ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization
and Standardization Policies
Thirteenth session, 10-12 November 2003
Item 7 (b) of the provisional agenda

SECTORAL INITIATIVES BASED ON 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")

Addendum

UNECE "TELECOM PROJECT"

It is recalled that its the twelfth session the Working Party supported the telecom harmonization project, which was prepared on the principles of the UNECE Recommendation "L". In May 2003 at a meeting with public authorities devoted to this project it was proposed to establish a task force to carry out practical implementation of this project.

This paper contains draft terms of reference for the Telecom Task Force, which were prepared at the meeting of the Team of Specialists on STandardization And Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team) in September 2003.

This document is presented for discussion and approval by the Working Party.

GE.03-32497

UNECE WORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES (WP.6)

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON STANDARDIZATION AND REGULATORY TECHNIQUES "START" TEAM

Draft terms of reference for the UNECE "Telecom Task Force"

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 (TTF), 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 the regulatory convergence of legitimate requirements will result in greater open market access.

The Task Force will handle questions related to Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Information Technology, in particular equipment and associated services, including such questions when they are complementary to regulatory project initiatives that might be initiated in other sectors.

The Task Force will work closely with the "START" Team to realize the "Telecom Initiative" project, 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 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 the UNECE region but also from other interested UN Member States.

The Task Force can establish sub-groups of experts to prepare sub-projects requiring specific expertise. It may work with international organizations, as well as representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as observers in their personal capacity.

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 sub-groups 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 works on the understanding that final recommendations and proposals of the Task Force will be decided by WP.6 as an intergovernmental body.

* * * * * * *