United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Seminar on ICT Policy and Legal Issues for The Heads of Ministers and Agencies of Turkmenistan

organized in cooperation with

Ministry of Economy and Development of Turkmenistan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Objectives of the Seminar

The development of information and communications technologies (ICTs) enables businesses and individuals to communicate and engage in transactions with other parties electronically, instantaneously and internationally. This gives rise to a variety of legal and regulatory issues for policymakers, from the validity of electronic methods of contracting and the security risks associated with them, to concerns over cybercrime and the ability to protect intellectual property rights online. ICT policymakers are constantly facing challenges in dealing with these issues. The promotion of harmonized legal reforms, which would facilitate the sound development of eCommerce and related activities, ensuring that citizens have appropriate protection against harmful behaviour, is a way to address these challenges.

The Seminar will cover legal issues in five distinct areas relevant for the sound development of eCommerce and related activities in Turkmenistan, namely: legal infrastructure, legal certainty, legal security, legal protection and legal deterrence. It highlights and discusses relevant related developments, best practice initiatives at a regional and international level for the reference of ICT policymakers in Turkmenistan.

PROGRAMME

13 June 2012

08.30-09.00 Registration of the Participants

09.00-09.30 Opening Session of the Seminar

Welcoming statement by Mr. Mergen Shaliyev, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development of Turkmenistan

Opening statement by Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

(Presented by Mr. Jose Palacin, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division)
09.30-10.15  Introduction and Overview of Key ICT Policy and Legal Issues

Introduction of the Seminar and the UNECE activities in the sphere of Innovation, ICT and Knowledge-based Development in Central Asia by Ms. Michiko Enomoto, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division

ICT Policy and Legal Issues for Turkmenistan – key regulatory issues of ICT policymakers – an overview by Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

10.15-11.00  Coffee Break

11.00-13.00  Session 1 – Legal Infrastructure for ICT

Instructor: Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Issues to be covered: legal principles, regulatory structures for ICT and ICT stakeholders, sector liberalization, and harmonizing ICT laws.

13.00-14.00  Lunch Break

14.00-15.40  Session 1 (continuation)/Session 2 – Legal Certainty

Instructor: Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Issues to be covered: legal recognition of electronic messages, requirements of form, retention of data messages, recognition of foreign electronic documents and signatures, admissibility of electronic evidence, formation and validity of electronic contracts, and recognition by parties of data messages.

15.40-16.00  Coffee break

16.00-18.00  Session 2 – Legal Certainty (continuation)
14 June 2012

09.00-10.40  Session 3 - Legal ICT Security
Instructor:  Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Issues to be covered: managing ICT security risks, digital signatures, and data protection.

10.40-11.00  Coffee break

11.00-13.00  Session 4 - Legal Protection in ICT
Instructor:  Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Issues to be covered: trademarks, copyright, consumer protection.

13.00-14.00  Lunch break

14.00-15.40  Session 5 - Legal Deterrents in ICT
Instructor:  Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Issues to be covered: ICT crimes, regulating ICT crime, international cooperation

15.40-16.00  Coffee break

16.00-17.00  Session 6 – Questions and Answers
Instructor:  Professor Ian Walden, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss specific issues related to the topics.

17.00-17.10  Questionnaire

17.10-17.30  Closing Session of the Seminar