ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Seventeenth session
Geneva, 5-7 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION *

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
Starting at 10 a.m. on 5 November 2007

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The seventeenth session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from Monday, 5 November to Wednesday, 7 November 2007. It will include the International Seminar on Product Safety and Counterfeiting, which will start at 3 p.m. on Monday, 5 November and conclude at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 6 November 2007 (see provisional timetable in part III).

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the website of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents-wp6-07-list.htm, and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by 19 October 2007 - either by fax (+41 22 917 0037) or by e-mail (dominique.rames@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map at http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 3096/2481.
2. A detailed provisional agenda of the International Seminar is set out in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/2. Documents for both meetings will be posted on the WP.6 webpage (http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/wp6-07-list.htm) as they become available, as well as being distributed through the normal channels.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Election of officers

3. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and from the first and second sessions of the Committee on Trade

4. International Seminar on Product Safety and Counterfeiting

5. Standardization and regulatory practice
   (a) Review of developments
   (b) Revision of UNECE Recommendations
   (c) Standardization and regulatory priorities

6. Regulatory cooperation
   (a) Regional projects
   (b) Sectoral projects

7. Conformity Assessment
   (a) Review of recent developments
   (b) Mutual recognition agreements
   (c) Accreditation
   (d) Other issues

8. Market surveillance
   (a) Activities of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
   (b) Draft recommendation on market surveillance and counterfeiting
9. Metrology
11. Other business
12. Adoption of the report

**III. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tr>
<td>Day One</td>
<td>10.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Items 1-3 and 5 (a)-(b)</td>
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<td>15.00 – 18.00</td>
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<td>Day Two</td>
<td>10.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Items 4 (Seminar) and 6 (b) (parallel session)</td>
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<td>15.00 – 18.00</td>
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<td>Day Three</td>
<td>10.00 – 13.00</td>
<td>Items 7 (a)-(d), 9 and 10</td>
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<td>15.00 – 18.00</td>
<td>Items 10 and 11</td>
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Note: A break-out session, concurrent with the Seminar on Day 2 (morning), will be devoted to an expert meeting on equipment for explosive environments (see the explanatory text under agenda item 6 (b)).

**IV. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**Item 1. Adoption of the agenda**

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/1 - Annotated provisional agenda

3. The proposed provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and are presented here for approval.

**Item 2. Election of officers**

4. In accordance with the Commission’s rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At the sixteenth session, Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden), Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus) and Mr. A. Gonda (Slovakia) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chairs, respectively.
Item 3. Matters arising from the sixty-second session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and from the first and second sessions of the Committee on Trade and Timber Division

5. The secretariat will report on any relevant matters arising from the discussions held and decisions adopted by the Commission at its sixty-second session (April 2007) and by the new Committee on Trade (the parent body of the Working Party) at its first session (June 2006), as well as its second session to be held in October 2007.

Item 4. International Seminar on Product Safety and Counterfeiting

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/2 – Provisional programme of the Seminar
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/2/Add.1 – Background document
ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/2/Add.2 – Background document

6. The Seminar will be organized in cooperation with a number of intergovernmental, international and regional bodies and organizations, including some from the private sector. Contributing organizations include the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA), the Commonwealth of Independent States Interstate Council on Standardization, Certification and Metrology, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), etc.

7. As consumer and user safety, environmental protection and other related issues are regularly discussed at the sessions of the Working Party, in the context of its work on market surveillance, the Working Party has examined various means of combating counterfeit goods and, in particular those posing a danger to consumers/users, and the results will be presented at the Seminar.

8. Discussions on these matters also continue in other forums. At the meeting of the World Trade Organization Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in June 2006, the delegation of Canada submitted a document drawing attention to the problem of counterfeit certification marks from a health and safety as well as deceptive practices perspective. The issue of the dangers of counterfeiting was also raised at the Third Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy held in Geneva in January 2007.

