

UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Second Bureau Meeting

27 April 2007, Geneva, Switzerland

Report on the Meeting

Present: Mr. M. Pietarinen, Finland, Chairman of CECI
Ms. S. Eshelman, USA, Vice-Chair of CECI
Mr. A. Savinykh, Belarus, Vice-Chair of CECI
Ms. M. Kultamaa (Mission of Finland)

Secretariat: Mr. A. Vasilyev, Director, ECID
Mr. R. Dobrinsky, Deputy Director, ECID
Mr. G. Hamilton, Chief of Section, ECID
Mr. J. Palacin, ECID
Mr. R. Heinrich, ECID
Mr. I. Adjoubei, ECID

Item 1 – Overview of the progress in the implementation of the programme of work

1. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of implementation of the programme of work. Particular attention was paid to the preparations for the forthcoming meetings in the areas of financing for innovative development, public private partnerships, development of entrepreneurship and intellectual property rights. Outlines of documents to be eventually submitted to the second session of the Committee were also presented.
2. The Secretariat also briefed the Bureau on the meeting with representatives of the private sector on matters related to CECI's work in the area of intellectual property (London, 23 March 2007) organised in accordance with the decision taken at the previous meeting of the Bureau.
3. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the progress made in putting on line the virtual platform enabling the member States and experts to exchange opinions in the various areas of the programme of work. The task ahead is to enhance contents of the virtual platform in all these areas and to attract inputs from national experts.
4. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the work accomplished so far. It supported the proposal to present the platform to one of the forthcoming meetings of UNECE ExCom and to give access to the virtual platform to the ECE focal points in the permanent missions of member States and asked the secretariat to make necessary arrangements.

Item 2 – Preparations for the second session of CECI

5. The Bureau discussed the overall length of the session as well as the organization of discussion under items 2, 3 and 4 of the preliminary agenda for the second session as presented by the Secretariat.

6. The Bureau decided that the duration of the meeting should not exceed two and a half days. The second session will start in the morning of Wednesday December the 5th and will finish by mid-day on Friday December the 7th.

7. In order to avoid overlapping between items 2 and 3 of the preliminary agenda, the Bureau decided that the discussion on inter-linkages among various thematic areas should take place under a separate sub-item under item 2 of the preliminary agenda (status of programme implementation) and should include the discussion of capacity-building activities. Simultaneously, item 3 of the preliminary agenda should be dropped. The Bureau invited the Secretariat to prepare for the second session a brief conference room paper outlining key inter-linkages among the thematic areas of CECI's Programme of Work. The Bureau agreed to continue consultations on this matter in the lead-up to its next meeting.

8. The members of the Bureau expressed varying opinions on the possible organization of discussion under item 4 of the preliminary agenda (fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region). The Bureau agreed that while the exchange of views among the stakeholders, including the private sector might be useful, adequate time for intergovernmental discussion should be allowed. The Bureau decided to continue consultations on this subject. The Secretariat was invited to elaborate proposals on the possible organisation of work on this item taking into account relevant outcomes of the anniversary session of UNECE (25-27 April 2007).

9. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare proposals regarding CECI's Programme of Work for 2008-2009 taking into account experience gained in programme implementation in 2007.

10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, in accordance with a decision taken by UNECE ExCom, CECI at its second session would need to agree on indicators, which would enable the Committee to undertake a self-evaluation of programme performance in 2009. The Bureau took note of this information and invited the Secretariat to prepare proposals for such indicators.

Item 3 – Other business

11. The Bureau decided to organize its next meeting in September 2007. The Chairman suggested that the next meeting of the Bureau takes place in Helsinki. The Bureau members expressed their appreciation of this proposal and agreed that they would give it consideration. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to prepare for that meeting the final draft of the provisional agenda for the second session of CECI along with proposals for the 2008-2009 programme of work and for the evaluation indicators referred to above.