ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies
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Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda

Comments on the Draft Proposal for “An International Model for Technical Harmonisation based on Good Regulatory Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Technical Regulations via the use of International Standards”

This document contains a copy of a letter addressed to UNECE from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regarding the UNECE project on “International Model for Technical Harmonization”

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GE. 01-32394
Dear Dr. Hübner

I am writing in response to your letter of 12 July 2001 to Secretary-General Utsumi concerning Cooperation between ITU and UNECE on Technical Harmonization Matters.

This issue of technical standards is relevant to the work of two ITU sectors; ITU-T (Standardization) and ITU-R (Radiocommunications) and they have both carefully studied the contents of your letter.

With respect to the Standardization sector, it appears that ITU-T Study Group 5, which deals with Protection against electromagnetic environment effects, has developed Recommendations that may be pertinent to areas addressed by the results of your ad-hoc team of specialists on Standardization and regulatory techniques (START). In addition, it should be noted that ITU-T standardization development is based on contributions received from ITU-T Members (Member States and Sector Members) as well as input from other recognized standardization organizations.

At this time, the ITU-T would like to mention the following further considerations:

- while ITU-T Recommendations are non-binding texts and developed to provide harmonized technical platforms for interworking between networks and/or network elements, they may be taken as a technical basis for national regulations,

- your proposal may be forwarded by the secretariat of the Standardization Bureau (TSB) for discussion and comment in relevant ITU-T Study Groups. In such cases, an explanatory note from your organization would be welcomed to better understand the context,

- the presence of a liaison expert from UNECE during those ITU-T Study Group meetings would be valuable and helpful in providing a more appropriate reply.

With respect to the ITU-T, if you need further information, please contact: Mr. Georges Sebek (Tel: +41 22 730 5994; Fax: +41 22 730 5853; e-mail: sebek@itu.int).
Let me turn next to the Radiocommunication Sector.

The ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) has already established informal contacts with the relevant UN/ECE Working Party, by participating in one of its meetings. In these discussions it appeared that areas of common interest could be further studied by encouraging attendance of UN/ECE WP participants to some ITU-R Study Group meetings. To this purpose it would then be desirable if the UN/ECE WP Secretariat could coordinate such attendance with Mr. Giuliano Rossi, Head of ITU/BR Study Group Department in view of the forthcoming meetings of some ITU-R Study Groups in the forthcoming months. The contact information for Mr. Rossi is [Tel: +41 22 7305913; Fax: +41 22 730 5806; e-mail: giuliano.rossi@itu.int].

In closing, let me also indicate my appreciation for your expression of support for the World Summit on the Information Society.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Arthur B. Levin
Chief, a.i., Coordination, External Relations
and Communication Units