ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies
Twelfth session, 28-30 October 2002

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
(including the provisional programme for the Forum on Market Surveillance)

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 28 October 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda
   TRADE/WP.6/2002/1

2. Election of officers

3. Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe and from the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

4. Forum on Market Surveillance
   TRADE/WP.6/2002/2

5. Review of developments in standardization activities and in the field of regulatory cooperation at international, regional and national levels
   TRADE/WP.6/2002/3

Documents for the twelfth session can be found on the Internet at: http://www.unece.org/trade/stdpol
For registration information please see annex 2.

GE.02-31574
6. Coordination
   - ECE Standardization List
     ECE/STAND/20/Rev.5
     TRADE/WP.6/2002/4

7. Harmonization
   (a) Role of international standards in international harmonization.
       ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/5
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/6
   (b) UNECE Recommendation “L” – “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”
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/7
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/8

8. Conformity assessment
   (a) Review of developments in conformity assessment at international, regional and national levels
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/9
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/10
   (b) Problems experienced by economies in transition relating to conformity assessment procedures
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/11
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/12
   (c) Policy issues regarding quality assurance
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/13
       TRADE/WP.6/2002/14
   (d) UNECE Expert Meeting on How to Become a Supplier of Large National and Transnational Corporations
       OPA.AC/30.1

9. Metrology
   - Standardization of test methods
     TRADE/WP.6/2002/15
     TRADE/WP.6/2001/16
     TRADE/WP.6/2000/16
     TRADE/WP.6/1999/15

10. Programme of work
    TRADE/WP.6/2002/16

11. Other business

12. Adoption of the report

    * * *
RegistratDelegations are kindly requested to take note of the following provisional timetable for the discussion of agenda items.

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ANNOTATIONS

Introduction

1. The provisional agenda has been drawn up by the secretariat on the basis of: (a) the programme of work of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies; (b) the relevant discussions or decisions adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe at its fifty-seventh session in May 2002, the Working Party at its eleventh session (October 2001), the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development at its sixth session (May 2002); and (c) the agreements reached by the Working Party 6 Bureau (office bearers, coordinators and rapporteurs) at its meeting in Geneva in March 2002.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

2. In accordance with the Commission’s rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

Item 2 Election of officers

3. In accordance with the Commission’s rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party is expected to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. It is recalled that Mr. C. ARVIUS (Sweden), Mr. V. KORESKOV (Belarus) and Ms. M. SAUNDERS (United States of America) were re-elected as Chairman and vice-chairpersons, respectively, at the eleventh session.

Item 3 - Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe and from the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

4. The secretariat will report orally on the discussions held or decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session and on the results of the discussions during the sixth session of the Committee. The report of the sixth session of the Committee will be made available to delegations.
Item 4 Forum on Market Surveillance

5. At its eleventh session, the Working Party discussed problems of conformity assessment in the countries in transition and in this context a number of delegations expressed their interest in organizing an information exchange on market surveillance issues. Similar interest was expressed also during the UNECE Workshop on Standardization and Conformity Assessment Matters in Transition Economies held in Bratislava in December 2001.

6. The purpose of the Forum is to present national experiences on market surveillance systems and practices with a view to ensuring, on an appropriate basis, the fulfilment of legitimate objectives such as the protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, or the environment. The sectors or products to be discussed in detail during the Forum will include electrical household appliances, machinery (for private and professional use) and cosmetics.

7. The Forum will provide an opportunity to:
   • exchange views on different experiences concerning market surveillance systems and practices;
   • clarify the differences between conformity assessment procedures (pre-market control) and market surveillance activities;
   • discuss the respective roles and functions of market surveillance authorities, conformity assessment bodies and consumer organizations;
   • identify good practices to be followed in market surveillance activities.

8. Representatives of regulatory and market surveillance authorities, international, regional and national bodies involved in standardization and conformity assessment activities, consumers and business associations will be invited to take part in the discussions (provisional programme of the Forum is attached as annex 1 to this document). Recommendations from the Forum will be presented to the Working Party for consideration and approval.

