



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE



Report on the 22nd session of the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Lorenza Jachia

18 November 2013





Highlights of 22nd session

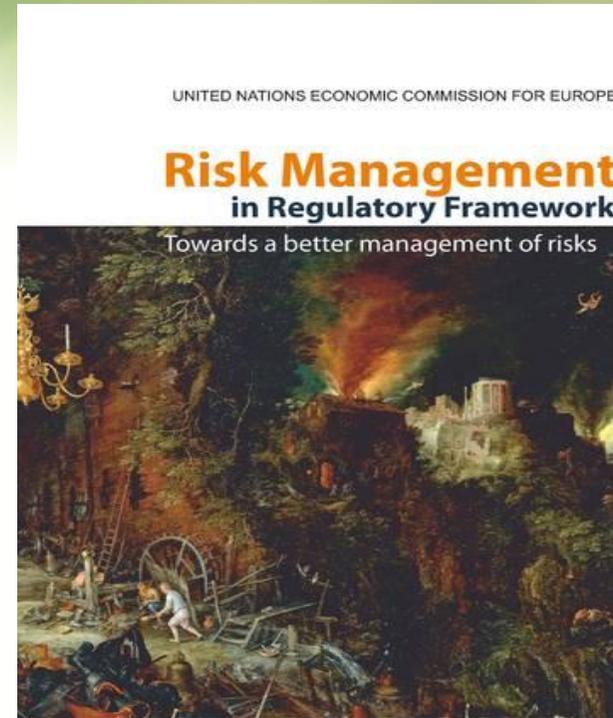
- Launch of "Risk Management in Regulatory Framework" publication
- Workshop "Introducing Standards-related issues into educational curricula"
- Approval of model curriculum on standards-related issues
- Adoption of revised Recommendation I "Education on standards-related issues"
- High-Level Segment on Regulatory Cooperation discussing President Obama's Executive Order of May 2012 on Regulatory Cooperation, APEC, EEC





Item IV: Risk Management in Regulatory Systems

- Presentation of the book
- Presentation of an expert system for assessing risks associated with standardization activities in Belarus
- Presentation of G31000, non-profit organization, to raise awareness of the ISO 31000 standard and of a survey on the use of ISO 31000





Item V: Workshop on standards-related issues

- 3 sessions : perspective from Governments, Standards-setting bodies and Academia;
- Speakers agreed that the industry expressed a clear need for expertise in this area and that students were also eager to take up;
- The WP. 6
 - Adopted Recommendation I
 - Established a new initiative on “education on standardization” under the START team
 - Approved the model programme on standardization
 - Requested the secretariat to invite other UNECE sectoral committees and working parties as well as external stakeholders to contribute to this cross-sectoral initiative.
 - Also requested the secretariat and the Bureau to consider the feasibility of preparing and publishing a compilation of good practices (from governments, academia, standards-setting bodies, etc.) in this area.





Recommendation I

Governments should encourage:

- (a) the introduction of the subject of standardization into the curricula of educational establishments and particularly of universities for students majoring in technical and scientific subjects, as well as in legal, economic and management studies;
- (b) the vocational education and training of specialists in standardization;
- (c) the enhancement of awareness-raising activities targeted to the business community and regulatory authorities (in particular, trade and customs officials);
- (d) the further study of standardization issues in order to identify best practices in ensuring that standardization and regulatory regimes contribute to meeting the legitimate concerns of society (e.g. human safety, environment) without creating unnecessary technical barriers to trade."



Trade

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Recommendations

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Education on Standardization

In 1970, the UNECE Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies, the predecessor of WP. 6, developed [Recommendation I](#)  that urged governments to include standardization in the curricula of educational institutions.

A preliminary survey conducted in 2011 in countries of the UNECE region revealed that more than 40 years after the adoption of the recommendation, very few universities yet include standards-related issues in the curriculum of students majoring in technical and scientific subjects. An analysis of such courses showed also differences in the underlying educational approaches.

In this context, the UNECE secretariat initiated consultations on a feasibility of elaborating a model educational programme on standardization containing minimum set of issues to give a student a general understanding of the major standardization, regulatory and related issues relevant to the activities of business and of regulatory and administrative authorities.

