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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization and
Standardization Policies

Thirteenth session, 10-12 November 2003

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

UNECE WORKSHOP

**‘MARKET SURVEILLANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF A ‘WIDER EUROPE’:
CURRENT APPROACHES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS’ AND
INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE UNECE ADVISORY GROUP ON MARKET SURVEILLANCE**

Addendum

This paper contains the proposed terms of reference for the newly established Advisory Group on Market Surveillance. The Group held its inaugural meeting in Piestany, Slovakia, on 9 September 2003.

The paper is presented to the Working Party for discussion and decision.

Establishment of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

At the UNECE International Forum on Market Surveillance in October 2002, a proposal was made to establish a group of experts on market surveillance, and the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) formally endorsed this recommendation at its 2002 session. The recommendation was further approved by the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development at its seventh session in May 2003. On 9 September 2003, the Group held its inaugural meeting in Piestany, Slovakia. It adopted as its title, “Advisory Group on Market Surveillance” (“MARS” Group).

Objectives

General

- To contribute to the activities of the Working Party, which are designed to create conditions conducive to developing and promoting global trade and economic cooperation.

Specific

- To provide for interaction on a national/regional/international level between all players – including public authorities, manufacturers, retailers, importers, consumers and users – in support of their efforts to prevent goods not in conformity with legislation from being placed on the market;
- To increase transparency and attract attention to the role and responsibilities of public authorities and their staff in the chain of control for market surveillance;
- To identify good practices and methods ensuring fulfilment of legitimate objectives (e.g. protection of human health, and safety; protection of animal or plant life and health; protection of the environment; and ensuring fair competition in existing legislation);
- To promote and, when necessary, initiate coherent good practices and draw up recommendations on market surveillance in the UNECE region.

Composition of the Group: membership and participation in its meetings

Participation is open to both representatives of UNECE and UN Member States.

It is also open to experts from international organizations, and to representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations as observers in their personal capacity.

The Group may establish sub-groups of experts to prepare projects requiring specific expertise. Such projects are expected to become part of the Group’s general activities. The Group may work with interested Governments and organizations on financing and implementing these projects.

The UNECE secretariat will provide the Group and its sub-groups with the necessary support within available resources.

Reporting

The Group works under the guidance of the intergovernmental Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6), to whom it also reports. It works on the understanding that its final proposals or recommendations must be endorsed by the Working Party.

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