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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization and
Standardization Policies

INFORMATION NOTICE

**WORKSHOP ON STANDARDIZATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT
MATTERS IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES**

12-13 December 2001, Bratislava, Slovakia

1. This Information Notice provides details concerning the organization of and participation in the Workshop on Standardization and Conformity Assessment Matters in Transition Economies to be held on 12 and 13 December 2001 at Bratislava. It includes the provisional programme and registration forms.
2. The Workshop is being organized under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, at the invitation of the Government of Slovakia. It was proposed and accepted during the tenth session of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (November 2000).

Objectives of the Workshop

3. The purpose of the Workshop is to promote an exchange of views, experience and information between countries with different levels of development in the use of technical regulation, standardization and associated conformity assessment procedures, policies, and techniques. It is intended to promote awareness and better understanding of regulatory and conformity assessment regimes in various countries and to promote wider cooperation between countries in the UNECE region.
4. A further objective is to encourage the use of best practices and principles identified at the Workshop as a means for introducing regulatory, standardization and conformity assessment approaches that also would facilitate international trade and cooperation

GE. 01-32519

Place and date of the Workshop

5. The Workshop will be held on 12 and 13 December 2001 in the conference room of the SUZA complex (SUZA is an abbreviation which stands for the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) at Drotarska street, 6, Bratislava, starting on 12 December at 10:00 a.m.. On-site registration will take place beginning at 08:30 that morning at the conference site.

Participation

6. Participation in the Workshop is open to all interested persons and particularly representatives from UNECE member countries, intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations and enterprises from central and eastern Europe. Participants are responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses. No fee is charged for taking part in UNECE workshops.

7. Accommodation has been arranged at the Conference hotel at special rates, so delegates are asked to arrange their accommodation in consultation with the contact person at SUTN (see paragraph 14).

8. Details about the SUZA complex can be found on its website at: www.suza.sk

Documentation

9. At preparatory meetings for the Workshop held in Geneva it was decided to invite all delegations from UNECE member countries to disseminate information on the Workshop as widely as possible. Thus delegations are requested to provide copies of this Information Notice to as many potentially interested participants in their countries and organizations as possible.

10. The official languages of the Workshop are English and Russian, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided for both these languages and Slovak. Papers presented at the Workshop will be provided to all participants but in the original language only (English or Russian).

11. If you are arriving in Bratislava by air, you can either take a taxi and go directly to the SUZA complex or you can take public transport (bus N°. 61 from the airport to the Main Station “Hlavna stanica” and change to N°. 41 to “Safranova” which is about 100m from SUZA complex.

12. If you arrive by car, you should know that the SUZA complex is close to the Bratislava Castle.

13. If you are arriving in Vienna, then at Vienna’s “Schwechat” airport you should take the bus that goes to Bratislava. Its timetable is the following: 8:55, 12:55, 13:55, 15:55, 17:25, 18:55, 19:55, 22:25. This bus arrives at the bus station in Bratislava “Autobusova stanica Mlynske Nivy” from which you could take a taxi or go by public transport trolleybus N°. 210 to the Railway station “Hlavna stanica” and change to bus N°. 41 to “Safranova” and walk about 100m to the SUZA complex.

14. For information about accommodation, technical and administrative questions please contact the Organizing Committee of the Bratislava workshop:

Contact person: Mrs. Lubica Pernecka, SUTN,
Telephone: +421 2 6029 4589
Fax: +421 2 6541 1888
e-mail: pernecka@sutn.gov.sk

or UNECE secretariat

Contact person: Mr. Serguei Kouzmine
Secretary to the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization
Policies
Telephone: +41 22 917 2771/917 5175
Fax: +41 22 971 0479
e-mail: serguei.kouzmine@unece.org

Provisional Programme

15. The Provisional Programme of the Workshop is set out below:

DAY 1, 12 December 2001

08:30 On-site registration

Opening session

- 10.00 - 10.10 Opening of the Workshop
Mrs. Maria Kadlecikova, Vice-Premier for European Integration, Government of Slovakia
- 10.10 - 10.20 UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies and its
assistance to countries in transition
Mr. Christer Arvius, Chairman, Working Party 6
- 10.20 - 10.40 UNECE Standard-setting Activities
- Mr. Serguei Kouzmine, Secretary, Working Party 6
- 10.40 - 11.00 Slovakia's transition reforms and integration into the world economy
- Mr. Dusan Podhorsky, President, Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing

Session 1: Views on regulatory cooperation, standardization and conformity assessment cooperation - the global dimension

- 11.00 - 11.30 EU external trade policy with regard to regulatory cooperation, standardization and
conformity assessment
Presentation by the European Commission
- 11.30 - 12.00 Industry views on the need for global cooperation to eliminate technical obstacles to trade
Dr. Thomas Fischer, Siemens (Germany) and representative of ICSCA (Industry
Cooperation on Standards and Conformity Assessment)
- 12.00 - 12.30 Development of Conformity Assessment –international approaches
Mr. Lucien Tronel, AFNOR, France
- 12.30 - 13.00 Questions and discussions
- 13.00 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Session 1 (continued)

