Minutes from UNECE “Telecom Initiative” meeting

Time 25 November 2004
Place UNECE, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Welcome remarks from the Telecom task force chairman and “tour de table”

1. Mr. Nuno Encarnação, Chairman of the Telecom Initiative, welcomed the delegates to the meeting of the Telecom Initiative Task Force. The agenda was adopted in its revision 1 which is pasted as an annex to this document.

Results of the Working Party 6 and START activities and WP.6 discussions/decisions on related regulatory convergence projects

2. The results from WP.6 are given in the report of the WP.6. There was no specific item for the Telecom Initiative not included on the agenda.

Activity report

3. The activity report from July (embedded in the agenda) was noted. Further items in the agenda updated the status of the project.

Public relations and promotion of the project

(a) Revised Telecom Initiative web page and new (e-) working tools

4. The web-layout was discussed and a number of improvements agreed, to enhance the visibility of the project. They will be soon implemented by the Secretariat.

5. A new mailing list based on new automatic tools will active within some months; it will facilitate discussions among members and be the reference list of members for the Telecom Task Force.

(b) Relations/contacts European Commission

6. A dedicated Annex to the agenda contains information about the activities of the European Commission in relation to the Telecom Initiative. It was noted that there is an expressed recognition and promotion of the UNECE International Model and the Telecom Initiative.

(c) Relations/contacts with Eastern & Southern European States

7. A dedicated Annex to the agenda lists activities in Eastern and Southern European States related to alignment of regulations. This led to an action (see item e of the agenda) on the Secretariat in collaboration with the WP6 chairman to inform the Authorities concerned that TTF is active in the
area of one of the European Directives identified in the table of the relevant document (link offered in the agenda).

(d) Relations/contacts with other UNECE States and States from other regions

8. A dedicated Annex to the agenda lists papers related to the possibility of furthering the reduction of trade barriers internationally by suggesting collaboration between UNECE Telecom Initiative and WTO, in particular its Committees for Technical Barriers to Trade and the Committee in charge of the sectoral Information Technology Agreement.

(e) New actions proposed to enhance the results of the group

9. The TTF chairman will participate in the WTO-ITU meeting 2 December and inform about the UNECE Telecom Initiative under the agenda point “Examples of regional regulatory activities”.

10. The meeting agreed that the UNECE secretariat and the TTF chairman establish contacts with WTO officials responsible for the Information Technology sector.

11. A letter will be sent to the CIS countries engaged in discussion with EU inviting them to use the UNECE model. In case CIS countries adopt EU legislation the model would be useful in their international discussions.

12. The meeting also agreed to focus on inter-regional contacts under the guidance of the WP6 and their officials. It was also agreed to give priority to initiatives addressing policy makers and to offer the support of the Telecom Initiative experts based on the experience they have in relation to the Telecom CRO’s.

New and old CRO’s

13. It was noted that the CRO’s are unchanged since last meeting. The latest drafts are available on the web. They can be considered stable at present but may need some small updates. This will be made only if necessary and after a number of interested partners will be available for further discussions.

Programme of work

14. Links need to be established with the other UN regional Commissions (similar to UNECE).

15. It was noted that contacts need to be taken at sufficiently high political level.

Other business

16. There was no other subject identified and Mr Encarnação closed the meeting.

Annex 1: adopted agenda
Annex 1: Approved agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Working Party 6-WP.6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“UNECE TELECOM INITIATIVE”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting of the UN ECE Telecom Task Force (TTF)**
(25 November 2004 Geneva, Palais des Nations, meeting room F.3)

The meeting will start at 9.30 a.m. and is expected to terminate by 4.30 p.m. Lunch break is planned from 12.30 to 2:00 p.m.

Delegates are reminded that in order to get access to the Palais des Nations, they need security badges which will be prepared by the UNECE secretariat on the basis of the received (at least two weeks before the meeting) registrations forms.

