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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION

Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property

First session
23-24 November 2006

Annotated Agenda

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
Starting at 10 a.m. in Room VII on 23 November 2006**

I. INTRODUCTION

At its first session held in Geneva on 27-28 September 2006, the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) established a new Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP). The first meeting of TOS-IP will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 23-24 November, 2006.

The purpose of the first meeting is to hold initial discussions on the substantive issues before TOS-IP and to plan the work that needs to be done in 2007 in order to deliver activities 7(a) through (e) outlined in the Terms of Reference of TOS-IP (http://www.unece.org/ceci/pdfs/ccisession/session1/IP_280906_final.pdf). A tentative timetable is presented in Annex I.

II. AGENDA

1. Election of Officers
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Commercialization of IP Assets
 - a. Recent experiences gained
 - b. Ways and means to commercialize IP assets, to transform R&D outputs into intangible assets and to establish well-functioning markets for such products
 - c. Good practices and good policies of IP commercialization
4. IPR protection and enforcement
 - a. Recent experiences gained
 - b. Existing legal frameworks, policies and business practices in the field of intellectual property protection, including assessments of the effectiveness of national systems
 - c. Good practices and good policies on IPR protection and enforcement
5. Work plan for 2007
6. Fund-raising
7. Other business

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda has been structured with a view to first provide a space for participants to first discuss the substantive issues before TOS-IP, and to then develop a plan on how to carry out the activities which are mandated for 2007 on these substantive issues. For the purposes of organizing the substantive discussion, commercialization on the one hand, and protection and enforcement on the other hand have been split into two separate agenda items. It is understood, however, that in practice the issues arising in commercialization are often closely intertwined with protection and enforcement issues, and vice versa.

Item 1. Election of Officers

The Team of Specialists will elect one Chairperson or two co-Chairpersons.

Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Team of Specialists will adopt its agenda.

Item 3. Commercialization of IP

Discussion under this item will be linked to activities 7(a), (c), (d) and (e) of the Terms of Reference. Participants should be ready to share information and engage in discussion on recent experience gained with the commercialization of IPs in their respective countries or areas of expertise, on the various ways and means to commercialize IP assets and to create markets for them, and if available, on good

practices and policies in this area. Among other things, the discussion might touch on the challenges SMEs face in managing their intellectual assets, the proper accounting for and valuation of IP, and its role in raising finance. Participants might also exchange views on how IP ownership is assigned between the entity financing research, be it public or private, and the organization conducting it. The discussion need not be limited to the strictly national context, but might usefully also include for instance experience gained in the context of foreign direct investment (FDI) or outsourcing between countries.

Item 4. IP protection and enforcement

Discussion under this item will be linked to activities 7(a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Terms of Reference. Participants should be prepared to bring to the meeting information, including any existing studies, and to engage in discussion on recent experience gained with IP protection and enforcement in their respective countries or areas of expertise, and on existing legal frameworks, policies and business practices relating to IP protection. The focus should be on assessing what works and where problems exist. It might be of interest to participants to exchange views on the legal and economic barriers and difficulties which rights holders, especially SMEs, face both within and outside their jurisdiction. Where available, information on good practices in these areas should be shared as well. The discussion need not be limited to the strictly national context but might usefully include business practices in the context of FDI, outsourcing or trade, as well as the international legal and policy framework. Assessments of the effectiveness of national systems might usefully focus not only on the benefits of protecting IPRs, but also on striking an appropriate balance between the interest of owners of existing IP in having exclusive user rights, and the public interest in competitive markets and in making knowledge broadly accessible so that it can be used as an input into further innovation.

Item 5. Work Plan for 2007*

CECI's Programme of Work and TOS-IP's Terms of Reference call for the following activities to be carried out in the field of IP in 2007:

- (a) Exchange of experience gained on IPR commercialization, protection and enforcement, possibly through regional thematic interactive seminars;
- (b) Exchange of views ('consultations') on specific requesting countries' legal framework, policies and business practices in the field of intellectual property protection, and in order to - among other things - assess the effectiveness of national systems;
- (c) Based on existing reports, analytical comparative report on the commercialization of IP assets, on transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets and on the establishment of well functioning markets for such products;
- (d) Meeting on IPR protection and transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets in economies in transition;

* The Secretariat will consult with participants on this issue also at the margins of the meeting.

- (e) Collection of good practices and good policies of intellectual property commercialization and protection in the UNECE member countries with the aim to identify specific areas of action; and
- (f) Capacity-building activities based on specific requests of member States.

The meeting is expected to decide on a work plan, including (i) specifying the preparatory work required to implement the above activities, (ii) designating specific members to take the lead on carrying out this work, and (iii) agreeing on a time line for this work. In deciding on the work plan, participants should bear in mind that activities (a)-(c) should provide inputs to the meeting under (d), that the collection of practices and policies under (e) should be the outcome of the meeting under (d), and that (e) should in turn be the basis for the report TOS-IP is expected to submit to the annual session of CECI, which will be held in December 2007. Participants are invited to bring to the meeting any expressions of interest by member States on hosting regional seminars under activity (a) above and/or exchanges of views under activity (b) above, as well as capacity-building activities under activity (f).

Item 6. Fund-raising

Under this item the meeting is expected to discuss the need for, as well as ways and means to raise extra-budgetary resources for TOS-IP to carry out its work. Participants are encouraged to bring to the meeting any pledges by member States and other interested parties to provide extra-budgetary funds or in-kind contributions.

Item 7. Other business

Annex I

Tentative Time Table

Time	Agenda items
Thursday, 23 November 2006	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Election of Officers Item 2. Adoption of the Agenda Item 3. Commercialization of IP Assets
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 3. Commercialization of IP Assets (cont'd) Item 4. IP protection and enforcement
Friday, 24 November 2006	
10:00-13:00	Item 4. IP protection and enforcement (cont'd)
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 5. Work Plan for 2007* Item 6. Fund-Raising Item 7. Other business

*The Secretariat will consult with members on this issue also on the margins of the meeting