- 14.30 - 15.00 Development of International standards, guides and recommendations - their role in facilitating trade; follow-up on country's approaches to their transposition and use
Dr. Christian Favre, Assistant Secretary General, International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

Session 2: Implementation and administration of the WTO/TBT Agreement; The need for efficient regulatory infrastructures and good regulatory practices

- 15.00 - 16.00 WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
Results of the second Triennial Review
Speaker from WTO
Presentation of the implementation in Slovakia
Speaker from Slovakia
Presentation of the implementation in EU and its member states
Speaker from an EU Member State
- 16.00 - 16.20 **Coffee break**
- 16.20 - 17.00 Creation of a regulatory infrastructure on a country level to implement regulatory objectives and to enhance international cooperation (distribution of tasks and functions between Ministries; Tasks and functions of other national or private bodies)
Presentation on the developments in Slovakia
- 17.00 - 17.30 Questions and discussions

Day 2, 13 December 2001

Session 3: The need for further trade facilitation efforts - Different trade policy instruments – The development of international regulatory cooperation

Presentations from business operators

(During this sub-session a number of detailed presentations and case studies will be provided to give an idea of actual problems faced by companies in different sectors due to various regulatory and conformity assessment regimes and their views on possibilities of facilitating trade)

- 09.00 - 09.20 Presentation by an international company
Mr. Jozsef Uhrik, Chief Representative of the Administrative Board, "Volkswagen Slovakia joint stock company"
- 09.20 - 09.40 Presentation by a national company (Slovakia)
- 09.40 - 10.00 Presentation by a national company (eastern Europe)

Presentations from public authorities on different trade policy instruments

- 10.00 - 10.30 Mutual recognition agreements - their role today and tomorrow
Mrs. Marie-Christine Poncin, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry (France)
- 10.30 – 10.50 Mutual recognition agreements in the private sector
Mr. John McDonald, European Organization for Conformity Assessment (EOTC)
- 10.50 - 11.20 Regulatory convergence –UNECE project “International Model for technical harmonization”
Mr. Christer Arvius, Chairman, Working Party 6
- 11.20 - 11.35 **Coffee break**

Concluding Session

- 11.35 - 11.50 Assessment and draft conclusions of the Workshop
Mr. Dusan Podhorsky, President, Slovak Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing
- 11.50 – 12.35 Discussions on the conclusions and possible follow-up
- 12.35 Closing of the Workshop

Annex I**REGISTRATION FORM A*****Workshop on Standardization and Conformity Assessment Matters in the Transition Economies
Bratislava (Slovakia), 12-13 December 2001***

Each participant should send the completed registration form as soon as possible but not later than 4 December 2001 to:

Trade and Investment Promotion Section
Trade Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations 433-1
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 2771
Fax: +41 22 917 0479

(Please type or write legibly!)

Family name: (Mr./ Ms.)	
First name:	
Nationality	Position/Occupation:
Company or Organization:	
Professional address:	
Telephone (incl. country code)	Fax (incl. country code):
e-mail address:	
Please indicate the language in which you would prefer to receive documents:	English Russian
Please indicate the topic(s) of the Workshop in which you are especially interested, and in which you may take part in the discussion:	
Date	Signature:

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Annex II**REGISTRATION FORM B*****Workshop on Standardization and Conformity Assessment Matters in the Transition Economies-
Bratislava (Slovakia), 12-13 December 2001***

Each participant should send the completed registration form as soon as possible but not later than 4 December 2001 to:

Organizing Committee for Bratislava Workshop
Attention: Mrs. Lubica Pernecka, SUTN,
Telephone: +421-2-6029 4589
Fax: +421-2-6541 1888
e-mail: pernecka@sutn.gov.sk

(Please type or write legibly!)

Family name: (Mr./Ms.)	
First name:	
Nationality	Position/Occupation:
Company or Organization:	
Professional address:	
Telephone (incl. country code)	Fax (incl. country code):
e-mail address:	

I shall require a hotel room	From (arrival date)	To (departure date)
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Participants of certain nationalities will require a visa to enter and leave Slovakia. If that is the case for you, please indicate this by placing a check in the box here :

(If this box is checked, the Organizing Committee can arrange that a visa can be issued to you free of charge at the Slovak Embassy / Consul-General in (please indicate city of Consul-General office). Notification must be received in Bratislava before 30 November 2001).

Please indicate the language in which you would prefer to receive documents:	English	Russian
Please indicate the topic(s) of the Workshop in which you are especially interested, and in which you may take part in the discussion:		
Date	Signature:	

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