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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Eighteenth session
Geneva, 3-4 November 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
Starting at 10 a.m. on 3 November 2008

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The eighteenth session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 3 to 4 November 2008. Back to back with the annual session of the Working Party, three half-day panel sessions will be held on the following topics: (a) Market Surveillance Model Initiative; (b) Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments; and (c) Private Standards. The provisional agendas of the panel sessions are provided in documents ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/2, ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/3 and ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/4.

* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/wp6-08-list.htm>, and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat *no later than two weeks prior to the meeting* – namely, by **24 October 2008** - either by e-mail (dominique.rames@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22 917 0037). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 3096/2481.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of officers
3. Matters arising from recent meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Trade
4. Panel sessions
 - (a) 1 - Market Surveillance Model Initiative
 - (b) 2 - Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments
 - (c) 3 - Private Standards, jointly organized with the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
5. Standardization and regulatory practice
 - (a) Review of developments
 - (b) Revision of UNECE recommendations
6. Regulatory cooperation
 - (a) Regional projects
 - (b) Sectoral projects
7. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation
8. Market surveillance
 - (a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
 - (b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative
 - (c) Update on the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)
9. Metrology
10. Programme of Work and priorities of the Working Party
11. Capacity-building
12. Other business
13. Adoption of the report

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/1 - Annotated provisional agenda

2. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and are presented here for approval.

Item 2. Election of officers

3. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party is expected to elect a Chairperson and two vice-chairpersons. At the seventeenth session, Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden) was elected Chairperson, and Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus) and Mr. P. Lukac (Slovakia) were elected Vice-chairpersons (see the organizational chart in annex to this document).

Item 3. Matters arising from recent meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Trade

4. The secretariat will report on any relevant matters arising from recent meetings of the Bureau of the Committee on Trade and of the UNECE Executive Committee.

Item 4. Panel sessions

5. Three panel sessions will be organized back to back with the session:

**(a) Panel session 1 - Market Surveillance Model Initiative
Chaired by Mr. Ivan Hendrikx, Market surveillance expert, Leader of the WP.6
Task force on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/2 – Provisional agenda of panel session 1–
Market Surveillance Model Initiative
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/2/Add.1 – Questionnaire on Market
Surveillance Models
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/13 – Terms of Reference of the Market
Surveillance Models Initiative

6. At its meeting in October 2007, the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) agreed to start work on a model market surveillance procedure. The Working Party Bureau at its meeting in March 2008 endorsed the decision and a task force started work on this model in the spring of 2008. Panel session 1 will present the results of this work and agree on priorities for action.

(b) Panel session 2 - Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments

Chaired by Mr. Frank Lienesch, Head, Working Group on Explosion-protected Electrical Drive Systems, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) and Convener, Sectoral Initiative of Explosive Environments Equipment

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/3 – Provisional agenda of panel session 2 - Explosive Environments Equipment
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/3/Add.1 – Questionnaire on Explosive Environments Equipment
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/3/Add.2 – Report on the second meeting of the Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment (Paris, 29 September 2008)
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/8 – Progress report on the Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment

7. At its last session, the Working Party established a Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment, which is tasked to agree on common regulatory objectives in this specialized sector, and to define how conformity with the agreed requirements is to be assured and demonstrated. Panel session 2 - Explosive Environments Equipment – aims to review the progress to date by the Sectoral Initiative and to set objectives for the coming months.

(c) Panel session 3 – Private Standards, jointly organized with the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
Chaired by Mr. Christer Arvius, Swedish National Board of Trade and Chairperson, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/4 – Provisional agenda of panel session 3 – Private Standards
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/4/Add.1 – Background document for panel session 3 - “Private Standards”

8. Delegates at the last annual session expressed interest in exploring the issue of private standards (company specifications) and their role in a complex architecture that comprises national, regional and global standards, along with national regulations and international certification schemes.

9. Panel session 3 will be jointly organized with the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7), in view of the importance of private standards in the agricultural and food sector, and will aim at involving the regulatory authorities, as well as private companies, in the debate.

(d) Conclusions

10. Conclusions from the three panel sessions will be presented to the Working Party for consideration.

Item 5. Standardization and regulatory practice

(a) Review of developments

11. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on their standardization and regulatory activities, as well as on technical cooperation programmes with other countries or regions. In particular, as a follow-up to the discussions held in the previous session, the European Commission will provide information on the recently adopted Common Framework for the marketing of products as well as a brief update on the implementation of the REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) Regulation.

(b) Revision of UNECE recommendations

Documentation: ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 – UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/10/Rev.1 – Approved Recommendation “M”
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6 – Proposed revision of Recommendation “K”

12. At its seventeenth session, the Working Party approved Recommendation “M” on Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users Against Counterfeit Goods, which is submitted to delegates in its final version for information.

13. At its last session, the Working Party requested delegations to submit comments regarding the possible revision of Recommendation “K” on Metrological Assurance of Testing. Inputs were received from one delegation and the matter will be considered under item 9, Metrology.