9. As background documents for this agenda item, the Working Party will have the provisional agenda of the Forum (TRADE/WP.6/2002/2), as well as submissions and presentations on national experiences.

Item 5 Review of developments in standardization activities and in the field of regulatory cooperation at international, regional and national levels

10. National delegations, international and regional organizations, the European Commission and the Commonwealth of Independent States are invited to report on their standardization and regulatory activities. In so far as such information is available sufficiently in advance of the meeting, it will be issued as document TRADE/WP.6/2002/3.
Item 6  Coordination

ECE Standardization List

11. It is recalled that after discussions at its eleventh session, the Working Party adopted the fifth revised version of the ECE Standardization List (TRADE/WP.6/2001/4). The Working Party at its current session will have before it the revised List (ECE/STAND/20/Rev.5).

12. It is recalled that at its tenth session, the Working Party agreed on the proposal of the Rapporteur on Coordination to select one sub-area from the List, namely “Environmental protection: environmental management”, and to conduct an in-depth study of government participation in the standardization work and also of national adoption/implementation of the resulting standards.

13. Such information was provided to the eleventh session by delegations of the Czech Republic and Sweden (document TRADE/WP.6/2001/5). The Working Party considered this submission, found it useful and requested other delegations to submit such information to the secretariat.

14. Such submissions will be analysed and compiled by the Rapporteur on Coordination in document TRADE/WP.6/2002/4, together with any proposals for possible further action.

Item 7  Harmonization

(a) Role of international standards in international harmonization

15. The Working Party will have before it a new edition of the UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies (ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4).

16. It is recalled that at the tenth and eleventh sessions, delegations discussed the importance of the use of international standards in member countries and of having access to information regarding transposition of standards at a national level. In this context, it had been suggested that national organizations and/or central government bodies which are members of international and regional standardizing organizations and which vote for the adoption of standards or recommendations should consider the possibility of taking on obligations for providing information on whether (or to what extent) these adopted standards etc. are transposed and used in their countries. Such obligations would show the level of commitment of national organizations as to the transposition, etc. and the extent to which their members use international standards as a tool for facilitating international trade.

17. Such a proposal directed towards UNECE Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) was submitted to the its fifth session of the UNECE Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and endorsed by the Committee. At its eleventh session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to contact other UNECE subsidiary bodies for information on the types of recommendations and standards elaborated
by them and if they had any systems to monitor their national transposition. The secretariat will report on results of this exercise. Based on this information and on the results of the study on the transposition and use of environmental standards, the Rapporteurs on Coordination and on Harmonization will make proposals on further actions for consideration by the Working Party.

18. Also at its eleventh session, the Working Party considered a document (TRADE/WP.6/2001/6) containing information on national horizontal legislation concerning technical regulations, standardization and conformity assessment procedures in some UNECE member States (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia and Sweden). The Working Party invited other delegations to make such submissions. The Rapporteurs on Harmonization will consider the information gathered and propose further actions (document TRADE/WP.6/2002/5).


(b) UNECE recommendation “L” - “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”

20. As a result of discussions at its eleventh session, the Working Party noted the market need and an interest from Governments in further reduction of trade barriers and facilitation of market access and that the “International Model” could contribute to such a process by providing a voluntary framework for establishing sectoral agreements between interested member countries.

21. The “International Model” has been published as a new UNECE Recommendation (“L”) in the set of UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies (ECE/STAND/17/REV.4); it will be also available as document TRADE/WP.6/2002/7.

22. The Working Party requested the ad hoc Team of Specialists on STandardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team) to assist with any forthcoming initiatives from interested parties (e.g. regulatory authorities, industry, standardizers) based on the “International Model”. It is recalled that the “START” Team is an open-ended group of experts from Governments.

