



**NATIONS UNIES**  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
POUR L'EUROPE

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**Annex 3 to document TRADE/WP6/2003/16/add.2**

**Terms of Reference for The UNECE “Telecom Task Force”**

(Adopted by the Working Party at its thirteenth session, 10-12 November 2003)

**Establishment of the Telecom Task Force**

The establishment of a Task Force to implement the UNECE “Telecom Initiative” project was proposed at the telecom meeting with public authorities held in Geneva on 24 and 25 May 2003. The “Telecom Initiative” project had been prepared under the auspices of the Team of Specialists on STandardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team). It was presented to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) at its twelfth session (October 2003). The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization (WP.6) expressed general support for the initiative. It was subsequently presented to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprises Development at its seventh session (May 2003). The Committee endorsed continued work on it.

**Objectives of the Telecom Task Force**

The Telecom Task Force, established within the activities of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization (WP.6), aims to create conditions conducive to the development and promotion of global trade and economic cooperation

The specific purpose of the Task Force is to develop common regulatory objectives (CROs) for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) products that will constitute agreements between interested countries on regulatory convergence in support of legitimate requirements and resulting in greater open market access.

The Task Force will handle questions related to Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Information Technology, in particular on equipment and associated services, including such questions when they are included in to regulatory project initiatives that might be initiated in other sectors under the UNECE Recommendation “L”.

The Task Force will work closely with the “START” Team to implement the “Telecom Initiative”, launched by the “START” Team. The “START” Team will provide to the Task Force, when required, assistance and guidance on policy matters for its work according to the “International Model for technical harmonization based on good regulatory practice for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations via the use of international standards”.

## **Composition of the Telecom Task Force: membership and participation in its meetings**

The Task Force comprises experts with the collective expertise to address the specific task defined for it.

It is formed by members who are experts and representatives from national authorities of countries wishing to collaborate actively in the measures and agreements under study. It may include experts and representatives not only from countries in the UNECE region but also from other interested UN Member States. It may work with international organizations, as well as representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as observers.

The Task Force can establish teams of experts to prepare sub-projects requiring specific expertise.

The Task Force will agree on its own working procedures.

The UNECE secretariat will provide the necessary support and guidance to the Task Force and its teams within available resources.

### **Reporting**

The Task Force shall report to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) and regularly inform the “START” Team of its work.

The Task Force’s terms of reference and duration of work will be reviewed regularly by the Working Party in accordance with UNECE rules and procedures

The Task Force works on the understanding that final recommendations and proposals from the Task Force will be submitted for decision to WP.6.

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