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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AND INTEGRATION

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

First session
Geneva, 8-9 March 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION*

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on 8 March 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

1. 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 Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP). The first meeting of the TOS-ICP will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 8-9 March 2007.
2. The purpose of the first meeting is to hold initial discussions on the substantive issues before the TOS-ICP, to arrive at a common understanding of the deliverables according to the plan of

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work for 2007-2008 and to identify concrete steps for the activities that need to be done in 2007, as outlined in the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP:

(http://www.unece.org/ceci/pdfs/cecisession/session1/ECE_CECI_2006_6.pdf).

3. A tentative timetable of the meeting is presented under Heading IV.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of Officers
3. Presentation of the mandate of CECI, its Programme of Work for 2007-2008 and the role of the Teams of Specialists
4. Key issues to be addressed in 2007-2008
5. Implementation plan for 2007
6. Mobilization of resources in support of future capacity-building activities
7. Other business

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

4. The provisional agenda has been structured with a view to providing an opportunity for the participants to first discuss the substantive issues before the TOS-ICP, and to then develop a plan on how to carry out the activities which are mandated for 2007 on these substantive issues.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

5. The Team of Specialists will adopt its agenda.

Item 2. Election of Officers

6. The Team of Specialists will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons.

Item 3. Presentation of the mandate of CECI, its Programme of Work for 2007-2008 and the role of the Teams of Specialists

7. The secretariat will present the mandate of CECI and its Programme of work for 2007-2008, identifying the different thematic areas that integrate this mandate. It will present the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP and its role in delivering the outputs expected in the programme of work. The secretariat will also describe the activities carried out so far in connection with the

Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property. The purpose of this item is to familiarise participants with the broad mandate of CECI in order to facilitate the allocation of different issues to the relevant thematic areas while providing an integrated vision of the overall programme of work. It should be noted that the links between the various thematic areas and the corresponding expert networks are encouraged and that some issues of concern to participants could be addressed in the relevant expert meetings scheduled for 2007 in other thematic areas, including entrepreneurship, financing for innovative development, public-private partnerships and intellectual property rights.

Item 4. Key issues to be addressed in 2007-2008

9. In accordance with the CECI Programme of Work for 2007-2008 in focus area “Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness” and the TOS-ICP Terms of Reference adopted by CECI, the Team is mandated to contribute to the following main activities and outputs in 2007-2008:

- (a) Comparative review of the effective organizational models of innovation development and competitiveness, and of the channels through which the results of technological development and innovation diffuse in the modern economy and their role in national economic development and competitiveness (2007);
- (b) Synopsis of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation (2007);
- (c) Comparative review of government policies facilitating technological development and innovation (2008); and
- (d) Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development (2008).

10. As mandated, the key objectives of the TOS-ICP will be to identify good practices and policy options in innovation and competitiveness policies and to support their broad dissemination in UNECE member States, including capacity-building in requesting countries. Given that the thematic area “Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness” is rather broad and in view of the limited time and resources available, the TOS-ICP can initially address only a limited number of issues within this broad area.

11. Therefore, participants are encouraged to stress those aspects of innovation and competitiveness policies where multilateral cooperation could add value and where national experiences can be more easily adopted by other countries. To facilitate the process of focusing the Team’s work on the issues that member States consider most important, the secretariat undertakes a survey among the members of the TOS-ICP as well as among a broad range of experts on innovation and competitiveness policies in UNECE member States. The survey questionnaire is available on the CECI webpage (<http://www.unece.org/ceci/>).

12. The main results of the survey will be summarized in Background paper ECE/CECI/ICP/2007/3 (to be distributed to participants at a later date). This paper will also provide an overview of the issues highlighted as important by the respondents of the survey.

13. The outcome of the discussions under this item should result in a clear understanding of the focus and scope of the comparative reviews, leading to synopsis of good practices and policy recommendations, to be conducted each year.

Item 5. Implementation plan for 2007*

14. On the basis of the outcomes of the discussions under Item 4 and using the results of the survey contained in the Background paper ECE/CECI/ICP/2007/3, the TOS-ICP will deliberate on the implementation plan for 2007 and on the course of actions necessary to prepare the mandated *Comparative Review* and *Synopsis of Good Practices*. In particular, the meeting is expected to decide on a concrete and detailed implementation plan, specifying the preparatory work required to deliver these outputs; outlining specific contributions and inputs by the TOS-ICP members; designating specific Team members to take the lead on different aspects of these reports, establishing consultative mechanisms and procedures for exchange of information and fine-tuning the schedule for this work.

15. On the basis of the outcomes of the discussions under Item 4, the secretariat will prepare during the meeting and distribute among the participants a draft outline of the *Comparative Review* in order to facilitate the discussions under this item.

16. Participants should bear in mind the available time and the resource constraints of the implementation plan. Suggestions aimed at synergies based on the use of expert meetings pertaining to other thematic areas to explore related issues would be welcome.

Item 6. Mobilization of resources in support of future capacity-building activities

17. The CECI Programme of Work stipulates subsequent technical assistance and capacity-building activities in this thematic area in requesting transition economies, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources. Under this item the meeting is expected to discuss the need for, as well as ways and means to raise extra-budgetary resources for the TOS-ICP to carry out such capacity-building activities. Participants are encouraged to bring to the meeting any expression of interests by member States and other stakeholders to provide various types of extra-budgetary support (such as funds or in-kind contributions, including organization of seminars, twinning schemes or networking initiatives) to the activities in this thematic area.

Item 7. Other business

18. Among other possible issues, the meeting will consider procedures for the adoption of the report of the first session of the TOS-ICP. In the spirit of the Secretary-General's reform aimed, *inter alia*, at streamlining the work and reducing the workload of the conference services, the

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

secretariat proposes that the session's report be prepared not later than ten days following the session and that it be reviewed and adopted by the Bureau (Chair and Vice-Chairs) on behalf of the TOS-ICP.

IV. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda items
Thursday, 8 March 2007	
10:00-13:00	Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda Item 2. Election of Officers Item 3. Presentation of the mandate of CECI, its Programme of Work for 2007-2008 and the role of the Teams of Specialists Item 4. Key issues to be addressed in 2007-2008
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 4. Key issues to be addressed in 2007-2008 (cont'd)
Friday, 9 March 2007	
10:00-13:00	Item 5. Implementation plan for 2007
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-18:00	Item 5. Implementation plan for 2007 (cont'd) Item 6. Mobilization of resources in support of future capacity-building activities Item 7. Other business