Facilitating trade through regulatory cooperation

Lorenza Jachia
Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation
13 December, 2015
UNECE WP. 6

What we are:
• Intergovernmental body
• Participation by: authorities, regional & int’l org, standards-setting bodies, business, certification bodies, test houses, civil society
• From all UN Member States
• 1970 – 2015: 45+ years

Our mandate:
• ☑ Standardization ☑ Technical regulations ☑ Conformity assessment ☑ Accreditation ☑ Metrology ☑ Market surveillance ☑ Risk Management
• ☑ Education on standards and standards related issues

Our activities
• Develop and share info & best practice
• Capacity-building (trainings and awareness-raising events)
• Develop and maintain a set of recommendations
• Implement a set of initiatives on specific industrial sectors
Recent examples of WP. 6 activities

- December 2015 – WSC workshop on conformity assessment
- March 2015: Standards for Disaster Risk Reduction (event of the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan)
Recommendation L: from harmonization of technical requirements to common regulatory systems

- Approved by UNECE in 2001 – revised November 2015
- Recommendation L sets out a model for regulatory cooperation that is comprehensive and includes both pre- and post-market dimensions:
  - Common technical requirements
  - Reference to international standards as the basis for the technical requirements
  - Provision on how compliance shall be demonstrated. This may include reference to plurilateral certification schemes
Recommendation L has helped regulatory practices converge

- 4 sectoral initiatives underway
- Drives down trade costs and reduces time to market, increasing the competitiveness of local industry
- Ensures that the products are safe and efficient, minimizes the risk to property and persons, contributes to environmental conservation and public health
- Reference to standards and to international conformity assessment schemes help regulatory authorities save resources, and take advantage of existing expertise
Lessons learnt: Advantages from regulatory cooperation: pre-market

- Challenge for regulators is to go beyond harmonization of regulations and standards
- Towards the international harmonization of regulatory systems, including through the increased use of conformity assessment schemes
- Avoid duplication of testing and enhancing the competitiveness of the industry
Lessons learnt:
Cooperation among regulators: post-market dimension

Standards help define “how dangerous” is the product/service/equipment

Conformity assessment helps control for probability of non-compliance
Cooperation in conformity assessment and market surveillance to increase probability of compliance

Internationally aligned conformity assessment improves the probability of compliance for a regulator by:

- Improving the methodology of the assessment by involving a wide range of expertise
- Improving the quality of accreditation of the assessment agencies
- Improving the ongoing monitoring of the assessments by having a wider pool of agencies using the assessments
- Reliably reporting failures so that in-market action can be taken.
Risk management: Foundation of regulatory cooperation work in UNECE WP. 6

- Regulatory cooperation needs to start from a common appreciation of the risks that products and production processes pose to consumers, communities and citizens.

- UNECE model is a novel and holistic approach to managing risks in regulatory frameworks based on international standards (specifically ISO 31000).

- How to, hands on approach with many examples, case studies, walk through solutions.

- Field work: In cooperation with UNIDO workshops in Nigeria and in Malawi.
Issues for further discussion:

- Standards-based regulatory cooperation
- Role of standards and quality infrastructure in the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development
- Management of risks as a foundation for regulatory cooperation
Thank you

Lorenza Jachia
Secretary, Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.)
Lorenza.jachia@unece.org