23. The Team will inform the Working Party of its activities since the eleventh session. Other information concerning the “International Model”, such as presentations and discussions at different forums, will be made available to the Working Party at its twelfth session as document TRADE/WP.6/2002/8.
Item 8  Conformity assessment

(a) Review of developments in conformity assessment at international, regional and national levels

24. National delegations, international and regional organizations are invited to report on developments in conformity assessment at the international, regional and national level. In so far as such information is available sufficiently in advance of the meeting, it will be issued as document TRADE/WP.6/2002/9.

25. The Rapporteur on Conformity Assessment will submit a paper on the future structure and contents of conformity assessment standards and guides on the basis of CASCO (ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment) activities. (TRADE/WP.6/2002/10).

(b) Problems experienced by economies in transition relating to conformity assessment procedures

26. The Working Party will continue its consideration of problems in conformity assessment. As a follow up to the discussions on mutual recognition problems, interested delegations are invited to submit information on their experience in these matters (TRADE/WP.6/2002/11).

27. A paper on the latest activities of the ISO TC 207 (ISO Technical Committee on Environmental Management) will be presented for information to delegations as document TRADE/WP.6/2002/12.

(c) Policy issues regarding quality assurance

28. At its eleventh session, the Working Party, noting the usefulness and importance of governmental quality programmes as a means of raising awareness and promoting quality matters, agreed to continue consideration of these issues and invited interested Governments to provide information on their experience and proposals for any further initiatives.

29. National delegations and international and regional organizations are invited to report on their experience in introducing and implementing different quality policy programmes (TRADE/WP.6/2002/13).

30. The Rapporteur on Quality will analyse such information and prepare any resulting proposals (TRADE/WP.6/2002/14).
(d) UNECE Expert Meeting on How to Become a Supplier to Large National and Transnational Corporations (Geneva, 24-25 October 2002)

31. At its eleventh session, the Working Party was informed of UNECE activities on quality issues related to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and of the discussions at the UNECE expert meeting on best practice in the creation of quality assurance systems for SMEs. One of the recommendations of that meeting called for the establishment of a team of experts to deal with quality related problems at company level. The Working Party supported this idea and expressed its readiness in cooperating in such an activity.

32. A Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems was established in February 2002 under the auspices of the UNECE Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8), on the understanding that this Team will also report to Working Party 6 and will work in close cooperation with it. The Working Party will be informed about the work of the Team.

33. Quality related factors contributing to the competitiveness of companies will be considered during the UNECE Expert Meeting on “How to Become a Supplier to Large National and Transnational Corporations”. Delegates wishing to participate in the Expert Meeting or to have more information can find the agenda (document OPA.AC/30.1 of 28 February 2002) and other related documents at the following Internet address: [http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/news.htm](http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/news.htm).

34. Results of this event will be reported to the Working Party. The Rapporteurs on Quality will submit proposals to the Working Party on possible future joint activities with the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems to be found in document TRADE/WP.6/2002/14 (see paragraph 30 above).

Item 9 Metrology

Standardization of test methods

35. It is recalled that at previous sessions the Working Party discussed proposals from the Rapporteurs for Metrology on preparing guidelines on methodologies for measuring procedures (document TRADE/WP.6/1999/15 and TRADE/WP.6/2000/16) and on modalities for such work (TRADE/WP.6/2001/16).

36. As a result of its discussions, the Working Party agreed to establish an ad hoc Team of specialists on metrology under the auspices of the Working Party to pursue further the work on the proposed guidelines. A number of Governments expressed interest in joining such a group. The Rapporteurs for metrology will report to the Working Party on the progress in preparing these guidelines (TRADE/WP.6/2002/15).
Item 10  Programme of work

37. The Working Party will have before it, for approval and completion, a draft programme of work (TRADE/WP.6/2002/16), which was prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the decisions of the Working Party at its eleventh session and the agreements reached by the office bearers, coordinators and rapporteurs at their meeting in March 2002.

