators/> and future steps in its development include final graphical design and organization of further regional workshops subject to needs and funding.

*Practical ways of enhancing cooperation with economic operators*

46. A representative of the private sector (TÜV Rheinland Group) informed the conference how the group is tackling the three challenges of market surveillance they are encountering: firstly to have access to regulatory requirements for different markets, secondly finding out where the group's mark has been misused and unsafe products have been introduced to the market and thirdly how to utilize the power of the consumer in identifying unsafe products and mark misuse. He then briefly introduced the group's activities and the tools they have created to help themselves and other economic operators to manage the exponentially growing number of regulations in recent years the three named challenges. He also gave examples on TÜV Rheinland Group activities for having children involved with product safety: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gInxIMe5f1o> and [http://www.tuv.com/en/corporate/about\\_us\\_1/publications/childrens\\_magazine\\_tuevtel/kids\\_mag\\_tuvtel.jsp](http://www.tuv.com/en/corporate/about_us_1/publications/childrens_magazine_tuevtel/kids_mag_tuvtel.jsp)

## VI. Market surveillance

47. The Chair thanked the outgoing chair of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) for her work and asked the Slovak delegation to convey to her the warmest appreciation of the Working Party. The Slovak delegation thanked the chair for her kind words.

48. The Chair asked for nominations for the new chair of the MARS Group and the Czech delegation put forward the name of Mrs. Vera Despotovic from Serbia for the position and asked for support from other delegations (**Decision 9**).

49. The newly elected MARS Group Chair thanked the Czech and other delegations for their support. She praised the outgoing Chair for support in organising the Belgrade meeting.

### (a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/9	Decision

50. The Chair of the MARS Group reported on its activities. She presented the report of the MARS Group meeting in Belgrade in April 2014 and organised by the UNECE, the Ministries of Foreign and Internal Trade and Telecommunications of Serbia with support from a national and a regional technical cooperation project. The official report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/MARS/MARS.html>

51. The meeting discussed the plan of action for further activities, prepared in a break-out session by interested experts and delegations. The plan was based on the recognition of the many strengths of the MARS Group. MARS was a global group, with a broad mandate (not only consumer goods but also equipment and professional goods) and a broad focus that was both practical and theoretical. It could also count on links to the other WP.6 groups



(the Group of Experts on Risk Management (GRM), Initiative on Education on Standardization (STaRT-ED) and Sectoral initiatives).

52. It was agreed that the MARS Group could best deliver on a mix of practical tasks, and conceptual discussions, as follows. The conceptual discussions would focus on: empowering consumers, linking with the better regulation agenda and meeting the challenge of E-commerce. Practical tasks could be:

- Mapping of all other market surveillance networks (global and regional);
- Developing a template for the request of data or assistance to other authorities or to other stakeholders outside of the jurisdiction;
- Updating the MARS global database of market surveillance authorities;
- Connecting to other WP.6 groups and service in order to get advice from them.

53. In order to ensure a more regular involvement of delegations, it was proposed to hold two webinars and two physical meetings per year (the MARS meeting and a short meeting back to back to the WP.6 plenary). Additionally, it was suggested that webinar meetings of the chairs (GRM, MARS, STaRT-ED, Sectoral initiatives together with the WP.6 Bureau) be organized, and that delegations be invited to nominate an official national representative as contact point. The next meeting of the Group was planned for the first semester of 2015. The chair of the MARS Group supported the plan.

54. The UN/CEFACT representative informed the meeting of the system of rapid alert for food and feed related safety incidents that had been developed together with a set of standardised messages that could be deployed in a few minutes time after the incident. As regulatory and other matters of interest in WP.6 are not covered with this system he suggested to cooperate in developing a similar system for MARS Group initiatives.

55. The Belarus representative supported the comment by UN/CEFACT and proposed either to develop a recommendation on automated notification systems in case of incidents or to harmonize the different existing systems. Also the Working Party could look at surveillance issues for industrial production in the EU and the Customs Union and develop a recommendation on this. Linking incidents occurrence and surveillance would be beneficial for understanding more precisely what we are regulating.

56. The Swedish representative suggested using the experience of other international organisations as a reference for the future work of the MARS Group. She wished to see increased involvement by UN members beyond the European region, as per the mandate given to the group in 2009. She also said that the General Market Surveillance Procedure (GMSP) might be too complex for the MS authorities to understand and use given their already limited resources. She thought that the statement given earlier about in-house testing being less expensive than external testing could be argued upon, depending on the preconditions in a member state. She added that Recommendation N should be further promoted. The chair suggested that the GMSP template be further discussed and comments be fully taken into account.

