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Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Nineteenth session
Geneva, 24-26 November 2009
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE WORKING PARTY

Draft accomplishments accounts for the 2008-2009 biennium

Note by the secretariat

1. As required in the “Action plan to implement biennial evaluations of subprogramme performance” of the Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, the Secretariat prepared this note as a draft of the accomplishments accounts for the 2008-2009 biennium.
2. This document is submitted to the Working Party for discussion.
3. The secretariat will modify the document as per the discussion and submit it to the Committee on Trade.

I. INTRODUCTION

4. The eighteenth annual session of the Working Party was held on 3 and 4 November 2008 back to back with panel sessions on the “Market Surveillance Model initiative”, the “Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments” and “Private Standards”.

5. As part of the agreed terms of reference (reproduced in the annex) for the self-evaluation of the Working Party, the Secretariat distributed an evaluation form, which was completed and returned by 30 participants (around one third of the audience). Section two presents the results concerning the level of satisfaction associated with different aspects of the eighteenth annual session. Section three provides answers to questions asked in the terms of reference for the self-evaluation of the Working Party about the use of its recommendations in national policy frameworks and business environments (see the scope of the terms of reference of the self-evaluation in annex).

II. ANNUAL SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY

6. Table 1 is based on replies to the first part of the evaluation form, which invited participants to rate various aspects of the meeting taken as indicative of its quality. Table 1 shows participants considered the overall quality and the relevance of the chosen topics as “very good” (4.2 on a maximum of 5).¹ All other criteria were considered “very useful” too.

Table 1: Level of satisfaction, by item, for the annual session¹

Relevance of subject	4.3	Quality of presentations	4
Knowledge obtained	4	Quality of discussions	3.8
Exchange of information	4	Balance between presentations and discussions	3.9
Establish contact	4	Organizational arrangements	4
Practices learned	3.9	Quality of written material	4
Overall quality	4.2		

¹ Details of the scale used: 1= Not useful/poor, 2= Somewhat useful, 3= Useful, 4= Very useful good, 5= Extremely useful.

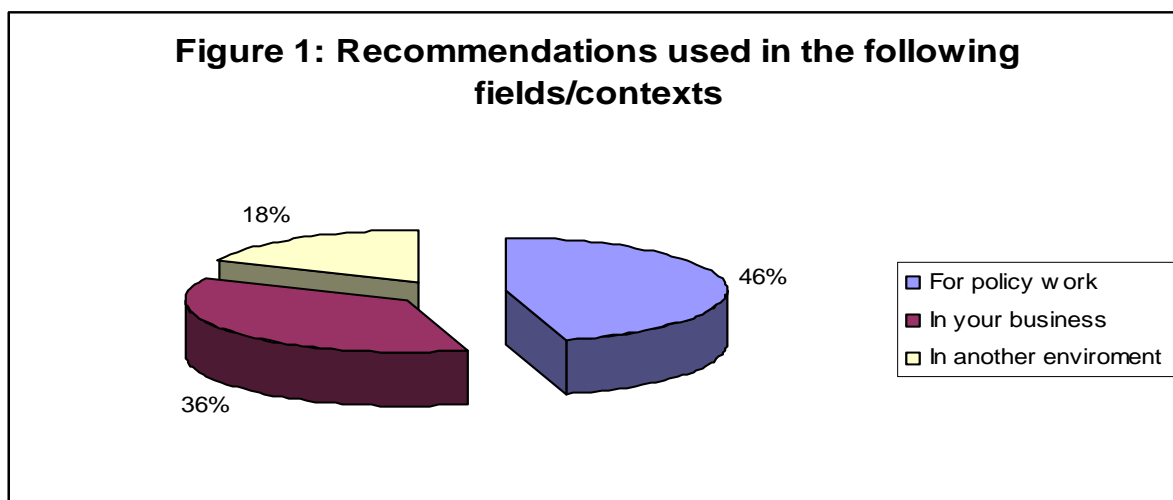
III. USE MADE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

7. The second part of the questionnaire was intended to gather information from participants on three aspects of the use they make of the recommendations of the Working Party. These three aspects correspond to the three parameters of the evaluation (see the scope of the terms of reference of the self-evaluation in annex).

