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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON TRADE**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Submitted by the Bureau for information and discussion

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This document consists of two parts. The first part highlights cooperation activities during the past year and future challenges for cooperation. The second, beginning on page 7, presents a comprehensive list of organizations with which the Committee and its subsidiary bodies cooperate.

**II. COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

2. The UNECE secretariat has observer status at the World Trade Organization's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (WTO CTBT) and participates regularly at WTO CTBT meetings.

3. During the period 2005-2006, the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development has also been contributing to activities in the WTO, in the context of the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation. In particular:

- Through a number of capacity-building workshops, United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) helped countries, especially countries with economies in transition, to better understand the technical aspects of the

trade facilitation issues discussed in the Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in collaboration with other organizations, held a workshop in Belgrade (October 2005) to involve the private sector and civil society in the accession process to WTO and to provide information on new tools for trade and transit facilitation.

- In collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN/CEFACT organized a workshop at the WTO Headquarters to provide trade facilitation negotiators from African countries with a technical understanding of the three General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Articles under negotiation.
- Representatives of the UNECE secretariat participated in the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong SAR and in several parallel events, the purpose of which was to assist participants in better understanding the issues under negotiation.

### **III. COOPERATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD)**

4. Cooperation was enhanced under the so-called “Trade Cluster”, a working group under the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA). This group was created to facilitate joint strategic planning and decision-making among the UN agencies dealing with trade, and especially to foster joint activities between UNCTAD and the regional commissions.

5. During the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial meeting, the Trade Cluster organized a meeting of all the UN agencies present, in which they agreed to work together during the next two years in order to organize a joint meeting as a parallel event to the next Ministerial meeting. The objective of this meeting will be to highlight for Member States how the UN family of organizations, as a whole, can help them in preparing for WTO negotiations and in implementing the resulting obligations.

### **IV. COOPERATION UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS (UN/CEFACT)**

6. UN/CEFACT actively collaborates with other regional commissions in implementing three United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects:

#### **A. “Capacity building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean”**

7. This technical assistance project, funded from 2002 to 2005 by UNDA, was jointly implemented by the UNECE, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and UNECA, with UNECE as the lead agency. The project aimed at increasing the competitiveness of companies in the Mediterranean region in regional and global markets through simplifying and harmonizing trade procedures throughout the transaction chain. In the course of 2005, several follow-up activities took place under this project:

(i) The Government of Turkey implemented Recommendation No. 25 on United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) for the automation of customs declarations and procedures;

(ii) A National Trade Facilitation Committee (TÜRKPRO) was established in the framework of the Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI);

(iii) The Government of Israel began two important projects, for the automation of the Certificate of Origin and the integration of a paperless environment into Customs procedures.

**B. “Interregional partnership for promoting trade as an engine of growth through knowledge management and taking advantage of information and communication technology”**

8. This project was launched in January last year and involves all five regional commissions, with United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) as the lead agency. The UNECE has already organized two joint activities under this project:

(i) In cooperation with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), “Capacity-Building Workshop on Trade Facilitation Implementation for Asia and the Pacific”, Kuala Lumpur, March 2005;

(ii) In cooperation with all the regional commissions, “Regional Commissions Round Table on Paperless Trade Implementation”, Geneva, June 2005. An important output from this last meeting was a “Roadmap towards paperless trade”, which was submitted to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and published as ECE/TRADE/371.

9. UNECE plans several more activities under this project, including:

(i) A workshop for WTO negotiators from countries with economies in transition to discuss trade facilitation in the WTO context, to be organized in cooperation with UNESCAP;

(ii) A regional seminar on trade facilitation implementation for the countries of the United Nations Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA), also to be jointly organized with ESCAP.

**C. “Project on Capacity building in support of trade integration with emphasis on integrated trade information flow management and trade facilitation in Central Asia”**

10. This project has already been approved by the General Assembly and is expected to be launched in the first half of 2006. The project will be implemented by UNECE, in collaboration with ESCAP and UNCTAD, and will support the objectives of the SPECA programme. It will

promote an integrated approach vis-à-vis information gathering and sharing; for example, through a harmonized set of trade and transport documents for the region. This will help Central Asian countries integrate into international supply chains, and will be instrumental to their development and growth.

