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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

First session
Geneva, 27-28 September 2006
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Draft Terms of Reference for the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Note by the secretariat

Introduction

1. In December 2005, based on the recommendations of the external evaluation report on the state of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and in order to respond to the actual needs expressed by the member States, the Commission decided to restructure its programme of work (document E/ECE/1434/Rev.1). Within this framework, the Commission made a decision to establish a new subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration and to set up a Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

2. The present document contains the draft Terms of Reference for the Committee. These will be discussed and adopted by the UNECE member States at the first session of the new Committee in September 2006.

Draft Terms of Reference

Mission statement

3. The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration promotes a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness in and of the UNECE region, focusing mainly on countries with economies in transition. In its work, it responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, researchers and civil society. It contributes to the Millennium

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Development Goals, economic cooperation and integration, as well as sustainable development of the UNECE region.

Activities

4. The Committee, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations, is entrusted with the implementation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Subprogramme of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Work of the Committee is demand driven, focuses *inter alia* on specific topics, and aims at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by:

- (a) Promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation;
- (b) Facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises and improving corporate responsibility;
- (c) Facilitating effective regulatory policies and corporate governance, including those in the financial sector; and
- (d) Promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, as well as intellectual property rights.

5. To achieve its objectives, the Committee:

- (a) Serves as a platform for policy dialogue, the exchange of experience and good practices;
- (b) Develops guidelines and policy recommendations to Governments; and on the basis of the above; and
- (c) Provides a basis for demand-driven policy advisory services and other capacity-building activities in the mandated areas.

6. The Committee operates in accordance with a multi-year programme of work. It reviews this programme regularly to ensure coherence of its activities with the overall objectives of the UNECE, and develops synergies both within the programme and with the relevant activities of the other sectoral committees.

7. The Committee coordinates its work with and builds on the results of the work carried out by other relevant organizations and institutions operating in this field, including United Nations agencies.