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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twentieth meeting
Geneva, 7 December 2007
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**DECISIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO
THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION**

Request for approval of the establishment of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships and its Terms of Reference

Note by the secretariat

1. It has been proposed that at its second session (Geneva, 5 - 7 December 2007), the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration set up a Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships.
2. Should this be so decided, the Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of this team of specialists and its terms of reference based on the draft decision (Annex I) of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The background and draft Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists are provided in Annex 2.

ANNEX 1

Draft decision of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

The Committee agreed to establish the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships with its terms of reference as contained in CECI/2007/CRP.3, subject to approval by the Executive Committee. It also recommended that the first meeting of the TOS should take place before April 2008 so that the Team could actively contribute to the implementation of relevant parts of CECI work programme including a capacity-building event to be held in early summer 2008.

ANNEX 2

Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships

Background

1. The focus area on promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships is part of the Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) under thematic area D, "Promoting Public-Private Partnerships for Domestic and Foreign Investment, as well as Intellectual Property Rights".
2. A network of experts on public-private partnerships was established in 2007 building on the former UNECE PPP Alliance.
3. The Guide on Good Governance in Public-Private Partnerships was prepared in 2007 with the help of the network of experts.
4. At the first session of CECI (27-28 September 2006), several delegations proposed to set up a team of specialists on public-private partnerships and the Committee agreed that it would consider establishing additional teams of specialists at its second session in light of the experience gained by the expert networks and specific requirements identified in the course of the implementation of its programme of work.
5. Following strong interest by both governments and the private sector to further develop expertise in this area, the participants in the International Conference on Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building on Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships in the UNECE region (Tel Aviv, 5-8 June 2007) invited CECI to consider the establishment of a Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships at its second session (5-7 December 2007).
6. The present document contains the draft terms of reference for this new Team of Specialists. The Committee may wish to discuss the Terms of Reference below and decide on the establishment of the Team of Specialists in question.

Draft Terms of Reference for the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships

Introduction

1. The Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) envisages an expert group meeting to support the implementation of the Programme of Work in thematic area D, "Promoting Public-Private Partnerships for Domestic and Foreign Investment, as well as Intellectual Property Rights".

Mandate

2. The Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships supports the implementation of the parts of the Programme of Work of CECI related to Focus Area: "Promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships". Its main task is to facilitate information sharing and exchange of practical experience of public-private partnerships among UNECE member States and to contribute to the preparation, implementation and evaluation of a capacity-building programme for public and private sectors officials from catching-up economies on this topic.

3. On the basis of this work, the Team of Specialists is expected to prepare policy recommendations for consideration and possible adoption by CECI.

4. In its work, the Team of Specialists responds to the needs of governments, and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, the academic and business communities, and civil society. It will also facilitate the cooperation with various international bodies working in this field, in particular the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Community.

Areas of work

5. To support CECI in achieving its relevant objectives, the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships will engage in the following activities:

- (a) Preparation of training materials to be used in future capacity-building activities, based on the Guidelines on Good Governance in PPPs prepared in 2007;
- (b) Defining a structure and format of the training modules on the institutional, financial, legal and policy requirements for good governance in PPPs as well as sector-specific topics and contractual and negotiation issues;
- (c) Identifying experts and institutions who will be involved in the preparation and implementation of capacity-building activities;
- (d) Preparation of a comparative review on the legal background for PPPs, with the view of identifying where new legislation needs to be adopted to make these partnerships more efficient;
- (e) Preparation of a synopsis of policy recommendations on improving the legal background for PPPs, which will be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by CECI;

- (f) Facilitating broad dissemination of good practices and policy options in the area of PPPs;
- (g) Subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, facilitating and contributing to the organization of a capacity-building event in conjunction with an international conference on sharing of national experiences on PPPs.

Membership

6. The Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships comprises Government experts, in particular those working in national PPP units, as well as experts from the business community, relevant research and academic institutions and NGOs. National experts are nominated through the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the Team of Specialists is open for participation of other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations, who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

Modalities of operation

7. The Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships operates in accordance with the guidelines for the Establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2).

8. The Team of Specialists is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension if so decided by CECI. The Committee may wish to modify the Terms of Reference as required.

9. Secretariat support to the Team of Specialists is provided by the UNECE secretariat.

10. The Team of Specialists will develop its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation. At the end of the period, for which it has been established, the Team submits a full report on its accomplishments to the Committee.

11. Expenses associated with the implementation of the Team of Specialist's plan of work are supported through extra-budgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders (inter alia, the United Nations Development Account as far as capacity-building is concerned). The funds are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.