

Joining Forces within the CECI Expert Networks



Presentation by Matti Pietarinen, Chairman
of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and
Integration (CECI)

at the joint meeting of TOS-ICP, TOS-IP and the
Committee, Geneva, 29 September 2009

The role of the Teams of Specialists in implementing CECI Programme of Work



- **The third session of CECI (December 2008) adopted the Programme of Work for 2009-2010 and took several important related decisions. The Committee:**
 - Noted with satisfaction the establishment of an active constituency of CECI stakeholders, including business community and expert networks in UNECE Member States.
 - Emphasized the role of the CECI Teams of Specialists as important pillars of CECI activities and expressed gratitude to the Teams, their Bureaus and members for their fruitful contribution to the work under the subprogramme.
 - Recommended a stronger emphasis on capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in the Programme of Work for 2009-2010 and invited members of the Teams of Specialists to continue active contribution to the programme implementation including capacity-building activities.
 - Recommended to apply an integrating approach in policy-oriented and capacity-building activities in view of close interconnectedness and complementarities among some of the CECI focus areas.

Implications for the Work of the Teams in 2009-2010



- Given the increasing focus on capacity-building, it was decided to reduce the amount of policy-oriented and normative work in 2009-2010 compared to the previous programming period.
- Consequently it was suggested that the Teams of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and on Intellectual Property do not have formal meetings in 2009.
- It was also suggested that the CECI Teams work closely together on issues of common interest to achieve a holistic approach to policy issues and further improve synergies
- Members of different Teams were also invited to participate in joint CECI events and activities, in particular in integrated policy-oriented and capacity-building activities

Implications for the Work of the Teams in 2009-2010 (continued)



- The secretariat has started implementing these recommendations from the beginning of the programming cycle
- In 2009 there was already a series of activities and events to this effect, especially between TOS-ICP and TOS-IP
- Several integrated policy-oriented and capacity-building activities (such as those in Astana and Minsk) were already organized and Team members participated in them
- The Survey on the effects of the global crisis among CECI experts undertaken by the secretariat was only possible thanks to contributions by Team members
- This joint informal meeting is also one of the events in this series

Implications for the Work of the Teams in 2009-2010 (continued)



- In view of these recommendations by the Committee, the two Teams of Specialists were not in a position to adopt their own workplans for the programming period 2009-2010
- Instead, the CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 (which was circulated to all Teams' members) will also serve as workplan of the Teams in this period
- The CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 envisages that the two Teams will have their formal meetings in 2010



Specific CECI recommendations for the Work of the Teams in 2009-2010

- **Teams are invited to continue contributing to identifying good practices and policies in their respective areas**
- **Team members are invited to participate actively in upcoming in 2010 integrated policy-oriented and capacity-building activities such as:**
 - International conference on policies to address financing and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms, 20-21 May (Helsinki)
 - Subregional modular cross-thematic training on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners in South-East Europe and/or the Caucasus (location t.b.c.)
 - Subregional capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory framework for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating e-commerce (location t.b.c.).
- **Team members are also invited to contribute to the development of training materials and modules for related capacity-building activities**

Two challenges for the future work of the Teams of Specialists



- An on-going challenge both for the Teams' Chairs and Bureaus and for the secretariat is how to maintain the interest and participation of Team members in CECI and Team activities
- Nominated Team members often change jobs and the new positions may be associated with different professional interests
 - **It might be practical to invite the secretariat to review the membership in the Teams from this point of view, and wherever necessary, to approach member States with a request for new nominations of Team members**