11. The UNECE is a core partner in the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFP) together with the World Bank (WB), UNCTAD and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Other organizations, including WTO, participate in the partnership. The GFP is being put to effective use, especially to:

- Exchange information about on-going activities;
- Organize thematic meetings that include substantive discussions about trade facilitation issues;
- Manage joint projects such as the “Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe” project, coordinated by the World Bank;
- Discuss the Trade Facilitation negotiations at the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting and the GFP’s response to current priorities and concerns in the area of trade facilitation at the GFP biannual meeting hosted by the UNECE in Geneva on 17 February 2006.

12. UNECE is one of the signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Electronic Business Standards, which includes as signatories the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The MoU was originally signed in 1995 to coordinate cooperation in support of UN/EDIFACT, the most largely used electronic business standard outside the Internet.

13. In 1998 the MoU was enlarged to cover cooperation in new electronic business standards and it has since become an important tool for cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the four signatories and numerous participating expert groups and international user groups. The objective is to enhance interoperability, avoid duplication and ensure intersectoral coherence. Each of the four MoU signatory organizations acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis. The UNECE last provided the secretariat in 2001.

14. The UNECE is also the maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory) and, in addition, the UNECE has a unique arrangement with the ISO where the UNECE is the secretary of the ISO Technical Committee on Process, Data Elements and Documents in Commerce, Industry and Administration, TC 154.

## **V. COOPERATION UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

15. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) undertake joint activities to support regional organizations in Africa that wish to align their regulatory regimes in specific sectors or

product areas. These activities will be based on the UNECE's International Model for Technical Harmonization (Recommendation "L"), developed by the Working Party.

16. The International Model comprises a set of voluntary mechanisms and principles for good regulatory practices. It has already been used as the basis of an agreement among the members of the Eurasian Economic Commonwealth (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan) for harmonizing their technical regulations.

17. Representatives of the European Commission and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology (EASC) participate regularly in WP.6 meetings. For four years the agenda of the CIS Interstate Council's annual sessions has included an item on the work of WP.6.

18. In 2005, contacts were established with the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and with the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC).

19. The Working Party participates in the activities of the International Task Force (ITF) on harmonization and equivalence in organic agriculture, a joint venture between UNCTAD, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM). At the latest ITF meeting in Tunisia in December 2005, a proposal was made to draw up common regulatory objectives for organic agricultural products based on principles set out in the UNECE's "International Model for Technical Harmonization".

20. The Working Party works closely with the ISO and its committees: Committee on Developing Country Matters (DEVCO), Committee on Consumer Policy (COPOLCO) and Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO). At the request of the ISO secretariat, presentations of WP.6 projects were made at the DEVCO meeting in September 2005 in Singapore and at the CASCO meeting in November 2005 in Geneva. ISO participates in all WP.6 sessions with an update on its activities.

21. In 2006, the ISO is supporting the International Forum of the UNECE's Committee for Trade on regulatory cooperation and standardization where it will make a presentation on good regulatory and standard-setting practices highlighting the use of international standards in product regulations.

## **VI. COOPERATION UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL QUALITY STANDARDS**

22. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) works closely with the European Community to maintain the complete harmonization of 36 marketing standards with UNECE standards.

23. The Working Party cooperates with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables to facilitate the common interpretation of UNECE standards and their application in the international trade. In 2005, the UNECE secretariat organized:

- A Joint OECD/UNECE/FAO Workshop on quality standardization and inspection in horticultural trade in July 2005 in Tbilisi, Georgia;
- An international training course (sponsored by OECD) on harmonization of fruit and vegetables quality assessment, back to back with the meeting by the Central European Initiative (CEI) on: “Fresh fruit marketing quality and health safety controls – differences and similarities between CEI countries” in September 2005 in Mojmirovce, Slovakia.

