



Economic Commission for Europe**Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards****Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation
and Standardization Policies****Twenty-fifth session**

Geneva, 2 (pm) - 3 December 2015

Item 6(c) of the provisional agenda

International regulatory cooperation**Progress report on the Sectoral Initiative on Pipelines Safety
(SIPS)****Note by the Rapporteur¹***Summary*

Accidents at international pipelines threaten the lives of people and pose a risk to the environment, cause serious loss and hostility towards the construction of pipelines. However, if pipelines are designed or constructed and maintained in accordance with the relevant norms and standards can be effective and environmentally friendly means of transport and distribution of energy.

This document contains information about the purpose of the sectoral initiative and its recent activities and plans.

It is submitted to the Working Party for discussion and adoption.

I. Project objective and key deliverables

1. The sectoral initiative on “Pipelines safety” aims at developing common regulatory objectives for the safety of pipelines according to the provisions of the “International Model” as contained in Recommendation L. In particular the sectoral initiative is aimed at

¹ At its eighteenth session, the Working Party asked the secretariat to provide annual updates on the work of all the sectoral initiatives (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/18, para. 63).

the design and development of the overall regulatory framework in the field of construction and design of main pipelines.

2. The sectoral initiative serves to include expert and representative of both UNECE and non UNECE member countries and aim at promoting cooperation among regulators, the industry and third independent parties (conformity assessment bodies).

3. The main objective of the sectoral initiative on cross-border pipeline systems to address risks that arise at different stages of the life cycle of pipeline systems, define a set of security requirements for transboundary pipelines based on international standards establishing a presumption of conformity with these requirements. These requirements should detail taking into account the different geographical and climatic conditions and terrain, in order to ensure optimum protection against risk, while avoiding excessive costs.

II. Main achievements of the Initiative until 2015

4. The sectoral initiative started the work in 2007. By the request of the Working Party (see p. 62 of the report of the session from 2008) a questionnaire had been developed by interested delegations. The questionnaire included responses from Belorussia, Brasilia, Canada, Kazakhstan and Turkey. The target of this questionnaire was to document the existing normative practice in this area. The questionnaire and the compiled responses were discussed by the Presidium of the Working Party (see p. 5 of the rapport) and were presented at 19th Working session of the WP 6.

III. Meetings and awareness-raising activities in 2015.

8. In February 2015 in Moscow at a meeting of ISO/TC 67 Steering Committee and CEN/TC 12 that are leading technical committees developing standards for design and construction of oil and gas pipelines in the world was presented the work of the initiative. The event was attended by over then 100 people from 10 countries, including 4 developing countries. After the meeting it was decided to extend invitations to participate in the initiative to all interested parties.

9. In April 2015, the Head of the sectoral initiative Dr. Roman Samsonov presented the main activities and results on the 35-th annual plenary meeting of ISO/TC67/SC2 "Pipeline transportation systems" in Atyrau (Kazakhstan). SC2 is the largest Subcommittee of ISO/TC67 and has 22 working groups responsible for the development of all major international standards in the field of construction of pipelines and their components (pipes, valves, actuators, etc.). The meeting was attended by experts from 17 countries. Following the meeting separate resolution was adopted which stated that members of the SC2 will provide feedback for sectoral initiatives on legal regulation of issues related with pipeline safety in their countries. Chairperson of SC 2 confirmed that Subcommittee is interested in receiving information on the work of the initiative, as well as in the formulation of proposals based on the results of the activities of the initiative.

10. The sectoral initiative also has developed a draft questionnaire on rules and procedures for the development of the regulatory frameworks in the sector. This questionnaire is going to be detailed and updated and uploaded on the webpage of the initiative.

IV. Deliverables for the annual session

11. The main outcome of the work of the initiative in 2015 globally is the development of updated questionnaire on rules and which will be the basis for the regulatory framework.

12. The Working Party is invited to discuss how you can use the Sectoral initiative questionnaire taking into account the experience gained by countries of the UNECE region, with its territory, piping systems, and possible forms of presenting the results of the survey.

13. Encourage countries from other regions to participate in the work of the sectoral initiatives and present hazards typical for these regions.

V. Responsibility for the continuation of the work

14. The current Coordinator of the Sectoral Initiative is Mr Roman Samsonov.

VI. Role of the secretariat

15. The secretariat will continue supporting the work of the Initiative by trying to raise funds for the proposed project, servicing its meetings (prepare the invitations, agendas, preparing supporting documents and reports) and keeping the website up to date. The secretariat could assist the Convener in maintaining and developing contacts with the counterparts of the Initiative in national Governments and regional groups.