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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Eighteenth session
Geneva, 3 - 4 November 2008
Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel session 2 – Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments

Provisional agenda

I. BACKGROUND

1. Explosions are likely to occur in environments such as chemical and oil industry facilities, gas stations, facilities for handling and storage of grains, woodworking areas and sugar refineries, among others. Equipment used in these environment needs to be carefully controlled
2. While it is understandable that authorities should be vigilant in such a sensitive sector, this should not become an obstacle to free trade. However, much as producers and users of this equipment act more and more globally with a single engineering approach, national laws and regulations are still markedly different in each country.
3. The Panel Session is organized to:
 - (a) Discuss the terms of reference of the UNECE Initiative;
 - (b) Analyse answers to a questionnaire that was sent out to collect evidence on regulatory practice in the main markets
 - (c) Highlight commonalities in the regulations that exist on the different markets so as to start work on a possible agreement.

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II. SESSION TIMETABLE (3 November 2008)

15:00	Introductory remarks by the Convener of the Initiative
15:10	Adoption of the agenda
15: 15	Discussion of the terms of reference of the Initiative
15:30	Report on the IECEEx-Scheme meeting in Paris and update on the Scheme
16:00	Presentation of the answers to the questionnaire to highlight commonalities among different international approaches
16:45	Preparation of a mutual agreement
17:45	Wrap-up and conclusions
