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Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
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Eighteenth session
Geneva, 3 - 4 November 2008
Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel session 1 – Market Surveillance Model Initiative

I. BACKGROUND

1. Market Surveillance (MS) practices vary significantly from country to country, presenting a barrier to a fully effective system of cross-border co-operation. For example, there is a widespread perception across the European Union that levels of surveillance and enforcement are uneven and inadequate to the detriment of fair competition, user safety

2. Due to the vast number of products put on the market worldwide, the challenges imposed on a market surveillance authority are enormous, and it is almost impossible to cover the assessment of all the requirements of the technical legislation.

3. The key to improving this situation is the cooperation and harmonization of market surveillance approaches amongst countries. The establishment of a clear framework and guide for the operation of market surveillance, based on good practice worldwide, would be a major asset to regulators and would be a significant step forward in the enhancement of a safe, efficient and transparent market for legitimate trade. This session is organized to discuss different national and regional approaches and present the methodology of a proposed UNECE initiative to develop a model to guide the decision of market surveillance authorities, based on the results of a questionnaire that is being developed.

II. SESSION TIMETABLE (3 November 2008)

The session will be chaired by:

Ms. Kvetoslava Steinlova, Head, EU Affairs Department, Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing and Chairperson, UNECE Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group)

15:00 Introductory remarks by the Chairperson and by the Convenor of the UNECE General Market Surveillance Procedure, Mr. Ivan Hendrikx

15:10 Preliminary review of MS systems from European Countries – Mr. Ivan Hendrikx

15:30 Presentation of existing initiatives to promote cooperation among market surveillance authorities

- Cooperation under APEC
Sirma Karapeeva, Senior Analyst, Competition, Trade and Investment Branch,
Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand
- CEN/CENELEC – ETSI – Tc1
Mr. Guido De Jongh, Programme Manager, Comité Européen de Normalisation
(CEN)
- Prosafe: EMARS
Mr. Dirk Meijer, Regional Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority,
The Netherlands
- ISO/Casco
Mr. Sean Mc Curtain, Head, Conformity Assessment, International Organization for
Standardization (ISO)

16:30 Presentation of the GMSP – Mr. Ivan Hendrikx

16:50 Statistical methods and market surveillance – prof. Nikola Tuneski – University of Skopje

17:00 Questions and answers

17:20 Way forward and project development