The first draft of such programme was prepared in February 2012 in consultation with a group of experts from educational institutions from Europe and CIS region. The draft was then presented at various forums: at the April 2012 Geneva meeting of the DCMAS (Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries), at the May 2012 ICES (International Cooperation for Education about Standardization) conference in Bali and at the June 2012 European conference on education about standardization in Brussels.

These discussions culminated with an [UNECE Workshop on "Introducing Standards-related issues in Educational Curricula"](#) which took place on 8 November 2012 in Geneva in the framework of the WP.6 22-nd annual session. More than 80 delegates and experts from about 20 countries and around 10 international and regional organizations representing academia, standards bodies, ministries of education and business adopted a new version of Recommendation "I" ("education on standards-related issues") and agreed on the importance of promoting and teaching standardization through elaborating coordinated approaches and building on existing national best practices.

Education on standardization

Educational programmes - national experiences/examples

Library on teaching standardization

This page contains examples of information materials.

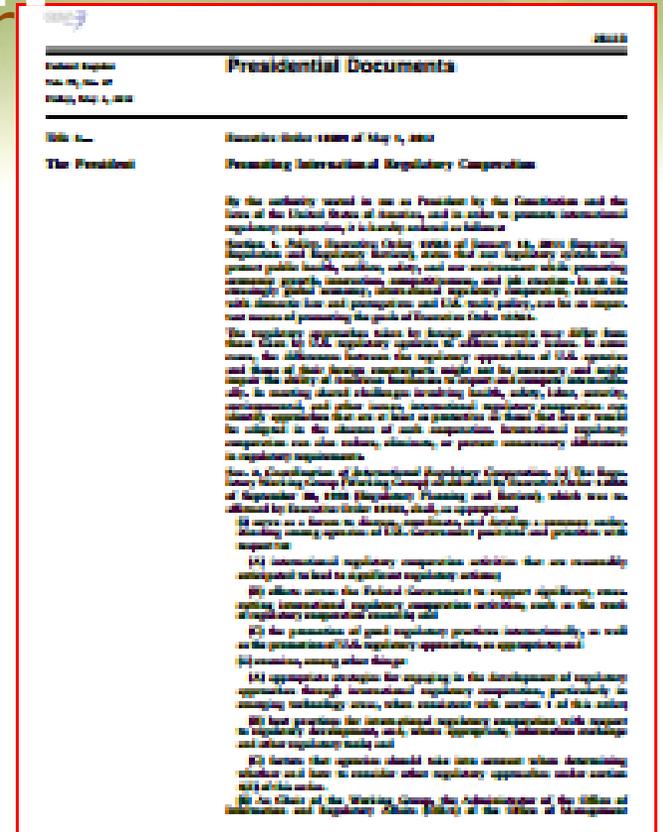
- presentations
- books, publications
 - [British Standards Institute white paper on education](#) 
 - [JTC1/SC36 "Information technology for learning, education and training"](#)  and its mirror TC 461 in Russia (information in Russian)
- e-courses
 - course "Standardisation in Companies and Market" (English). to register and to take course go to : www.pro-norm.de 

Repository of teaching materials



Item VI: High level segment on regulatory cooperation

- Presentation of the US Executive Order 13609 of the U.S. President, “Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation”, seeks to reduce costs of trade by addressing unnecessary differences in existing regulatory requirements and preventing the creation of new ones
- Presentation of regulatory cooperation under the EEC and the creation of a unified technical regulations system





Item VI: High level segment on regulatory cooperation (continued)

- Presentation of RSPP recommendations on EU-Russia regulatory convergence
- Presentation of regulatory cooperation under APEC SCSC, in particular as regards education on standards-related issues and a methodology to assess equivalence of technical regulations and standards