57. The secretariat explained that having a standardized approach and a template to ask for information and assistance from MS authorities in other countries could be useful when non-conforming products were found on the market, so as to facilitate the flow of information. The European Commission, Ukraine, GIZ and Belarus, in addition to UN/CEFACT, were willing to participate in the development of the project. The first webinar on these matters would take place in early 2015 and a progress report would be prepared for the MARS meeting.

58. The secretariat presented the current status of the MARS global database on market surveillance authorities. It was possible to see which authority was responsible for a specific product in any country with a link to its website and if available the relevant e-mail

address. The database could be improved and updated if there was interest and if the secretariat received appropriate details from countries.

59. The European Commission supported discussing challenges in e-commerce within the MARS group. The plenary approved the future work plan for the MARS group.

60. The Working Party noted the information on Market Surveillance provided by the European Commission and the Chairperson of the MARS Group. It adopted the report of the MARS Group on its meeting in Belgrade. The Working Party recommended that the activities under the MARS group be continued and for the secretariat to continue to report on developments in this area of work.

## VII. Standardization and regulatory practice

### (a) Review of developments in standardization and relevant national and regional regulatory activities

61. The Minister of Technical Regulation of EEC presented an overview of developments in EEC regulatory activities. In reply to a question by UN/CEFACT, the presenter answered that most EEC regulations were based upon interstate and GOST standards, thanks to an agreement EEC had signed with the Interstate Council. EEC was a member of several international standards organizations and applied many international standards as well as European norms. In case no regional or international standards were available, the EEC used international best practice as reference.

62. Replying to a question by the Special Advisor to WP.6, the presenter commented that the EEC regulations for motorized vehicles strictly followed relevant work by UNECE WP.29, that was also applied by the European Union. A database had been set up for each regulation to be referenced in the Customs Union members' legislation.

63. The secretariat asked for details on the EEC building codes and regulations related to civil defence and emergencies. Together with UNISDR the secretariat was engaging in having international standards on disaster risk assessment being more recognised and better incorporated into national regulations in this field. In UNECE, the Working party on Housing and Land Management was also progressing work on standards in the built environment related to disaster risk reduction. The presenter informed the meeting that the emergencies' ministries of all three members of EEC (Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation) were taking all international requirements into account in that field as well. Further information would be provided to the secretariat.

64. The Quality Director of the Standards Institute of Israel (SII) gave a presentation on the *Accessibility of mandatory standards to everyone in Israel*. He explained how mandatory standards that were the intellectual property of the Standards Institute of Israel (SII) and of international and regional standards organizations were reconciled with the country's legal framework, and made available on an online platform for consultation, but not for print or download, available exclusively to Israeli residents. Answering a question from the representative of Ukraine, he explained that the SII system had similarities to The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Incorporated by Reference (IBR) Portal. The representative of ISO commented on the ANSI and SII experiences, saying that these would be taken into account when revising the existing business model of ISO.

65. The Working Party noted information on recent developments in regulatory practice under the Eurasian Economic Commission and in Israel (**Decision 11**).

66. The representative of EEC said that mandatory requirements needed to be accessible to the industry and suggested that a recommendation could be prepared to address this concern. The UN/CEFACT representative recalled a recent initiative of UNECE and ISO management for increased accessibility to the standards of both organisations and suggested that the Working Party take note of it.

67. The DIN representative was totally opposed to the idea of making standards freely available as their business model would be severely undermined, and all of the alternative ways of funding standardization activities were inapplicable. She asked how the SII planned to respond to the foreseeable loss of revenue. He replied that SII did not have government support and had instead compiled tailor-made sector relevant packages of standards and urged big customers to buy these value-added products.

68. The IEC representative echoed the ISO comment on its business model where most of the revenue going to standards development activities comes from selling the standards and added that other issues like intellectual property rights also came into play. Making standards free of charge could destroy the international standardisation effort. At the same time IEC was ready to join any project group where solutions to this issue would be discussed.

69. The secretariat reminded that the issue at hand had also been discussed in detail the previous year and recommendation D had been revised as the result. A publication, *Reference to Standards*, had been published the previous year and it was available in English and Russian at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=36308>

**(b) Review of relevant developments in regulatory practice**

70. The representative of ISO explained that ISO did not perform conformity assessment activities and presented the ISO/CASCO Toolbox: a series of standards for the operation of conformity assessment bodies, peer evaluation and associated activities. For developing countries ISO/CASCO organized two regional workshops per year and sponsored participation in the ISO/CASCO open day, plenary and workshop sessions.

71. The IEC representative described the organization's affiliate country programme and related recent developments from the IEC General Meeting in Tokyo and also reported on the IEA-IEC-ISO workshop on international standards in support of policies for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

72. The CEN/CENELEC representative said that the two European level standards organisations' aimed at contributing to a large unified European market promoting competitiveness and fostering innovation. They also took an active part in world-wide standardization to better position Europe in the global market.

73. The ASTM International representative introduced the organisation, explained their global cooperation via the MoU programme and updated the meeting with some successful cooperation experiences the organization maintained with regulatory agencies in different sectors worldwide.

74. The Working Party noted the information on standardization provided by ISO, IEC, CEN/CENELEC and ASTM International (**Decision 12**).

75. The UN/CEFACT representative reiterated the significant overlap and duplication of work between the standardization organisations, while he perceived from within as a member of the MoU on e-business that had been signed 14 years earlier between most of the international SDOs, UNECE among them and which aimed at avoiding overlap and duplication of work. He suggested for the Working Party to find ways that could help avoid duplication of effort between and inside SDOs.

76. The representative of ISO said his organization had a system in place to avoid duplication in its own work and mentioned the Strategic Alliances and Regulatory Group of ISO/CASCO, which brought together sectors running conformity assessment schemes, and put forward their concerns into the standards development process.

(c) **Education on standards-related issues.**

77. The Working Party was informed of the results of the break-out meeting of the STaRT-ED group of experts on education, which had taken place in the morning. Twenty representatives of educational institutions from Belarus, France, Netherlands, Slovakia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine had participated in that meeting, and had shared relevant developments on international, regional and national levels related to education in standards-related issues. The first three educational modules prepared by the Academy for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ASMC; Moscow, Russian Federation) had been presented.

78. The STaRT-ED group had agreed that these modules could be used as a practical implementation tool by the UNECE model programme on education on standardization, and in training in specific areas (i.e. on standards and regulations in the WTO context). Representatives of Belarus, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine shared their experience teaching standards in universities and as part of the vocational training of public officials. The Working Party took note of this information (**Decision 18**).

79. The representative of the Delft Institute for Research on Standardization presented fora that were also active in the area of education on standardisation. These included: the International Cooperation for Education on Standardization (ICES), the European Academy for Standardization (EURAS) and the CEN/CENELEC LinkedIn group.

80. The representative of the Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia presented the professional training and re-training needs in Russia and introduced the three training modules prepared by the Academy for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ASMC; Moscow, Russian Federation) for the Model Programme that had been developed on the basis of the UNECE model programme. These contained texts for lectures, presentation slides, test questions and practical exercises. The representative of Ukraine proposed the results of this workshop be submitted for consideration to the Customs Scientific Journal. The representative of the University of Geneva presented the study programme in the area of standardisation. The representative of Slovakia presented the research outputs in the area of standardisation and a proposed new study programme prepared for the accreditation process with a new course that has been developed on the basis of the recommendations and cooperation within the UNECE STaRT-ED group.

81. The Working Party thanked the Academy for Standardisation, Metrology and Certification (Russia) for developing the modules based on the UNECE Curriculum (**Decision 13**).

82. The Working Party endorsed the work on first teaching modules under UNECE model educational programme and invited UNECE programmes to contribute to it (**Decision 14**).

83. The Working Party invited interested educational institutions in UNECE region to initiate new courses on the basis of new modules (**Decision 15**).

84. The Working Party requested delegations to raise awareness about new educational tools (**Decision 16**).

85. The Working Party stressed the need for more cooperation and coordination on education on standards issues on a regional and international level and entrusted the secretariat to undertake the necessary initiatives to this end (**Decision 17**).

## **VIII. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation**

86. The IEC representative announced the planned World Standards Cooperation Workshop in Geneva that would take place from 1 to 2 December in Geneva back to back

to the 25<sup>th</sup> WP.6 Plenary Session in 2015. A questionnaire was distributed to participants for them to indicate their preferences for topics to be discussed.

87. The Working Party endorsed the proposal by the World Standards Cooperation (WSC) for a Conformity Assessment Workshop to be held back to back to the WP.6 session in 2015 on topics to be chosen on the basis of the Questionnaire that had been distributed to the delegations (**Decision 19**).

88. The Working Party instructed the Secretariat and the Bureau to cooperate actively with the WSC for the organization of the Workshop (**Decision 20**).

## IX. Metrology

89. The representative of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) described the organization's two conventions and the activities that had taken place on World Metrology Day (May 20<sup>th</sup>). He mentioned cooperation activities in the DCMAS Network and concluded with recent developments and plans for redefining the International System of Units (SI).

90. The Working Party noted the information on metrology provided by OIML (**Decision 21**).

## X. Risk management in regulatory systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks	ECE/TRADE/390	Information
Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/4	Decision
Standards and Normative Mechanisms for Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/5	Decision

91. The Chair introduced the session by recalling the establishment of a Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems in 2011, the approval of Recommendations P and R in 2011, and the publication on "Risk Management in Regulatory Systems" in 2012.