**Provisional agenda revision 1** (adopted during the meeting)

1) Welcome remarks from the TTF chairman and “tour de table” (introduction of new participants)

2) Results of the Working Party 6 and START activities and WP.6 discussions/decisions on related regulatory convergence projects

3) Activity report:

   Note: Links within the attached documents may be obsolete. The Corresponding sources can be found: [http://www.unece.org/trade/ctied/wp6/sectoral/telecom/tele_h.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/ctied/wp6/sectoral/telecom/tele_h.htm)

   20040701repT1.doc

4) Public relations and promotion of the project

   i. Revised [Telecom Initiative web page](http://www.unece.org/trade/ctied/wp6/sectoral/telecom/tele_h.htm) and new (e-) working tools
   ii. [Relations/contacts CEU](#)
   iii. Relations/contacts with [Relations/contacts with Eastern & Southern European States](#)
   iv. Relations/contacts with other UNECE States and States from other regions
   v. [New actions proposed](#) to enhance the results of the group

   20040913TI-Position.doc

5) New and old [CRO Proposals](#) (available on the web):

   Interested Countries should subscribe CROs

6) Proposals for moderators (rapporteurs) responsible for coordination of work on preparation of individual CROs

7) Programme of work
8) Other business

The global and regional (European) dimensions

The ICT sector is linked to one of the most important infrastructures and the associated developments are increasingly global.

New technologies are deployed rapidly in a growing number of countries. The lack of coordination with the most direct partner countries and the insufficient understanding of all the implications of those new technologies is likely to result in major risks for citizens, administrations and for the legitimate national interests.

UN ECE was recognised by the Commission of the EU:

- In its 1st report on the R&TTE Directive, in clause 4:

- In the letter (July 2004) from CEU Commissionaire Liikanen:

- In the CEU communication on standardisation policy adopted on 18 October 2004

- Associated information is available on:

From the above documents can be easily understood that CEU sees in the global standards activity a central policy tool and counts (among other organisations) on UN ECE to approach the global market challenges. It is for National Administrations therefore a chance to be directly involved in these projects.

The activity report presented in agenda item 3 includes a document present to TCAM IA (the subgroup for International Affairs of the EU commission Committee for the application of the R&TTE Directive) summarising the UN ECE TTF activity.
Annex to Agenda item 4(c): Relations/contacts with Eastern & Southern European States

The following document is important to understand the recent development in this region:

The table in document WP6_04_4e on EU directives application refers to one directive within the scope of activity UN ECE WP6 Telecom Initiative:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>TITLE OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MODEL OF TECHNICAL REGULATION</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>LEAD TIME</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Requirements for telecommunications equipment (Directive 1999/5/EC)*</td>
<td>BY, KZ, KG, MD, RU, TJ</td>
<td>BY</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The application of Directive 1999/5/EC is related to the Directives:

Annex to Agenda item 4(d): Relations/contacts with other UN ECE States and States from other regions

The following documents promoted UN ECE activity:

![Regulatory convergence - The case](image1.png)  ![PerDofnas_Presentation.ppt](image2.png)
Annex to Agenda item 4(e): New actions proposed to enhance the results of the group

The following actions are proposed to be studied, discussed and appropriate decisions taken:

- UN ECE Secretariat/ WP6 chairman will evaluate the opportunity to prepare a letter to WTO informing about TI, underlining our common interests and the importance of having alternative approaches, and asking for active collaboration

- As an answer to Eastern and Southern European table with the application of the EU directives (document WP6_04_4e), UN ECE Secretariat/ WP6 chairman will inform all the relevant Administrations that TTF welcomes the approach described in the document and that the implementation of the CRO’s developed in UN ECE WP6 Telecom Initiative facilitate and enhance the tasks associated to the regulatory regime for ICT equipment (Directive 1999/5/EC)

- The best way to continue the contacts with UN countries should be decided; an earlier letter sent to countries’ representatives, received a small number of answers