9. The Seminar will present regional and national experiences with governmental policies for the protection of consumer and user safety, and will provide information on how these policies are transformed into various governmental controls, in particular relating to counterfeit products. Special emphasis will be placed on the infrastructure needed at the national level and on the legal and economic aspects to be taken into consideration by Governments. A transparent and open debate should help countries to better understand the variety of alternative regulatory approaches and measures available, including those with the least trade-restrictive impact.
10. Representatives of regional groupings and of national Governments engaged in regulatory activities, intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and market surveillance will be invited to share their experiences. Special emphasis will be placed on the situation in the CIS countries with a view to developing insights into a number of obstacles to efficient elimination of counterfeiting on these markets. It is expected that the analysis of the current experience of transition and developing economies will enable the Seminar to concentrate on problem areas and identify best practices.

11. Conclusions from the Seminar will be presented to the Working Party for consideration and approval.

**Item 5. Standardization and regulatory practice**

(a) **Review of developments**

**Documentation:**
- ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/3 – Developments in standardization and regulatory areas

12. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on their standardization and regulatory activities, as well as on technical cooperation programmes with other countries or regions. The European Commission will present an overview of the discussions and current developments in the EU’s review of its “New Approach”.

13. If sufficient information is available in advance of the meeting, this information will be made available as document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/3.

14. A panel discussion on regulatory questions from Russia will be organized in the morning of first day of the seventeenth session. It will address issues raised by Russian regulatory authorities on the preparation and implementation of technical regulations and relevant experiences from other countries. Any comments or replies received by the secretariat will be issued as document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/4.

(b) **Revision of UNECE Recommendations**

**Documentation:**
- ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 – UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies

15. At its sixteenth session, the Working Party approved a new revision of its Recommendation “J” on “Definitions” (the new, adopted version is contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2006/5).

16. At its current session, the Working Party will initiate discussions on the revision of Recommendation “D” on “Reference to Standards” (document ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4).
(c) Standardization and regulatory priorities

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/5 – Standardization and regulatory priorities
ECE/STAND/20/Rev.5 – Standardization List

17. The Working Party regularly discusses standardization and regulatory priorities of UNECE member States to identify areas and product sectors where Governments see the need for a transnational dialogue on regulatory convergence matters.

18. The Working Party has agreed that one of the ways of presenting such priorities can be in the format of the UNECE Standardization and Regulatory List (its new format was presented at the fifteenth session, in the document TRADE/WP.6/2005/4). The latest revision of the standardization priorities of the UNECE member States (Standardization List) was published in 2002 (ECE/STAND/20/Rev.5).

19. The Working Party invited delegations and international organizations to submit information on their standardization and regulatory priorities. Such information will be presented in document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/5.

Item 6. Regulatory cooperation

Documentation: ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 – UNECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies


21. The Working Party will be informed about the activities of its Team of Specialists on Standardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team), which met in Geneva in November 2006 and in March 2007. In accordance with UNECE rules and procedures, the Working Party will consider the extension of the mandate of the “START” Team.

(a) Regional projects

22. The Working Party will be informed about the status of regional projects in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (namely on the status of a CIS agreement on harmonization of technical regulations) and in the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) regional economic groupings.
(b) Sectoral projects

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/6 – Proposal on an initiative on the safety of pipelines
                ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/7 – Proposal from Germany on an initiative in the area of equipment for explosive environments

23. The Working Party will be informed about the status of its current “sectoral initiatives”, including in earth-moving machinery as well as proposals for “regulatory convergence” dialogues on safety of pipelines and on equipment for explosive environments.

24. An update will be provided on the results of consultations with Governments regarding the proposal for a new initiative on pipeline safety (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/6).

25. The Working Party will receive a follow-up report from Germany on the project in the area of equipment for explosive environments which was launched at the sixteenth session (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/7). At the expert meeting on this initiative held in March 2007 in Geneva, it was agreed to establish a task force to pursue further the regulatory discussions. At the seventeenth session, a special break-out session on the morning of 6 November 2007 will be organized to discuss regulatory approaches and experiences in Europe (in the EU and CIS), North America, Latin America and Asia, and on possibilities for regulatory convergence dialogue in equipment for explosive environments.

Item 7. Conformity assessment

(a) Review of recent developments


26. National delegations and international and regional organizations are invited to report on trade-related aspects of developments in conformity assessment. International organizations are also invited to provide an update on the current situation regarding international guides, standards, etc. If sufficient information is available in advance of the meeting, a document will be issued (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/8).