24. The Working Party’s adoption of the revised UNECE Standard for Citrus Fruit, harmonized with the relevant Codex Alimentarius standards, is evidence of the successful cooperation with the Joint FAO/WHO (World Health Organization) Food Standards Programme. There is a general agreement with Codex Alimentarius that whenever they start work on a new phytosanitary standard, they base it on existing UNECE standard, if one exists.

25. The Working Party also contributed to the promotion of the WHO strategy on diet, physical activity and health (a series of 12 postcards was published in cooperation with WHO, OECD and the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; and the UNECE secretariat was invited to participate in an expert meeting in Japan).

## **VII. FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR COOPERATION**

26. The GFP described earlier has been successful in exchanging information on the work of its member organizations and has recently defined new challenges for itself in terms of developing closer cooperation and common positions by member organizations on selected issues.

27. The Committee on Trade would like to develop a closer relationship with the other four United Nations regional commissions. None of the other regional commissions develops standards in the areas of trade facilitation, electronic business, regulatory cooperation or agricultural quality. On the other hand, because standards are essential for global trade, it is in everyone’s interest that as many United Nations member States as possible from outside of the UNECE region contribute to the development of standards and implement them. In this context, the Committee on Trade sees the other regional commissions as being its ideal counterparts for promoting its standards outside of the region and especially for helping with requests for implementation assistance.

28. As part of the UNECE reform plan it is indicated that, “Consultations shall be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities [on agricultural quality standards] of the two organizations within the UNECE.” These consultations, and the implementation of resulting decisions, will require close cooperation with the OECD secretariat and OECD member state missions.

**Committee on Trade**  
**Summary of Cooperation with Other Organizations**

<b>Organization<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Mechanisms for Cooperation</b>	<b>Current Cooperation</b>
AITIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of joint seminars and workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint Workshop on WTO Accession and Trade and Transit Facilitation, held in Belgrade, Serbia and Herzegovina, 19-20 October 2005.</li> </ul>
ITU and WSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of joint seminars and workshops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UNECE organized with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and UNDP a sub-regional Ministerial Meeting, Thessaloniki, 1 July 2005, in preparation for the second phase of the WSIS (Tunis, November 2005).</li> </ul>
FAO Codex Alimentarius (Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting schedules are set in coordination between secretariats</li> <li>• Secretariats participate in relevant meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE standards are circulated to the members of the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables whenever a Codex Standard for the same or similar produce is developed.</li> </ul>
FITPRO (Czech national trade facilitation body)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement between UNECE and the Czech Republic on a joint technical assistance project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Czech Republic supports and finances a joint Czech-UNECE project for technical assistance to third countries in the implementation of the UNECE standards and tools. Activities (seminars and training courses) organized in 2005 for Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> A list of organization abbreviations is given at the end of the table.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mechanisms for Cooperation</b>	<b>Current Cooperation</b>
ICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding between the UNECE and the ICC</li> <li>• Participation in meetings and seminars</li> <li>• Participation in Groups of Experts</li> <li>• Exchange of information</li> <li>• Maintenance of the European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the Legal Group and the trade facilitation Working group of UN/CEFACT.</li> <li>• Many Chambers of Commerce in the member States host UNECE Multiplier Points.</li> <li>• Joint organization of the elections of the special committee under the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration</li> <li>• Discussions on standardization of the documentary credit form</li> </ul>
IEC, ITU and ISO  (See also ISO and ISO Technical Committee 127 on Earth Moving Machinery and 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats</li> <li>• Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis.</li> <li>• Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups</li> <li>• Summit meetings by the Memorandum of Understanding Management group on coordination and standardization issues.</li> </ul>
ISO (See also ISO Technical Committees 127, 154, and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and UNECE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and annual seminars.</li> </ul>
ISO Technical Committee 127 on Earth Moving Machinery (TC 127)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC 127 contributes to the WP.6 sectoral regulatory project “Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative”.</li> </ul>



Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
ISO Technical Committee 154 (See also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Working Group Meetings</li> <li>• Plenary meetings once a year</li> <li>• The MoU for UNECE to be Secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique of its kind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE provides the secretariat to ISO Technical Committee 154.</li> <li>• UNECE is the maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory).</li> </ul>
OECD (1) Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries and secretariats actively participate in each other's relevant meetings. Joint organization of capacity-building events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OECD adopts UNECE standards.</li> <li>• The UNECE meetings, the OECD Plenary meeting and both secretariats work closely on updating and interpreting the standards.</li> <li>• Organization of a joint training course in Georgia and in Slovakia in 2005.</li> </ul>
OECD (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the meetings organized by the UNECE WP.6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in the UNECE regulatory Forum organized by WP.6 to be held in June 2006 in Geneva</li> </ul>
OSCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint seminars and workshops</li> <li>• Contributions to analytical work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Trade Division contributed to the organization of the OSCE Economic Forum in 2005 both with speakers and general organization support and also provided input to the Forum's background report.</li> <li>• UNECE also contributes to other trade-related parts of reviews and activities under the OSCE economic dimension.</li> </ul>
Regional Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Joint projects</li> <li>• WSIS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN Development Account Interregional project on Trade Facilitation (UNECLAC – lead agency, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCAP, ENESCWA) was launched in January 2005. Joint projects with UNECA and UNESCAP have already commenced. A joint interregional conference</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
		<p>involving all five regional commission was held in Geneva in June 2005 – organized by UNECE.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediterranean project (UNECE, UNESCWA and UNECA)</li> <li>• Coordination meetings with all four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation</li> <li>• UNECE and UNESCAP have a joint UN Development Account project for Central Asia for 2006-2007 on trade facilitation and development.</li> <li>• UNECE and UNESCAP support actively the UN activities with the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)</li> <li>• UNECE coordinates liaison between all five UN regional commissions and WSIS Executive Secretariat, Geneva, and cooperates with the other regional commissions in ICT and WSIS projects.</li> </ul>
Stability Pact for SEE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to joint activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Adviser on Trade Facilitation cooperates regularly with the Working Group on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation, the regional network of national trade facilitation bodies (SECIPRO), and the e-South Eastern Europe Initiative (eSEE). In particular, the Regional Adviser led the development of an e-business strategy for SEE; organized a Ministerial conference in collaboration with eSEE, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Greek Government, (Thessaloniki, 1 July 2005) and a seminar on WTO Accession,</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
		Trade and Transport Facilitation (Belgrade 19-20 October 2005) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WP.6 cooperates with the Stability Pact Working Group on Trade Liberalization and Facilitation under the joint UNECE / Swedish International Development Agency Project</li> </ul>
UNCTAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE signed a MoU with GFP in March 2005. UNECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), OECD and the International Road Transport Union (IRU)</li> <li>• Participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums</li> <li>• Occasional joint organization of seminars</li> <li>• Mutual contribution to projects: experts, publications</li> <li>• The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising World Bank, ITC, WTO, UNCTAD and UNECE</li> <li>• An MoU has been signed for the Global Facilitation Partnership for Trade and Transport between the UN organizations and the WCO as well as IRU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE and UNCTAD cooperate closely on providing support to countries in trade facilitation implementation and preparation for negotiations at the WTO. This includes participation in each other's workshops on the topic.</li> <li>• UNCTAD participates in the trade facilitation working group of UN/CEFACT..</li> <li>• UNCTAD provides assistance to the UNECE Russian timber project</li> <li>• UNECE has provided support to the UNCTAD secretariat for relevant work with the Trade Point programme</li> <li>• UNECE participates in the work of the UNCTAD/FAO/IFOAM International Task Force on Harmonization (in organic agriculture)</li> <li>• UNCTAD participates in WP.6 sessions</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
Universal Postal Union (UPU)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application of Electronic Postmark (EPM) signatures in United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs). Development of a Web Service demonstrating automated validation of a trade document and UPU electronic signature. UNeDocs will test the integration of EPM into UNeDOcs pilots using standard office software</li> </ul>
UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE signed a MoU with GFP in March 2005. UNECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation with other organizations</li> <li>• UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions</li> </ul>
WCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE-WCO MoU, signed in 2001</li> <li>• UNECE signed a MoU with GFP in March 2005. UNECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCO participates in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups</li> <li>• WCO participates with UNECE in an e-learning project being negotiated for 2005 – 2006</li> <li>• WCO contributes to UNECE work on the Supply Chain Model</li> <li>• UNECE participates in the work on the G7 Customs dataset.</li> <li>• UNECE participates in the WCO Task Force on Trade Facilitation and Security as well as in related follow-up activities</li> </ul>
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an informal inter-agency group comprising WB, ITC, WTO, UNCTAD and UNECE</li> <li>• UNECE signed a MoU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE participates actively in and contributes substantial materials to the GFP Website.</li> <li>• WB participates actively in the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.</li> <li>• WB has selected the UNECE Single Window</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
	<p>with the Global Facilitation Partnership for Trade and Transport (GFP) in March 2005. UNECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support by the World Bank to a variety of UNECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from the UNECE to World Bank goals and objectives, particularly in the area of trade and transport facilitation.</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendation as the base for their projects in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WB participated in the UNECE/UNESCWA Mediterranean project.</li> <li>• The Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeastern Europe (TTFSE) programme of the World Bank promotes the implementation of United Nations standards on trade facilitation, particularly standardized trade documents.</li> <li>• WB supports SECI project.</li> <li>• The Regional Adviser organizes jointly with the WB trade facilitation events in the transition economies.</li> </ul>
WTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WB, ITC, WTO, UNCTAD and UNECE.</li> <li>• The GFP is seen by the WTO as the core mechanism for coordinating the delivery of capacity building support to countries in trade facilitation.</li> <li>• Trade Division and WTO staff meet regularly outside the inter-agency group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of CTIED subsidiary bodies.</li> <li>• UNECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (on the part of the United Nations regional commissions).</li> <li>• UNECE will assist WTO with training seminars and conferences in transition economies.</li> <li>• UNECE works with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation in transition countries.</li> <li>• WTO attends the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.</li> <li>• The Regional Adviser organized a workshop on WTO accession and trade facilitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004 and a similar event will be organized in Serbia in 2005.</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current Cooperation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTO will participate in the WP6 regulatory forum to be held in Geneva in June 2006.</li> <li>• UNECE will organize a capacity-building seminar on implications from the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation for the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian WTO members, Chisinau, June 2006.</li> </ul>
World Trade Point Federation (WTPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2004, the UNECE signed a MoU with the WTPF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE and WTPF cooperate in promoting each other's activities, to encourage regular contacts between the WTPF and the relevant UNECE subsidiary bodies and to share contacts in order to develop further their networks.</li> </ul>
UNDP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNECE and UNECE collaborate on the development of the Information Society in Southeastern Europe, including the activities of the eSEE and the organization of a SEE Ministerial Meeting in preparation for WSIS 2.</li> <li>• UNDP and UNECE are planning collaboration on a planned project for a Single Window in the Vnukovo airport in Moscow.</li> </ul>

**ABBREVIATIONS**

AITIC	Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
CEI	Central European Initiative
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EASC	Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology
EC-ESA	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
EEC	Eurasian Economic Community
EPM	Electronic Postmark
eSEE	e-South Eastern Europe Initiative (eSEE) of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FITPRO	Facilitation of International Trade Procedures
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GFP	Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade
IEC	International Electro-technical Commission
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISO Technical Committee 154	ISO Technical Committee on Process, Data Elements and Documents in Commerce, Industry and Administration
ISO TC 127	ISO Technical Committee 127 on Earth Moving Machinery
ITC	International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
ITF	International Task Force
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SECI	Southeast European Cooperation Initiative
SECIPRO	Association of National PRO Committees in Southeast Europe
SPECA	Special Programme for Central Asia
TTFSE	Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeastern Europe
UN/CEFACT	UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Unedocs	United Nations electronic Trade Documents
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
UNU	Universal Postal Union

WB	World Bank
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WP.6	[UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division] Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies
WP.7	[UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division] Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTO CTBT	World Trade Organization's Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade