

# **UN/ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration**

## **Third Bureau Meeting**

**17 September 2007, Helsinki, Finland**

### **Report on the Meeting**

**Present:** Mr. M. Pietarinen, Finland, Chairman of CECI  
Mr. D. Salazar, United States, Vice-Chair of CECI  
Mr. A. Savinykh, Belarus, Vice-Chair of CECI  
Ms. M. Kultamaa, Finland

**Secretariat:** Mr. A. Vasilyev, Director, ECID  
Mr. R. Dobrinsky, Deputy Director, ECID  
Mr. I. Adjoubei, ECID

#### **Item 1 – Adoption of the provisional agenda**

The provisional agenda for the meeting was adopted.

#### **Item 2 – Status of Programme Implementation**

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of implementation of the programme of work, in particular on the outcomes of the meetings organized by the secretariat since the previous meeting of the Bureau in April. It was noted that these events had benefited from good participation from both developed market economies and economies in transition. High quality presentations enabled an exchange of views and sharing of experience among member states belonging to different sub-regions. Hence, these meetings served capacity-building purposes and also developed practical recommendations to Governments, which hopefully would be of interest to decision-makers and other stakeholders throughout the region. The International Conference on Promoting Successful Public-Private Partnerships in Tel Aviv sponsored by the Government of Israel was particularly commended as both a platform for the exchange of opinions in this area and a capacity-building exercise. The secretariat drew the attention of the Bureau to the recommendation of the International Conference to establish a Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships. ECE is planning to cooperate with the EBRD to convert the Guide on PPPs into practical training manuals and such a Team, if established, could, inter alia, help in this work.

The secretariat briefed the Bureau on the preparation of planned publications, which would include comparative policy reviews on innovation and competitiveness policies and financing for innovative development, a Guide on PPPs and a Guide on ICT policy-making. It also highlighted a number of forthcoming activities, including IP-related events in Belarus and Ukraine to be organized before the second session of CECI. It was noted in this context that a number of international organizations and NGOs, for example WIPO and EBAN, appreciated CECI as a useful forum for cooperation and networking with Governments of both developed and transition countries, as well as with other stakeholders.

It was noted that the CECI virtual platform had been enriching its contents and the number of visitors had grown recently. Its future progress will depend on the contributions from members of CECI ToSs and expert networks.

The Bureau took note of that report.

**Item 3** – Preparations for the second session of CECI

(a) Provisional agenda for the second session

The Bureau discussed the issue of substantive outputs of the session and the need to establish new TOSs.

The Bureau agreed that the outputs of the session should include:

- Chair's summary of the Policy Discussion Segment, and
- Conclusions and Recommendations, which may incorporate both the results of the debate at the session and the outcomes of various events, organized under the Committee between its first and second sessions.

The Bureau agreed that the issue of establishment of new TOSs should move from item 9(a) (Other business) to item 8 of the Provisional Agenda so that the latter should read 'Adoption of conclusions and decisions, including those on the programme of work and on the establishment of new teams of specialists, if required'.

The Bureau asked the secretariat to add to the agenda an item on the status of the CECI virtual platform. It also asked the Secretariat to draft a short report on this subject, explaining the objectives and eventual benefits of the virtual platform to Governments and other stakeholders.

(b) Item 4 of the Provisional agenda – Policy Discussion Segment on Fostering Wider and Deeper International Economic Integration in the UNECE Region;

The Bureau discussed in detail the organization of the Policy Discussion Segment. It agreed that the number of panels (one or two) would depend on the number of panellists, which would agree to participate. The latter should present different perspectives on the subject of the discussion (featuring views of Governments, private sector, etc.). To this end, the Bureau members agreed to contact their and other governments, EC and the private sector regarding possible participants of the panel. In addition, the Vice-chair from Belarus agreed to explore his contacts in Reiffeisen Bank (Austria). To ensure interactivity, the discussion will be composed of brief presentations, followed by question and answer sessions creating a possibility of discussions between members of the Committee and the panellists. It was also agreed that the discussions under this item would be lead by a moderator.

The Bureau discussed the issue of the overall length of the Discussion segment. It was agreed that depending on the number of panellists the duration of the Policy Discussion Segment could be reduced to half a day in the morning or half a day in the morning plus some time in the afternoon.

(c) Draft Programme of work for 2008 and general orientation of the work in 2009 and beyond.

Under this sub-item, the Bureau discussed the issue of capacity-building activities as well as inter-linkages and possible synergies arising in various programme areas.

The Bureau agreed that in the future the capacity-building activities would have more weight in the work of the Committee. It emphasized that those should develop in cooperation with the other relevant international organizations as well as interested Governments and private sector stakeholders.

The Bureau also supported proposals contained in the draft Programme of work of CECI for 2008 and the general orientation of work for 2009 and beyond, and invited the secretariat to submit it for further consideration to the second session of the Committee. The Bureau noted that the future programme of work would be also presented to the UNECE Executive Committee in accordance with the established practice.

(d) Performance evaluation of the subprogramme for 2008-2009 and beyond and its 2010-2011 strategic framework.

The Bureau supported the expected accomplishments and indicators aimed at evaluating the implementation of the subprogramme in 2008-2009 and strategic framework for 2010 – 2011 proposed by the secretariat. It noted that the second session of CECI was expected to approve the expected accomplishments for 2008-2009 performance evaluations and to review the strategic framework.

#### **Item 4** – Other business

The Bureau members noted that there was no term limit for serving on the Bureau but agreed that it may be appropriate to invite member States to consider the composition of the Bureau after the third session in 2008. If needed, a new Bureau can be elected at the closure of the third session of the Committee (members of the present Bureau may be re-elected if the Committee so decides). It was also agreed that if more member States expressed interest in serving on the Bureau, the number of vice-chairs could be increased. The possibility of enlarging the Bureau to include the Chairs of the CECI's ToSs was also discussed. It was agreed that these ideas would be presented for information of CECI at its second session under the item "Other business".

The Bureau decided to organize its next meeting in the afternoon of 4 December 2007 before the second session of CECI.

The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Government of Finland for its hospitality and excellent arrangements in Helsinki.

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In conjunction with the visit to Helsinki, the Chairman of the Committee organized a meeting of the Bureau with representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. During that meeting, the Bureau had opportunity to listen to informative presentations on the Finnish Industrial and Enterprise Policy as well as on Intellectual Property Regulations and Enforcement in Finland. The Chairman of the Committee also organized a meeting of the Bureau with the President and Senior Vice-President of the Nordic Investment Bank, which is particularly interested in financing projects in the environmental, transport and PPP areas. The presentation of the Bank's activities and the discussion, which followed, contributed to a better understanding of opportunities for future cooperation between the Nordic Investment Bank and UNECE in the area of international cooperation and integration.