(b) Mutual recognition agreements

27. At its previous sessions, the Working Party discussed the current situation regarding governmental mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) to which UNECE member countries are parties. Any information received on this topic will be presented to the Working Party.
(c) Accreditation

28. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on developments in accreditation. International organizations will also be invited to provide updates on current developments. Delegations and organizations are encouraged to make their contributions in written form, as this will allow more time for discussion at the session. The European Commission will report on the currently on-going debate in the EU on reform in the area of accreditation.

29. Participants will receive an update on the activities of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the International Accreditation Forum.

(d) Other issues (voluntary certification schemes)

Eco-labelling and social responsibility

30. It is recalled that the Working Party at its previous sessions discussed issues relating to voluntary certification schemes, market requirements for such schemes and their implications for trade. In this context, the Working Party will be provided with an overview of eco-labelling matters (eco-labelling schemes existing in UNECE and other regions, discussions on this issue in the WTO context, etc.) and with information on the work being done at ISO on a guide on social responsibility issues.

Organic agriculture

31. The Working Party will receive an update on the activities of the International Task Force (ITF) on Harmonisation and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture. The Task Force was jointly established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). In particular, the updates will focus on the debate at the ITF meeting in Stockholm in October 2006 and on discussions relating to a possible drafting of common regulatory objectives (in line with the “International Model”) for organic products.

Item 8. Market surveillance

(a) Activities of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)


32. The Working Party will receive an update on the activities of the Advisory Group on MARket Surveillance (“MARS” Group) and on its meeting held in Slovakia in September 2006, and its 2007 meetings. The reports of these meetings will be made available as document ECE/TRADE/C/ WP.6/2007/9.
(b) Draft recommendation on market surveillance and counterfeiting


33. Beginning at the October 2005 Forum, the Working Party discussed the experience of some UNECE member States in cooperation with market surveillance agencies and private companies in the fight against fraud, in particular counterfeiting and pirated goods during market control inspections. A draft recommendation on the subject was discussed at the sessions of the Working Party. During the September 2006 “MARS” Group meeting, the debate continued on such experiences and approaches. A new consolidated version of a recommendation on this subject has been prepared by the “MARS” Group, which will be submitted for final consideration and approval by the Working Party as UNECE Recommendation “M” (document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/10).

Item 9. Metrology

34. National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on relevant developments in the metrology area.

35. The Rapporteurs for Metrology will analyse the information provided and prepare proposals, as appropriate.

Item 10. Programme of work of the Working Party

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/11 – Programme of work

36. In the context of the UNECE Reform conducted in 2005-2006 (see E/ECE/1434/Rev.1), the Working Party organized a debate, evaluation and strategic re-thinking of its role and future work. On this basis, its programme of work was reorganized, streamlined and prioritized. The results of this restructuring exercise were summarized in the paper on the vision of the Working Party, strategic directions for 2006-2010, and the work plan for 2008-2009 (the final paper, with the changes adopted at the sixteenth session and at the WP6 Bureau meeting in March 2007, will be made available as document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/11).

37. With a view to improve consideration of the proposals and concerns of delegates, a regular evaluation of the activities of the Working Party has been organized.
38. An evaluation, undertaken by the secretariat, of the sixteenth session of the Working Party and the joint International Forum: “A Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade” with the first session of the Committee on Trade, will be made available (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/12). Among the suggestions made, were the organization of break-out sessions and panel discussions (based on these recommendations, during the seventeenth session, discussions in this format will be held on equipment for explosive environments and on regulatory problems in the Russian Federation, respectively).

39. The Working Party will be invited to further discuss its strategic direction and work plan and, if required, to revise it accordingly.

**Item 11. Other business**

40. The Working Party will consider the work of its coordinators and rapporteurs, and will decide on their future tasks and scope of activities.

41. The Working Party will be informed of tentative dates for its meetings in 2008.

**Item 12. Adoption of the report**

**Documentation:**  

41. According to agreed practice, the Working Party will, during its session, approve a list of main decisions and leave the drafting of the descriptive part of the report to the secretariat, in consultation with the office bearers, taking into account the contributions made during the session.

42. The report will be published as document ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13 and Add. 1.

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