



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

First session
Geneva, 21-23 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The first annual session of the Committee on Trade (CT) will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from Wednesday, 21 to Friday, 23 June 2006.¹ It takes place back-to-back with the sixteenth session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) (19 and 20 June) and the Committee's annual International Forum: "A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade" (20 and 21 June). A joint CT/WP.6 policy segment on the UNECE contribution to regulatory convergence is planned for Wednesday afternoon, 21 June. The annotated provisional agenda and tentative timetable below present the annual session of the Committee within the broader framework of the 2006 Committee on Trade week.

2. Detailed provisional agendas of both the sixteenth session of WP.6 and the International Forum are set out in documents ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/1 and ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/3, respectively. Documents for all three meetings will be posted on the UNECE Trade and Timber Division's website as they become available, as well as being distributed through the normal channels.

¹ Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations should complete the registration form, downloadable from <http://www.unece.org/trade/ct/welcome.htm> and transmit it to the secretariat either by e-Mail (dominique.rames@unece.org) or by fax (+41-22-917-00-37). Prior to the meeting, the delegates are requested to present themselves with a valid identification card/passport at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix to obtain a security badge to enter the Palais (in case of a problem please call 022-917-30-96). Documents for the meetings, maps of Geneva, lists of hotels and restaurants, and information for visitors are available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/ct/welcome.htm>.

Documents for the newly formed "Committee on Trade" will be issued with the symbol ECE/TRADE/C. Documents for the predecessor Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development were issued with the symbol ECE/TRADE.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda items	
Monday, 19 June		
10:00-18:00	Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	
Tuesday, 20 June		
10:00-13:00	Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies	
15:00-18:00	International Forum of the Committee on Trade: “A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade”	
Wednesday, 21 June		
10:00-13:00	International Forum of the Committee on Trade: “A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade”	
Committee on Trade – Annual session		
15:00-15:05	1	Adoption of the agenda
15:05-15:15	2	Election of officers
15:15-17:30	3	Policy segment (joint CT/WP.6 session): The UNECE contribution to regulatory convergence
17:30-18:00	5.1	Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies
Thursday, 22 June		
Committee on Trade		
10:00-11:00	4	The implementation of the UNECE reform and follow-up to the 2006 session of the Commission
11:00-13:00	5	Review of the work of the Committee
	5.2	Trade facilitation and electronic business
	5.3	Commercial agricultural quality standards
	5.4	Activities directly under the Committee
15:00-15:30	6	Capacity building
15:30-16:30	7	Cooperation with other organizations
16:30-17:45	8	Approval of programme of work for 2008-2009 and of changes to programme of work for 2006-2007
17:45-18:00	9	Other business
Friday, 23 June		
10:00-11:00	10	Adoption of decisions

II. ANNOTATIONS

Documents marked “D” are for decision, “I” - for information.

1. Adoption of the agenda

3. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Extended Bureau at its February meeting and are presented for approval of the Committee. Following the recommendation by the Bureau, presentations under agenda items 4, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 will explain how the Committee and its three subsidiary bodies envisage implementing the UNECE reform plan, including cooperation with partner organizations, and taking into account the strategic framework for the Trade Subprogramme. The chairpersons will also be invited to report on the upcoming challenges confronting their bodies, to highlight major achievements, as well as to raise issues on which discussion and/or decision by the Committee are needed. The document for this agenda item is:

- Provisional agenda and tentative timetable	ECE/TRADE/C/1	I/D
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2. Election of officers

4. Elections will be held. At the ninth session of the CTIED (predecessor to the CT), the Committee elected Mr. Alexander Šafářk-Pštroš (Czech Republic) as Chairperson, Mr. Mario Cardullo (United States of America), Mr. Dimitri Japaridze (Republic of Georgia), Mr. Zoran Jolevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mr. José Sanz-Benito (Spain) as Vice-Chairpersons.

