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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
Eighth session, 23-27 May 2005  
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (CTIED)  
PROPOSAL FOR THE CTIED 2006 FORUM  
SUGGESTED TOPIC FOR THE CTIED 2007 FORUM**

**DOCUMENT FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

Based on the Committee's approval during its 2004 session of a 2006 forum on the general topic of regulatory cooperation, to be organized by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), the Bureau is submitting the following draft programme developed in cooperation with WP.6. This is for the Committee to discuss and provide its comments.

*Proposal for the 2007 Forum*

At its February 2005 session, the Bureau agreed to submit to the Committee for its approval, the following topic for the Committee's 2007 Forum: The impact of the results from WTO Doha Development Round Negotiations on the Committee's work and, particularly, on Trade Facilitation. A more precise title and description will be submitted to the Committee for its comments at the 2006 session. This Forum would be organized jointly with the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), which is a subsidiary body of the Committee.

**2006 Forum**  
**Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)**

**REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD**  
**- CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS -**

**Introduction**

3. The globalization of business operations and the growing involvement of companies in international trade are the most striking features of today's world economy.
4. As trade becomes increasingly international, obstacles to international trade become increasingly apparent. For instance, the relevant importance for companies of non-tariff barriers is growing in the form of different technical regulations and standards in different markets. Significant differences between national and international standards are also making it more difficult for local companies to sell in foreign markets.
5. For the UNECE region, which is comprised of several subregional economic groupings, the importance of approximating legal, regulatory, standards, environmental frameworks environment is obvious.
6. One of the major tasks of the UNECE's Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) is to promote trade and economic integration in the region; hence, the Committee's interest in regulatory cooperation and standardization.
7. In this context, the purpose of the 2006 Forum is threefold:
  - (1) To look into current developments in regulatory and standardization areas in the UNECE region and to identify related problems and concerns in trans-European and trans-Atlantic cooperation
  - (2) To receive an update on regulatory cooperation tendencies in other regions and on good regulatory practices elaborated by governments and international organizations
  - (3) To provide an overview of relevant UNECE activities and, in this context, pinpoint possible synergies and further intra-sectoral activities in this area that could be undertaken by UNECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs) and Subsidiary Bodies (SBs).
8. This Forum will look both into general standardization and regulatory framework issues, as well as into sectoral developments, with the objective of encouraging a "level-playing field" for all economic operators and eliminating technical obstacles to trade.
9. The idea and concept of the Forum also stems from the Committee's discussions on cross-sectoral and intra-disciplinary matters. Thus, the Forum will present and analyze the relevance of regulatory cooperation, in the context of globalizing international trade, for all UNECE legal instruments, standards-setting and regulatory activities, and not just those developed directly under the Committee. As a result, these issues will be examined in a variety of sectors including: agricultural quality standards, trade facilitation and transport standards, technical regulations for vehicles, environmental and policy recommendations, etc. The purpose of these discussions will be to promote the least possible restrictive practices/regimes for trade, and especially in those areas where the UNECE has special expertise.

10. To accomplish this, all interested UNECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies will be invited to present relevant activities and approaches to the regulatory and standardization frameworks underlying their work. One possible result of this discussion, may be recommendations for future UNECE approaches in this area.

11. A draft programme for the Forum can be found in annex.

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## ANNEX

### DRAFT FORUM PROGRAMME

#### Opening session

Welcome remarks from the UNECE Executive Secretary

Introductory remarks from the UNECE CTIED chairman

#### **Session I**     **International and regional regulatory approaches/models**

1.            Regulatory model of the European Union  
Presentation from the European Commission
2.            Regulatory approaches in North America  
Presentation from the USA
3.            Changes in the regulatory framework in Central Europe  
Presentation from (*to be determined*)
4.            Regulatory activities in the CIS region  
Presentation from the CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Certification and Metrology
5.            Regulatory and trade reform in the Balkan region  
Presentation from (*to be determined*)

Discussions

#### **Session II**     **Good regulatory practices and experiences in other regions**

1.            UNECE “International Model for Technical Harmonization”  
Presentation from WP.6 Chairman
2.            WTO principles on good regulatory and standards-setting practices  
Presentation from the WTO
3.            OECD work on regulatory reform and market openness  
Presentation from the OECD
4.            Regulatory and standardization activities between APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) countries  
Presentation from APEC
5.            Toward regulatory/standardization cooperation in Africa  
Presentation from (*to be determined*)

Discussions

**Session III UNECE legal instruments and contribution to regulatory convergence**

The session will present the UNECE regulatory and standardization activities in:

- (a) Trade  
Overview from the Chair of the CTIED Committee
- (b) Transport  
Overview from the chair of the Transport Committee
- (c) Environment  
Overview from the chair of the Environment Committee
- (d) Energy  
Overview from the chair of the Energy Committee

Discussions

**Session IV Role of UNECE legal instruments in trade and economic integration I UNECE region**

**Round table/brainstorming session with the participation of the main speakers**

Discussions

**Session V Conclusions and Recommendations**

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