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

“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” - “TELECOM INDUSTRY INITIATIVE”

Note from the Secretariat

This document is presented to delegations for information.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This paper contains information on the activities of the Team of Specialists on Standardization And Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team) since the eleventh session of the Working Party.

2. It is recalled that at the eleventh session the Working Party called on the START Team:
   - To explore, as a follow up to a request from the CTIED (cf. ECE/TRADE 280, paragraph 64), with UNECE Subsidiary Bodies the possibilities of using the principles and concept of the “International Model” in their areas of competence with the goal of identifying potential pilot projects;
   - To assist with sectoral initiatives based on the “International Model”, as forthcoming from interested parties and as requested.

“START” TEAM CONTACTS FOR SECTORAL INITIATIVES

3. A number of UNECE member countries positively reacted to the adoption of the “International Model” as a UNECE Recommendation.

4. The Council of the European Union in its conclusions on standardization of 1 March 2002, inter-alia, invited “the Commission and Member States to continue the promotion of standards-receptive regulatory models with the Community’s trading partners, such as those developed by UNECE.”

5. It is recalled that the “START” Team has established liaison with and has received regularly feedback on its activities from members of the CIS Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology. During the CIS meeting in May 2002 in Belarus a representative of the UNECE secretariat presented the “International Model” to the standardization agencies of the CIS countries. After discussions, the CIS countries decided to establish a group of experts under the CIS Interstate Council to elaborate a strategy for technical harmonization in CIS taking as a basis the principles of the “International Model”. A first meeting of the CIS regulatory group was held in Moscow; Russia on 1-3 October 2002.
6. Since the eleventh session of the WP.6 the “START” Team held three Team meetings during which sectoral and other issues were discussed. The Team has had extensive contacts and consultations with experts and companies from a telecom sector which resulted in a pilot project on the use of the “International Model” provisions in a telecom area (“Telecom Industry Initiative” – for more information see document TRADE/WP.6/2002/8 Add.1).

7. The concept of the International Model was also presented and discussed at a number of international meetings, namely:

- Workshop on standardization and conformity assessment matters in countries in transition (12-13 December 2001, Bratislava, Slovakia);
- Conference on “International Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture” 17-19 February 2002 Nuremberg, Germany;
- 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) on Standards and Conformity Assessment, 10-11 April 2002, Beijing, China;
- International Conference on “the Significance of Standardization in the Growing economies”, 7-8 May 2002, Ankara, Turkey;
- ILAC/IAF (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and International Accreditation Forum) Conference, 23-25 September 2002, Berlin, Germany;

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