3. Joint CT/WP.6 policy segment on the UNECE contribution to regulatory convergence

5. Discussions will be based on the conclusions from the International Forum on “A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade”. The purpose of the discussion is to better understand the role of the UNECE in regulatory cooperation to facilitate trade in the region. Participants are expected to analyse how the UNECE can contribute to developing and implementing legal, standards-setting and regulatory instruments to ensure the least possible restrictive practices/regimes for trade. The discussion will draw on the UNECE regulatory work in agricultural quality standards, trade facilitation, transport standards, energy, technical regulations for vehicles and environmental policy recommendations. The results of the discussion will be taken into account when the Committee’s programme of work is drawn up. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Conclusions from the Forum	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/CRP.2	I/D
- Background paper for the Forum	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/2	I

4. **The implementation of the UNECE reform and follow-up to the 2006 session of the Commission**

6. With the UNECE reform, a “Committee on Trade” was created to replace the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). The Chairperson of the Committee will present the implications of the reform plan for the work of the new Committee. Specific actions to be taken, as related to the work of the Committee’s subsidiary bodies, will be considered under the corresponding agenda items. The Chairperson will also present the achievements of the predecessor Committee, challenges and joint activities with partner organizations. He will then report on follow-up to the February 2006 session of the UNECE and the inter-sessional meetings of the Committee Bureau. Delegations will be invited to comment on and approve the revised terms of reference for the Committee (ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10) and to approve the action points for strengthening and better integrating the work of the Committee as recommended in ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3. The documents for this agenda item are:

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| - Implementation of the UNECE reform and follow-up to the sixty-first session of UNECE | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/17 | I |
| - Revised terms of reference for the Committee on Trade | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/10 | D |
| - Strengthening the UNECE Committee on Trade | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/3 | I/D |
| - 2008-2009 strategic framework for Subprogramme 6 - Trade | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/9 | I |
| - 2005 activities under the Industry and enterprise development programme | ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/4 | I |

5. **Review of the work of the Committee**

7. Participants will discuss the work of and explore the synergies between Committee and its subsidiary bodies - the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) - in support of the integration of national economies into international supply chains.

5.1. **Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies**

8. The Chairperson of WP.6 will explain how the Working Party is going to implement the UNECE reform plan. Delegations will be invited to voice their countries’ needs and priorities in the field of regulatory cooperation. They will also review the programme of work of WP.6 to ensure that its outputs are fully in line with the demands of member States. The Committee will be asked to renew the ad hoc group on market surveillance (“MARS” group), as recommended by the Bureau. The documents for this agenda item are:

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| - Report of the 2005 session of WP.6 | TRADE/WP.6/2005/15 | I |
| - Recent developments under WP.6 | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/7 | I |
| - Request for renewal of the MARS group | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/16 | D |
| - Changes to the programme of work 2006-2007 | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/14 | I/D |
| - Draft programme of work 2008-2009: work items | ECE/TRADE/C/2006/12 | D |

- Vision and strategic directions of WP.6 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/12 I

5.2. Trade facilitation and electronic business

9. UN/CEFACT reorganized its structure in 2004. At the June 2005 plenary session, it approved its vision and mission statements, its mandate and programme of work for 2006-2007. The Chairperson of UN/CEFACT will present the main outcomes of the May 2006 plenary session and the programme of work for 2008-2009. He will also outline the implications of the UNECE reform plan for the work, notably with regard to joint activities with the Committee on Inland Transport in trade facilitation and border crossing. Delegations will also discuss how to improve the work of UNECE in trade facilitation and electronic business, particularly within the context of the Doha Development Round. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Report of the 2006 session of UN/CEFACT	ECE/TRADE/CEFACT/2006/15	I/D
- Recent developments under UN/CEFACT	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/6	I
- Changes to the programme of work 2006-2007	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/14	I/D
- Programme of work of UN/CEFACT for 2008-2009	ECE/TRADE/CEFACT/2006/9	I/D
- Draft programme of work 2008-2009: work items	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/12	I/D
- Report on cooperation with the Committee on Inland Transport	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/2	I/D