B20-G20 PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH AND JOBS

Recommendations
from Business 20

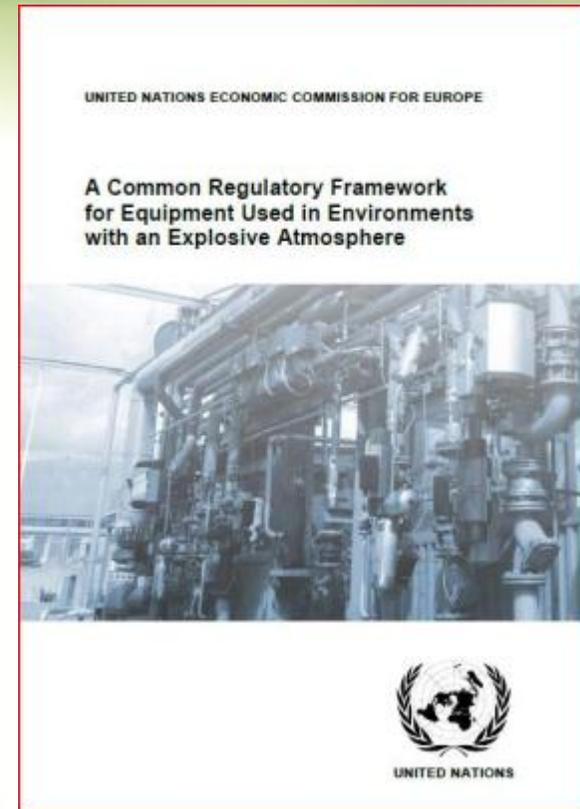
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Item VI (continued)

- Update on three sectoral initiatives on
 - Telecom
 - Earthmoving equipment
 - Equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere





Item VII: Standardization and regulatory practice

European standardisation policy

- Updates from:
 - ISO
 - Rosstandard
 - CEN/CENELEC
- Detailed presentation of the EU «Standardization Package»





IX. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment & accreditation

- The Chair of ILAC introduced and explained in detail the ILAC/IAF system
- ISO provided an update of ongoing work within the Committee on conformity assessment (ISO/CASCO), including the publication of a guide on Good Practices on Market Surveillance
- The representative of IEC presented recent IEC activities in the field of conformity assessment, particularly under the IEC conformity assessment schemes (IECQ, IECEE and IECE) highlighting cooperation with UNECE





X. Market surveillance

- The Chair of MARS Group presented information systems used by MSAs in their work including:
 - In the EU:
 - the RAPEX,
 - RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed);
 - Rapid Alert System for medicinal products; and
 - Internet-Supported Information and Communication System (ICSMS)
 - In the Customs Union, the Integrated Information System of foreign and mutual trade (IISFMT)





X. Market surveillance (continued)

Discussion on future programme of work of MARS Group:

- a new publication with examples of market surveillance practice worldwide (with examples from EU, US, Asia, Africa, the CIS);
- exchange of best practice, including the guidelines developed for the purposes of Risk Assessment by MSAs;
- support the work of the sectoral initiatives (CRO);
- interlinking of the information resources used by market surveillance authorities in the UNECE for further development of the UNECE market surveillance database.





X. Market surveillance (continued)

- Representative of ISO/COPOLCO reported on a workshop held in May 2012 in Fiji on the topic “How do consumers know what they are getting?”, UNECE had been represented at the workshop by one of the delegates of the GRM Group.
- The representative of OECD reported on work under the Working Party on Consumer Product Safety, which had been created in 2012 to promote cooperation between Members and non-Members on product safety issues of mutual interest and possible UNECE participation





Recommendations M, N & the Market surveillance model

- Recommend adequate administrative capacities, resources and powers for market surveillance
- Present best practice that can be used by countries at all levels of development
- Emphasize coordination among all stakeholders to fight non-compliance
- Provide a model for national market surveillance systems



M. Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods¹

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Recognizing consumer-protection concerns of the United Nations Member States and tasks for international organizations as highlighted in the General Assembly decision 54449 of 22 December 1999 (United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection),

Stressing the necessity to set up efficient domestic market surveillance system ensure that goods placed on the market meet public legitimate objectives such as public health protection and safety and that business transactions take place in compliance with the principle of fair competition,

Stressing the importance of intellectual property rights protection for the economic and industrial development of countries, and for international trade,

Noting existing deficiencies in the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, geographical indications); international trade and the threats to health and safety of consumers and users posed by counterfeit goods,

Underlining that setting up an administrative and legal framework to protect including penalties, and building a coordinated network of cooperation between all stakeholders, namely State authorities (e.g. customs, police and intellectual property agencies/patent offices), industry, consumers and users, are key elements to solve problems of counterfeit goods,

