

**Report on the meeting of the Bureau of  
the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration  
(Geneva, 15 February 2007, 14.00, Room PN 436)**

1. The Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) met in Geneva on 15 February 2007. Mr. Marti Pietarinen (Finland), the Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Stephanie Eshelman (USA) and Mr. Andrei Savinykh (Belarus), the Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee participated in the meeting. The following staff of UNECE Division for Economic Cooperation and Integration participated in the meeting: Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, (Director), Mr. Rumen Dobrinsky (Deputy Director and Chief of Innovative Policies Development Section), Mr. Geoffrey Hamilton (Secretary of CECI and Chief of Cooperation and Partnerships Section and focal point for Private-Public Partnerships), Mr. Iouri Adjoubei (Deputy Secretary of CECI and focal point for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development), Mr. Jose Palacin (Secretary of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and focal point for Financing Innovative Development), Ms. Michiko Enomoto (Focal point for Knowledge-based Economy and ICT for Development), Mr. Ralph Heinrich (Secretary of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property) and Mr. Tony Bonnici (Intellectual Property).

**Review of progress in the implementation of CECI Programme of Work**

2. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the ongoing work, including the development of networks of experts and building cooperation with other international organizations, in the following thematic areas included on CECI Programme of Work for 2007-2008:

- Innovation and Competitiveness Policies
- Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development
- Financing Innovative Development
- Intellectual Property
- Private-Public Partnerships

3. In particular, the Secretariat briefed the Bureau on progress in preparations for the following meeting included in CECI Programme of Work for 2007:

- **Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies** - 8-9 March 2007, Geneva
- **Meeting of Experts on Financing for Innovative Development** - 3-4 May 2007, Geneva
- **International conference on Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building on Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the UNECE Region** 5-8 June 2007, Israel
- **International conference on Reducing Barriers to Entrepreneurship and Encouraging Enterprise Development: Policy Options**, 18-19 June 2007, Geneva
- **International meeting on IPR Protection and Transforming R&D Outputs Into Intangible Assets, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property** 25-27 July 2007, Geneva

4. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that all of the above meetings are being organized in a way that they would aim at achieving the following inter-related objectives:

- Make a substantive contribution, through mobilization of external expertise, to the implementation of the deliverables included in the CECI Programme of Work, such as comparative reviews, synopses of good practices, guidelines and policy recommendations.
- Strengthen CECI networks of experts and partnerships with relevant international organizations.
- Provide capacity-building for policy-makers and other stakeholders from countries with economies in transition through exchanges of practical experiences, lessons learned and best practice.

5. The Bureau took note of the on-going work and encouraged the Secretariat to continue actively reaching out to policy makers and other stakeholders in the UNECE region, including prospective partner organizations, with a view to mobilizing their further involvement in CECI work. Bureau members highlighted the need for greater involvement of the private sector and in particular called for a special meeting with private sector representatives on matters related to CECI work in the field of intellectual property in the near future.

6. The meeting noted with great interest the proposal of Belarus to organize in May 2007 in cooperation with UNECE, in particular the CECI Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property, an international meeting in Minsk on “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and Mechanisms for its Enforcement”. This conference will provide an opportunity to review latest relevant policy, legislative and institutional developments in the Republic of Belarus and contribute to further strengthening of the capacity of national institutions to address matters related to IPR protection and enforcement. Another partner organization to contribute to this meeting will be WIPO. Active participation of the private sector is also expected. More detailed information will be circulated shortly along with invitations to the members of the ToS-IP to contribute and participate in the meeting.

#### **Presentation of the new CECI web site and of the prototype of CECI virtual information exchange platform.**

7. The Secretariat presented the new CECI web site <http://www.unece.org/ceci>, which went on-line in early February 2007, as well as the prototype of CECI virtual information exchange platform. This platform, being developed in accordance with the decision of the first session of the Committee, would allow members of CECI Teams of Specialists and Expert Networks to exchange experiences and information on the latest development in their countries and constituencies, undertake virtual peer reviews, get access to relevant documentation and web-sites, “match-make” in the area of capacity-building, and contribute to implementation of CECI Programme of Work, including substantive work on various documents being prepared by the Secretariat for the Committee as well as planned expert meeting and conferences. In the future the platform can be also used as a tool for distance learning.

8. The Bureau welcomed the work undertaken in this area and agreed that the platform has a potential of becoming an innovative and valuable mechanism that would facilitate the

implementation of CECI objectives. It was understood that the design and various functional features of the Platform would need to be fine-tuned as practical experience is gained in its operation.

9. It was agreed that the Secretariat would test the platform, as a pilot, with participation of experts on the ToS on Intellectual Property during the period of March 2007. The prototype of the platform would also be presented during the first meeting of the ToS on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (8-9 March 2007). Once some practical experience is gained and other networks of experts are established the platform will be expanded to cover all thematic areas included in the CECI Programme of Work.

10. The Bureau thanked the UNECE Information Support Unit for actively cooperating with CECI Secretariat in developing the platform.

### **Preliminary exchange of ideas about the Second Session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration**

11. It was agreed that it would be important to ensure that the second session of CECI, to take place on 5-7 December 2007 in Geneva, should not be limited to review of progress achieved in various thematic areas and consideration and approval of various outputs prepared during the year, but would also provide an opportunity for a high-level policy dialogue aimed at advancing the overall objectives of UNECE Sub-programme on Economic Cooperation and Integration and addressing some of the key challenges in this area.

12. It was proposed that the session, for example, could include a dialogue among high-level policy makers from the UNECE region on some of the strategic inter-linkages between various thematic areas placed on CECI Programme of Work with a view to promoting a more integrated and comprehensive approach.

13. Other possibilities include:

- Organizing a panel with participation of heads and senior representatives of various economic cooperation and integration organizations in the UNECE region to discuss with members of the Committee ways and means CECI could contribute to the implementation of their own objectives and foster cooperation among such organizations.
- Organizing a panel/presentations of high-level representatives from the business community and economic think tanks who could engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue with members of the Committee on selected issue(s) of mutual interest.

14. It was agreed that in order to attract interest and ensure high-level participation in the Committee, preparations for the session should start well in advance. The Bureau agreed to resume consideration of this matter after the Anniversary session of the UNECE (25-26 April 2007), when it would be able to take into account the outcomes of the anniversary session, which may have a bearing on the work of the Committee and its December meeting. In the meanwhile it was agreed that the Bureau members would reflect on this matter and consult with various parties, if necessary.