Item 6. Regulatory cooperation

Documentation: ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 – UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies
ECE/EX/2 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within UNECE

14. The Working Party will receive an update on the activities developed on the basis of the UNECE Recommendation “L”, International Model for Technical Harmonization based on good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards (document ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 is also available online at http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/major_doc.htm).

15. The Working Party will be informed about the activities of its Team of Specialists on Standardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team), which met in Geneva in March 2008. In accordance with UNECE Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists (ECE/EX/2, para. 3), the Working Party will consider extension of the mandate of the Team.

16. The Working Party will receive an oral report from the secretariat on the Seminar on Good Regulatory Practice, organized by the World Trade Organization in March 2008 and will be informed on potential areas for cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

(a) Regional projects

17. The Working Party will be informed about the status of regional projects to reinforce regulatory cooperation in the context of regional or bilateral trade agreements, especially in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC).

(b) Sectoral projects

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/8 – Progress report on the Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/9 – Progress report on the Sectoral Initiative on Telecom
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/10 – Progress report on the Sectoral Initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery

18. The Conveners of the ongoing sectoral initiatives will report on current activities and recent achievements, in particular, on the Explosive Environments Equipment Initiative; the Telecom Initiative and the Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative.

19. Follow-up discussions on establishing an initiative on safety of pipelines will take place and, if delegations express sufficient interest, a task force will be formed.

20. Any proposals for regulatory convergence dialogues will be considered.

Item 7. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation

21. National delegations and international and regional organizations are invited to report on trade related aspects of conformity assessment and accreditation. International organizations are also invited to provide an update of their work on international standards, technical assistance projects, manuals and training modules.

Item 8. Market surveillance

(a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group)

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/11 – Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meeting in Bratislava, 2-3 October 2008
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/12 – Information from the CIS on market surveillance

22. The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) will report to the Working Party on the activities of the Group and its meeting in Bratislava on 2-3 October 2008. Delegations will be updated on market surveillance activities under the auspices of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The European Commission will present the new EU common framework for market surveillance. Finally, the secretariat will report on (a) the meeting organized jointly by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) on European Standards and Market Surveillance (Bucharest, 25 June 2008); and (b) the workshop on Conformity Assessment Standards in Support of Market Surveillance, organized by the ISO Council Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO/CASCO) (29 October 2008, Geneva).

(b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/13 – Terms of Reference of the Market Surveillance Model Initiative

23. The Working Party is requested to approve the establishment of the Market Surveillance Models Initiative Group and to adopt the Terms of Reference.

24. The convener of the newly established initiative on Market Surveillance Models will report on the discussion of the panel session 1 – “Market Surveillance Model Initiative”.

(c) Update on the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

25. A short presentation will be made on these unfolding negotiations and delegations will have an opportunity to discuss the role of Recommendation “M” in this context.

Item 9. Metrology

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/6 – Proposed revision of Recommendation “K”

26. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on relevant developments in metrology.

27. The Rapporteur for Metrology will propose a revision of Recommendation “K” on Metrological Assurance of Testing (see item 5 (b)).

Item 10. Programme of work and priorities of the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/2007/14 – Report of the second session of the Committee on Trade
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14 – Programme of work for 2009-2010
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Add.1 – Table of priorities
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/15 – Evaluation of the Symposium on trade rules, regulations and standards: different levels of rule-making and their impact (October 2007); the seventeenth session of the Working Party and its International Seminar in November 2007

28. The Working Party will review its programme of work for 2009-2010 and decide on priorities for its future work, based on the table of priorities.

29. The Working Party will be invited to discuss the evaluation document prepared by the secretariat and elaborate on methodologies for the evaluation of its future work.

Item 11. Capacity-building

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/16 – Report on “Aid for trade in trade-related standards”

30. The Working Party will receive an update on plans to launch a capacity-building initiative to promote the application of Model “M”.

31. The secretariat will present a report on Aid for Trade for Trade-related Standards. The report was part of the publication *Aid for Trade: Global and Regional Perspectives*, which included contributions from all major United Nations agencies and was officially presented to the UNCTAD XII conference (Accra, April 2008).

Item 12. Other business

32. The Working Party will consider the work of its coordinators and rapporteurs, and will decide on their future tasks and scope of activities.

33. The Working Party will decide the tentative dates for its meeting in 2009.

Item 13. Adoption of the report

34. According to agreed practice, during its session, the Working Party will approve a list of main decisions. The secretariat will subsequently draft the descriptive part of the report, in consultation with the office bearers, taking into account the contributions made during the session.

IV. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 3 November	10.00 – 13.00	Items 1-3 and 5
	15.00 – 18.00	Item 4 (parallel panel sessions 1 and 2)
Tuesday, 4 November	10.00 – 13.00	Item 4 (parallel panel session 3*)
	15.00 – 18.00	Items 6-12

* Jointly organized with the UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

Annex

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE WORKING PARTY