8. First, the *extent* to which participants use recommendations of the Working Party is approximated by the proportion of declare to use them. Results of the survey show 28 out of 30 participants (94%) declared to make use of recommendations of the Working Party in their environment.

9. Secondly, the survey invited respondents to specify in which *field/context* they are using these recommendations. Results show 46% of respondents use them for policy work, 36% in their business activities and 18% in another environment (see figure 1).

10. Finally, when asked to mention *which recommendation* is specifically used by participants to meetings of the Working Party, recommendations 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) and M (Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Good) were cited most frequently.



IV. CONCLUSION

11. The results of the survey were presented to the meetings of the WP.6 Bureau and rapporteurs/coordinators (held in May 2009), and were used in preparing the provisional agenda for the current session of the Working Party (e.g. break-out sessions, panel discussion).

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SELF-EVALUATION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES (WP.6)

Survey on the use of WP.6 recommendations in national policy frameworks and business environments

I. PURPOSE

What is the primary purpose of the evaluation? What topic will the evaluation address?

1. To improve the knowledge on the use made of recommendations

II. SCOPE

What are the parameters of the evaluation? What will be included or excluded in the review?

2. It is proposed that the survey includes all the recommendations of WP.6 to evaluate the use which is being made of them. The interest lies in knowing:

(a) The extent to which participants in WP.6 meeting actually use the recommendations

(b) The field/context in which they use the recommendations

(c) Which recommendations are the most useful to them

3. The scope of the evaluation is limited to these characteristics of the usage made of recommendations, and does not touch upon other activities of WP.6.

III. BACKGROUND

Relevant background information such as brief synopsis of the programme or activity to be evaluated, summary of pertinent resolutions, findings from recent reports

4. WP.6 (and its predecessor) has issued recommendations since its creation in 1970. Many member States have expressed their appreciation of the overall work by the Working Party. However, the usage made of recommendations of WP.6 is difficult to evaluate and has never been evaluated as such. It is the first time a survey is being carried out to investigate this issue and there are no previous reports on that.

IV. ISSUES

What are the primary questions the evaluation will seek to answer?

5. The primary issue is to obtain a confirmation that recommendations of WP.6, which are a key aspect of its work, are used by participants in WP.6 meetings in their work environment. Another interesting issue is to get an estimation of the fraction of private-sector users and to know if some recommendations are significantly more intensively used than others.

V. METHODOLOGY

What method(s) such as desk review of records and data, surveys and interviews, field visits, focus groups, etc. will be used for the evaluation? What data are already available from other sources?

6. No data from other sources exist on this issue. All data will be collected through a survey distributed to participants to WP.6 meetings.

VI. EVALUATION SCHEDULE

7. Develop a timetable for the following phases of the self-evaluation:

(a) Preliminary research: An informal meeting was held to discuss candidate topics for self-evaluation (October 2008);

(b) Data collection: A survey has been distributed during the eighteenth annual session of the Working Party. It will be distributed again at other meetings of the Working Party (November 2008 – October 2009);

(c) Data analysis: Data gathered from the first distribution of the survey has already been analysed. It will be merged with future data for final analysis (October 2009);

(d) Draft report (include timing for peer review): A report, based on this analysis, will be drafted and reviewed by persons involved in WP.6 activities (end of October 2009);

(e) Final report: The final report will be ready (November 2009)

VII. RESOURCES

What staff will be involved in undertaking the evaluation? Are there any other resources required?

8. The secretariat staff servicing will monitor the implementation of the survey and analyse the data.

VIII. INTENDED USE/NEXT STEPS

How are the findings of the self-evaluation expected to be used? What procedures/ arrangements will be established to consider the results of the self-evaluation and to formulate an action plan?

9. Through the survey, it can be expected the WP.6 will better get to know the actual as well as the potential users of the recommendations and their needs. Furthermore, WP.6 would improve its monitoring and continuous evaluation systems, processes and procedures.