5.3. Commercial agricultural quality standards

10. The Chairperson of WP.7 will explain how the Working Party is going to implement the UNECE reform plan. The reform requested the Committee to initiate the concentration of activities on agricultural quality standards within the UNECE. The secretariat will brief the participants on what has been done so far to put this into effect. Delegations will discuss and approve additional activities for inclusion in the programme of work for 2006-2007. This work is to be assigned to the new P-4 post that has been allocated to the Trade and Timber Division for work on agricultural quality standards. Participants may also wish to discuss how to support capacity building activities, including fundraising, to help less developed countries of the region to use quality standards for agricultural produce. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Report of the 2005 session of WP.7	TRADE/WP.7/2005/9	I/D
- Recent developments under WP.7	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/8	I
- Changes to the programme of work 2006-2007	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/14	I/D
- Draft programme of work 2008-2009: work items	ECE/TRADE/C/2006/12	I/D
- Report on the concentration of work on agricultural quality standards	ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/1	I

5.4. Activities directly under the Committee

11. The secretariat will report on its recent promotional activities including: developments in the Multiplier points network; improvements in the UNECE trade website; and the updated version of the CD-ROM "*Norms, Standards and Practices for Trade Facilitation and International Business*". The chapter prepared for the report of the United Nations University

Center for Regional Integration Studies (UNU/CRIS) gives an overview of the integration processes and outstanding barriers to trade in the UNECE region. Another report will present the state of ratification by the UNECE member countries of major multilateral trade treaties. Delegations will be invited to express their views on the work done. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Report on activities directly under the Committee ECE/TRADE/C/2006/5 I
- UNECE chapter of the UNU/CRIS report on regional integration ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/2 I
- Report on trade agreements ECE/TRADE/C/NONE/2006/3 I

6. Capacity building

12. The regional adviser will explain how the secretariat helps Governments and the private sector to better understand and put into use the UNECE normative instruments that UNECE develops for trade. The secretariat will present its trade facilitation strategy for the countries covered by the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). Countries, especially those who have received UNECE technical assistance, will be asked to share their views on the effectiveness of and priorities for this work. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Report on capacity building and implementation activities ECE/TRADE/C/2006/15 I
- Trade facilitation strategy for SPECA countries ECE/TRADE/C/2006/11 I and Add.1

7. Cooperation with other organizations

13. Delegations will be informed about the Committee's joint activities with partner organizations. The document for this agenda item is:

- Cooperation with other organizations ECE/TRADE/C/2006/4 I

8. Approval of programme of work for 2008-2009 and of changes to programme of work for 2006-2007

14. The secretariat will report on the work accomplished during 2004-2005. The Committee will approve the changes to the programme of work for 2006-2007 and the programme of work for 2008-2009. In doing so, it will take into account the strategic framework and the results of the discussions on the activities of the subsidiary bodies. The documents for this agenda item are:

- Accomplishment accounts for the 2004-2005 biennium ECE/TRADE/C/2006/13 and I Add.1
- Changes to the 2006-2007 programme of work ECE/TRADE/C/2006/14 I/D
- 2008-2009 strategic framework for Subprogramme 6 - Trade ECE/TRADE/C/2006/9 I
- Draft programme of work 2008-2009: work items ECE/TRADE/C/2006/12 I/D

9. Other business

15. The Committee will discuss and agree on the topic for the 2007 Forum (and policy segment). The Bureau has proposed: “The impact of the WTO Doha Development Round Negotiations on the work of the Committee on Trade”.

16. The Committee will approve the dates for its next annual session. Proposed dates are: 18-22 June 2007.

10. Adoption of the decisions

The Committee will adopt its major decisions before it adjourns. The final report of the plenary session will be produced by the secretariat, after the annual session, according to the Committee’s procedures as found in TRADE/2005/19.