92. In 2014 the Group's priority had been the implementation of the recommendations, in particular, in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction, through cooperation with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and in regulatory practice, in particular, in Brasilia and Mongolia.

93. The secretariat reported on its activities in support of disaster risk reduction during the previous year. She briefly outlined the history of global work on disaster risk reduction and recalled important milestones, including the May 2013 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and the two Intergovernmental Prepcoms held in July and November 2014. These were part of more than 100 consultative events allowing stakeholders to contribute to define and agree upon a cohesive, coherent and harmonised post-2015 paradigm. This would be launched at the UN World Conference on DRR, in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

94. The secretariat also reported on the work done on the Global Assessment Report on DRR (GAR 2015) and on cooperation with ISO/TC 223<sup>4</sup>. It mentioned the Working Group on Standards on DRR that had met twice in order to organize a working session during the WCDRR and increase awareness of the role of standards, developed both by standards organizations and the UN in DRR.

95. The UN/CEFACT representative added to the secretariat's overview some information on the existing disaster risk communication work that was being done in OASIS and adopted in many countries. The Secretariat would follow-up.

96. The Working Party noted the information on Risk management in Regulatory Systems provided by the chairpersons, in particular regarding the implementation of Recommendation P and R in the field. It adopted the report of the GRM on its activities (**Decision 22**).

97. The Working Party took note of the work on Standards for DRR and requested the Secretariat to continue to lead the work on Standards for DRR, in cooperation with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**Decision 25**).

98. A representative of the private sector presented the *R!SE Initiative: Disaster Risk-Sensitive Investments* (<http://www.preventionweb.net/rise>), a unique global initiative that aimed at creating risk resilient societies by enhancing collaboration between the private and public sector to make all investments risk-sensitive. R!SE had been launched on the 19 of May 2014 at the UN headquarters in New York by the UN Deputy Secretary General. R!SE aims to create three instruments of change: a) Make risk information available and accessible; b) Create practical tools for risk information to be applied in communities; c) Improve our understanding of the underlying drivers of risk, in collaboration with education and research institutions.

99. The key R!SE Initiative members were the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), jointly with The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Florida International University (FIU), Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), AECOM Technology Corporation and Willis Group Holdings plc, among others. There were three ways to contribute to R!SE: funds, people & skills and knowledge & intellectual property. R!SE was in a critical phase of development and required concrete commitment of resources including financial support.

100. The first Vice-Chair of the State Committee for Standardization of Belarus explained how risk management tools were used in the technical regulation system of the Eurasian Economic Commission.

101. The Working Party noted the information on the use of risk management tools within the technical regulations system of the Eurasian Economic Commission (**Decision 23**).

102. The Chair of the UNECE Group of Experts of Risk Management and Regulatory Systems presented the experience and learned lessons from implementing the UNECE recommendations R and P in Brasilia and Mongolia.

103. The Chair of the Turkish Mirror Committee of ISO/TC 262 gave an update of the activities of the committee.

104. The Vice-Chair of the WP.6 gave information on work carried out on methodologies of risk assessment.

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<sup>4</sup> The ISO Technical Committee on Societal Security (ISO/TC 223).

105. The representative of the International Risk Governance Council (IRGC) outlined the challenges governments were facing in understanding and meeting the expectations their populations had concerning risk management.

106. The Working Party recommended that the activities under the GRM group be continued (**Decision 24**).

## **XI. Capacity-building activities under the Working Party and the Committee on Trade**

107. The Secretary to the Committee on Trade (CT) reminded the meeting of his previous intervention on the Methodology of assessing regulatory and procedural measures in trade and asked the delegations to look at the methodology and help improve it.

108. A proposal had been submitted to the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) for a project on risk management and it had been approved for the next stage. It was a multiagency project and from the UNECE, the WP.6 and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of the Industrial Accidents would be working on developing the project.

109. The Secretariat gave an update on capacity-building activities. Two events had taken place in the previous year. One had been organized together with UNIDO for the countries of the eastern CIS in Warsaw. The second was in South-Africa where the National Institute for the Specification of National Regulations had been briefed on the work undertaken in risk management in regulatory frameworks.

## **XII. Other business**

110. The Working Party agreed to hold its 25th session from December 2 to 4, 2015, back-to-back with the WSC Workshop on 1 to 2 December 2015 in Geneva.

## **XIII. Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting**

111. According to its rules of procedure, the Working Party reviewed its decisions and requested the Secretariat to prepare a detailed report of its 24th session.

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