¹ Recommendation adopted in 2007

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N. Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices^{*}

The Working Party on Regulatory Co-operation and Standardization Policies

Recognizing the need to ensure that products placed on the market or imported meet legal requirements on safety, health, environment, fair competition between economic operators, and any other aspects of public interest (hereinafter "legal requirements"),

Noting that market surveillance is an essential public response to addressing that need,

Noting the existing differences in both legal, administrative and operative means for carrying out market surveillance among United Nations Member States,

Noting the lack of systematic guidance for setting up structures that meet basic and essential criteria for the enforcement of legal requirements on products made available on the market,

Considering the best practice developed internationally, including by the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group) and the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies,

In the light of the General Assembly decision 54449 of 22 December 1999 (United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection).

^{*} Recommendation adopted in 2011

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THE MARKET SURVEILLANCE MODEL:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/MARS/Slovakia_Oct09/GMSP3.pdf





Worldwide database on market surveillance authorities

UNECE / Trade / Areas of Work / Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP6) / Areas of Work / Market Surveillance / Database on Market Surveillance

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Database on Market Surveillance

The objective of the database is to provide interested parties with a tool where they can find comprehensive information about legislative acts and enforcement bodies.

Detailed instructions on [how to use the database](#)

Country:

Authority:

Sector:

Legislation:

Search Option:

Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom



Glossary of market surveillance terms



Purpose: to promote better understanding

Main sources used: ISO standards/EU regulations /WTO documents

Next steps: invite countries to submit different terms that they use





XI. Metrology

- Representative of OIML reported on:
 - a recent recommendation
“Considerations for a law on metrology”
 - activities in support of developing countries





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Report on the Annual Planning Meeting of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation & Standardization Policies

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18 November 2013







Annual planning meeting

- Was hosted by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) at its premises in Berlin on 24 May
- Aims at reviewing progress made by initiatives underway and plan the next session
- If you are interested in being more actively involved in the WP. 6 activities please let us know and we'll be extending you an invitation for next year's planning meeting





Subjects discussed

- Discrepancy between the results of the review and the result of the budget cuts
- Information on activities under the ongoing initiatives, specifically:
 - the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory systems,
 - the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance
 - the 3 on-going sectoral initiatives
- Preparation of the annual session & MARS meeting





DCMAS Meeting

- Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS network)
- Serves as a network to exchange information on ongoing technical assistance projects





Members

- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM)
- International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Trade Centre – UNCTAD / WTO (ITC)
- Telecommunication Standardization Sector of ITU (ITU-T)
- International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations European Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)





Meeting of April 2014

- UNECE served as the secretariat and hosted the meeting at the Palais des Nations
- There was an update from each member on current TA activities
- UNECE presented progress made under the initiative on education for standards-related issues and received comments





Other relevant developments intersessionally (part 1)

Annual meeting of the **Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries** (DCMAS) at the Palais des Nations, hosted and organized by the WP. 6, which acted as the secretariat. (April 2013)

Annual planning meeting of UNECE activities (Berlin, June 2013) to discuss progress made and plan ahead the work of the WP. 6 (May 2013)

Participation in the "Trade Capacity Building Training Programme for Policy Makers from Central Asian countries" (Kyrgyzstan , May 2013).

Organization of a panel session on "Disaster Risk Management Standards for Business and Citizens" at the 4th Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (May 2013)





Other relevant developments intersessionally (part 2)

Workshop for regulatory authorities of Latin American countries and BRICs countries on how to promote safety and facilitate international trade in equipment used in environments with an explosive atmospheres” (September 2013, Fortaleza, Brazil).

Meeting of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS Group), develops best practice for comprehensive and risk-based market surveillance activities by authorities (Prague, September 2013)

Contribution to the activities of the Task Force on Technical Regulations (TF 8) of the EU-Russia Industrialists’ Round Table (IRT). IRT-TF8 is a business platform composed of leaders of companies from the EU and Russia. Established in 1997, it prepared sector-specific and cross-cutting recommendations for the approximation of the Regulatory Systems of Russia and the European Union. The secretariat took part in secretariat reported that it had attended three meetings of the Task Force, in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 21 to 25 September 2012; in Berlin on 22 January 2013 and in Moscow on 20 March 2013.

