



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 March 2011

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Fourth session

Geneva, 14-15 June 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Renewed Committee on Trade

Conclusions and topics raised at the UNECE / Inter-parliamentary Assembly of EurAsEC joint seminar on Trade Facilitation: Public Private Cooperation and Legal Regulation, Geneva, 8 October 2010

1. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), through its Committee on Trade, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA EurAsEC) organized an international seminar on trade development and facilitation, with a special focus on the Single Window for export and import clearance and legislative cooperation in the EurAsEC region¹. This was the sixth seminar jointly organized by UNECE and EurAsEC, and it built on the experience and results of the seminars, organized by EurAsEC and UNECE in Moscow (2006), Almaty (2007), St. Petersburg (2008 and 2009) and Geneva (2009). The October 2010 seminar focused on the legal and technical aspects of trade development and facilitation.
2. Eighty-four representatives (including 30 women) took part in the seminar from: EurAsEC States' Parliaments; Customs agencies; ministries of economy and trade; permanent missions of UNECE member States; the business and academic communities, and international experts.
3. A meeting of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of EurAsEC preceded the seminar. It was organized in Geneva with the objective of directly using UNECE standards and tools for trade development and facilitation in future work on legislative harmonization in the EurAsEC countries.
4. Several presentations reviewed the first year of experience of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.
5. Participants in the seminar reviewed progress in developing trade legislation after the creation of the Customs Union. The discussion focused on the prerequisites for building

¹ EurAsEC member States include : Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia Federations, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

an enabling environment for: the Single Window; border-crossing facilitation at the borders of the Customs Union; electronic declaration; regulatory issues in electronic commerce; electronic documents and digital signatures. They reviewed the experience of developing Single Window systems in the European Union and the possibilities for implementation in the EurAsEC countries. Several presenters reviewed the experience Customs Union member States in acceding to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Revised Kyoto Convention).

6. The participants discussed two new issues for the cooperation between UNECE and EurAsEC, with a view to including them in the IPA EurAsEC work on legislative harmonization in new legislation, which is aligned with international best practice and standards in the EurAsEC countries. These new issues were: risk management in the implementation of standards and regulations; and agricultural quality standards, which could be included in the legal framework of the EurAsEC countries as a means to enhance their export potential.

7. The executive secretaries of UNECE and IPA EurAsEC, Messrs Ján Kubiš and Petr Zverev, opened the meeting. Four sessions were held and covered the following issues:

(a) Trade Procedures and Facilitation: International experience and the experience of the countries participating in the Customs Union of EurAsEC;

(b) Developing a Single Window for the Simplification of both External and Mutual Trade Procedures in the Eurasian Economic Community: Legal and Technical Aspects;

(c) Managing Risks through Standards and Regulations;

(d) Mainstreaming Agricultural Quality Standards into National Legislative Mechanisms.

8. The recommendations of the seminar focused on the following issues:

- Parliamentarians, Customs and other representatives from the EurAsEC countries should take into account the materials of the seminar, including: UNECE Recommendations 33, 34, and 35, as well as standards for information exchange, and norms and standards of other international organizations, in their future work on building Single Window systems in their countries.
- UNECE and EurAsEC should cooperate on these issues, notably in the process of building common trade procedures and establishing a Single Window system in the EurAsEC Customs Union.
- The next joint seminar on this issue should be co-organized with the Commission of the Customs Union in Moscow in April 2011.
- The parliamentarians and other representatives of EurAsEC countries will consider possibilities for including risk management and agricultural quality standards in their work plans for new and amended legislation.
- IPA EurAsEC will publish the materials of this joint UNECE-EurAsEC seminar.

9. The agenda (in Russian and English), presentations and the list of participants are published on the UNECE website:

http://www.unece.org/trade/workshop/2010_Geneva/welcome.html

10. The Committee on Trade may wish to incorporate the results of this seminar, as reflected in the materials and discussions with the IPA EurAsEC secretariat, in its programme of work and demand-driven areas of cooperation.

11. For more information, please contact Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE
Trade: tel.: +41 22 9171134; fax: +41 22 9170037; e-mail: mario.apostolov@unece.org