Item 11  Other business

38. A representative of the secretariat will report on further developments with cross-sectoral initiatives (for example, with the UNECE Timber Committee), as discussed at the eleventh session.

39. Provisional arrangements have still to be made to hold the thirteenth session of the Working Party in Geneva in 2003.

Item 12  Adoption of the report

40. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report of its twelfth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

* * *
UNECE FORUM ON MARKET SURVEILLANCE  
(Geneva, 29 October 2002)

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION:

(a) Market surveillance and its relation/role in conformity assessment systems.

Governmental control of fulfilment of mandatory requirements for products such as safety, health and quality at different stages (pre-market, post market, etc.). Link between pre- and post-market controls. Clarify the differences between conformity assessment procedures (pre-market control) and market surveillance activities.

Typology and forms of supervision and control of mandatory requirements and of quality and other characteristics of a product as declared by manufacturer/supplier.

Governmental national strategy in the area of market surveillance (tasks, foreseen changes, etc.).

(b) Legal, institutional and organizational framework necessary for effective market surveillance on a national level.

(ministries responsible for sectoral technical regulations, various agencies responsible for market surveillance, their place among other governmental agencies, specialization between them depending on particular products/services; financing of market surveillance activities, cooperation between sectoral market surveillance agencies and with other organizations-customs, etc.)

(c) Practical organization of market surveillance in specific sectors (electrical household appliances, cosmetics and machinery for household and professional use)-these issues will be at the centre of discussions at the Forum.

Organization of market surveillance in a particular sector (forms of market surveillance used, main focus of activities, staffing, typical problems, solutions, “best” practices/policies).
(d) Role of other agencies, ministries and consumer organizations in market surveillance on a national level.

Cooperation of market surveillance bodies with other national agencies, ministries, private sector and consumer organizations. Role of these players in market surveillance.

(e) Experience of cross-border cooperation, existence of networks for information exchange on market surveillance on a regional and sub-regional levels and their experience.

(f) Areas of concern to Governments –to be discussed at the Forum.

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REGISTRATION AND ENQUIRIES

The Forum will be held with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian. There are no charge fees for registration. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel and hotel accommodation in Geneva.

As places are limited, completed registration forms should be sent as soon as possible and no later than 11 October 2002 to the attention of:

Mrs. Dominique Rames  
Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Tel.: (+41 22) 917 2481  
Fax: (+41 22) 917 0037  
E-mail: dominique.rames@unece.org

Visa request should be addressed directly to Mrs. Aruna Vivekanantham  
(Tel. : (+41 22) 917 5175, Fax : (+41 22) 917 0479, E-mail : aruna.vivekanantham@unece.org)

ACCESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS PREMISES

Security at the Palais des Nations has been significantly increased and personal security badges are needed for access. Therefore participants are requested to complete the Conference Registration Form overleaf and return it to the secretariat not later than 11 October 2002.

To enter the United Nations Premises, participants must obtain their badges, which will have been already prepared at the Villa Les Feuillantines, located near the Palais des Nations.

ENQUIRIES about participation should be addressed to:

Mr. Serguei Kouzmine  
Trade Division, Office 433-1  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Tel.: (+41 22) 917 2771  
Fax: (+41 22) 917 0479/0037  
E-Mail: Serguei.kouzmine@unece.org  
Website: http://www.unece.org/trade/stdpol
REGISTRATION FORM (to be sent not later than 11 October 2002)

I will be representing: State/Organization/Agency

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<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
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I will be participating in the following event(s):
(please indicate your status of participation for each event)

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Head of Delegation
Delegation Member
Observer Country

Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your Permanent Mission?
YES ☐ NO ☐

Observer Organization
NGO (ECOSOC Accredited)
Other (please specify (University, Private Sector, etc.)

From: Organization/Enterprise: Title in Organization/Enterprise:

Passport or ID Number: Valid until:
Official Telephone Number: + Fax: +
E-mail Address: URL:

Permanent Official Address: .................................................................

City: Postal Code: Country:
Address in Geneva: