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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
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Item 17 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2001-2002

**PROPOSAL FOR A
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORY**

Note by the secretariat

This addition to the draft programme of work has been submitted to the Committee by its Bureau for approval. The country examples have been included in a separate addendum: TRADE/2001/14/Add.2

Introduction

1. Within UN/ECE member States the legal and institutional environment supporting trade, industry and enterprise development is constantly changing and evolving. During the last decade these changes have been accelerated for a number of reasons ranging from economic transition to globalization to the creation and/or enlargement of regional economic groupings.
2. This “environment of change”, where new institutions are being constantly created and existing ones are disappearing or changing their structures has, indeed, become normal. In this context, it is often difficult for enterprises and investors, whether large, medium or small to find the organizations and information that they need to do business. This is especially true for SMEs, even at a domestic level and in the case of foreign markets and investments should be multiplied by a factor of at least 10.
3. In addition, this changing institutional environment often makes it difficult to maintain real transparency in regulations and trading requirements at an international level.

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4. Therefore, in support of its mandate to “assist in the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy” and to assist in bridging this “information gap” it has been proposed that the Committee develop and maintain a Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development Directory. This Directory would be published on the Internet where it would be regularly updated and, periodically, issued as a printed publication.

5. Such a Directory would stimulate trade and investment within the region, as well as offering a “one stop shop” for SMEs looking for institutional information in support of their export or investment activities. It is expected that this Directory would be of particular assistance to those countries where the resources for providing such information services to SMEs are limited.

6. A preliminary outline of the types of organization to be included in the Directory can be found below.

7. Information will be collected and presented by country. In addition, there will be a beginning section with information about international organizations of relevance such as the World Customs Organization, the International Organization of Security Exchanges, the International Chamber of Commerce. The primary purpose of this first section will be to provide national authorities with information for accessing international norms and standards in support of trade, industry and enterprise development.

8. In order to give an initial idea of the what the country entries in such a directory might look like, the secretariat has made an initial collection of data for three countries: the Russian Federation, Turkey and Yugoslavia. These examples can be found in an addendum (TRADE/2001/14/Add.2). It should, however, be pointed out that sufficient time was not been available to verify all of the information provided.

9. Resources for this work will come primarily form extra budgetary sources in the form of a Junior Professional Office who has been made available by the “Agence Intergovernmental de la Francophonie” specially to support efforts by the Trade Division to promote the Committee’s work across a wider spectrum of countries and organizations. This post is available for one year with the possibility for its renewal, based upon the results achieved. After the initial version of the Directory has been development the secretariat also hopes to automate much of the maintenance work based upon the use of a new database and the Internet.

COUNTRY SECTION OUTLINE

1. Information for Investment and Enterprises

- (a) National Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs)
- (b) Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Support Agencies
- (c) National Standard Organizations
- (d) UN/ECE Multiplier/Contact Points

- (e) National Real Estate Brokers Association
 - (f) National UNDP Office
- 2. Government Ministries and Other Supporting Organizations**
- (a) Relevant Ministries
 - (b) Commercial Arbitration and Mediation Organizations
- 3. Trade Facilitation**
- (a) National Trade Facilitation Organization
 - (b) Customs Contact
 - (c) National Freight Forwarders Association
 - (d) Other Transport Associations
- 4. Corporate Governance**
- (a) Securities Exchange Regulator
 - (b) Banking Regulator
 - (c) Accounting Regulator
 - (d) Insurance Regulator
 - (e) Companies Registry
 - (f) Competition Authority
- 5. Trade and Enterprise Financing**
- (a) Stock Exchange
 - (b) Export Import Bank
 - (c) Export Insurance
 - (d) Other National Financing Organizations
- 6. Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations**
- (a) National Chamber of Commerce
 - (b) Local Chambers of Commerce
 - (c) General Business Associations
 - (d) Sectoral Business Associations

10. The Committee is invited to discuss this proposal, and if it considers that such a Directory would be useful to approve its development on a trial basis, with the results to be given to the Committee at its session in June 2002.

11. Delegations would, accordingly, be invited to provide comments with regard to the information contained in the Directory and its structure of the directory prior to 15 August 2001 and to provide contact information for the relevant institutions in their own countries.

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