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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Third session
Geneva, 3-5 December 2008

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION
ON ITS THIRD SESSION**

Summary

At its third session, the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration: discussed the impact of the economic and financial crisis on issues related to its work (paras. 6, 31 (c)(vi) and 32 (i)); reviewed the implementation of its Programme of Work (paras. 8-26); organized a Policy Segment Discussion in the form of 2 panels respectively on "Cooperative solutions to global challenges: eco-innovation and clean energy for higher competitiveness" and on "Wider economic integration through innovative development of efficient and safe transport and trade links" (para. 31); adopted its Programme of Work for 2009-2010 (paras. 32 (g) and (h)); invited the secretariat to continue its demand-driven capacity-building activities and requested the Member States to support those with extrabudgetary contributions (paras. 32 (k) and (p)); discussed and agreed on the expected accomplishments for the 2008-2009 biennial performance evaluations (para. 32 (q)).

The fourth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration will take place on 28-30 September 2009 (para. 33).

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I. ATTENDANCE

1. The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration held its third session on 3-5 December 2008. Representatives of the following countries participated in the session: Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and United States of America.
2. Representatives of the European Community and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also participated.
3. The following non-governmental organizations, experts and private companies took part in the session: Business Innovation Centre of Croatia (BICRO), Conning Asset Management Limited (United Kingdom), Covalence SA (Switzerland), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland), Innovation Management Centre (Russian Federation), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (Switzerland), International Road Federation (Switzerland), Marketing Research Foundation (Russian Federation), Romulus LLC (United States of America), Russian Venture Capital Association (Russian Federation), Saint-Petersburg Regional Foundation (Russian Federation), SNB React (Netherlands), Venture Capital Innovation Fund (Russian Federation), Vernadsky Foundation (Russian Federation), Public-Private Partnership Centre (Kazakhstan) and World Economic Forum (Switzerland).

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)

Documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the third session (ECE/CECI/2008/1)

4. The UNECE Acting Executive Secretary welcomed the Committee's third session and highlighted major challenges facing the economies of the region in the context of ongoing financial crisis. He noted that the activities of CECI had helped to invigorate the work of the Commission following the UNECE reform. They also have contributed to the effort of the United Nations to put together a concerted action to overcome the crisis without compromising the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
5. In his introductory remarks, the Chairperson of the Committee highlighted the major outputs delivered since its second session and invited delegations to address the issue of how the current global economic and financial crisis affected the innovative performance and competitiveness of Member States as well as the conduct of policies promoting knowledge-based development, and how CECI might respond to these new challenges. He noted that the active participation of Governments of both developed and transition countries was vital for the success of the Committee's endeavours and invited delegates to explore ways and means of supplementing the available resources with extrabudgetary contributions to develop capacity-building activities.
6. The participants reflected on the issues raised by the Chairperson and the effects of the crisis in Member States' economies and individual economic sectors. In particular, participants in this discussion raised the following issues:

- (a) It can be expected that innovative activities will be affected negatively by the indirect effects of the crisis. These effects should be mitigated with a policy intervention;
- (b) The crisis provides also a window of opportunity for reform and change, especially for countries with economies in transition, as the risks of non-reforming become more obvious. Therefore, the international community should assist these countries to take advantage of these opportunities;
- (c) The current situation calls for more specific innovation policies. This is the way to transform the crisis into new opportunities;
- (d) The financial crisis is creating additional challenges for raising finance. In the conditions of recession, infrastructure is a major beneficiary of the public sector investment aimed at invigorating the economy. This sector could also attract the private sector seeking to reduce investment risks. CECI could address the issue of how PPPs - through fiscal stimulus packages – could be a strategy for countries trying to get out of the crisis sooner. Regional cooperation could also play a role in this;
- (e) The same is valid also for the financing of SMEs and high-risk innovative projects. In this environment, Governments need to have a pro-active approach, in particular, by partly compensating the shortage of funding from public sources. CECI could try to identify and promote good practices in this area; and
- (f) CECI could look closer into policies of restoring confidence and creating an enabling environment for investors. This would be another practical approach of addressing the effects of the crisis on innovation and competitiveness.

7. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda, as contained in document ECE/CECI/2008/1.

III. STATUS OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (Agenda item 2)

A. Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness (Agenda item 2 (a))

Documentation: Report on the annual session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (ECE/CECI/ICP/2008/2)
Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development (ECE/CECI/2008/3)

8. The Chairperson of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies introduced the work accomplished under this thematic area since the second session, including the synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development.

9. Several delegations noted with appreciation the outputs produced by the Team and their relevance for the related decision-making. They emphasized the link between innovation and sustainable development, and the relevant government policies, including those focusing on human capital development.

10. The Committee took note of the results of the work of the Team of Specialists and the progress achieved in the implementation of this subprogramme.

B. Facilitating the effective regulatory protection of intellectual property rights and strengthening their role in innovative development (Agenda item 2 (b))

Documentation: Report on the annual session of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (ECE/CECI/IP/2008/2)

11. The secretariat introduced the work accomplished under this thematic area since the second session, including the progress achieved in preparing the comparative review on the commercialization of intellectual assets.

12. The Committee took note of the results of the work of the Team of Specialists and the progress achieved in the implementation of this subprogramme.

C. Promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and SME development (Agenda item 2 (c))

Documentation: Report of the Applied Policy Seminar “Early-Stage Financing and “Investment Readiness” of Innovative Enterprises” (ECE/CECI/SEM.1/2)

13. The secretariat introduced the work accomplished under this thematic area since the second session and presented the report of the above-mentioned applied policy seminar. Several delegations supported the activities under this thematic area and emphasized the need to develop the entrepreneurial culture among the youth, as well as to continue mainstreaming the gender dimension into the work on reducing barriers to entrepreneurship and enterprise development.

14. The Committee took note of the results of the work under this thematic area and the progress achieved in the implementation of the related subprogramme.

D. Promoting an enabling environment for efficient financial intermediation in support of innovative development (Agenda item 2 (d))

Documentation: Report on the International Conference on Investing in Innovation: Promoting New Opportunities in the UNECE Region (ECE/CECI/CONF.2/2)
Policy recommendations on improving the regulatory environment for the financing of innovation-related activities (ECE/CECI/2008/4)

15. The secretariat introduced the work accomplished under this thematic area since the second session, including the comparative review of the experiences of UNECE countries in

early-stage financing.

16. Several delegations supported the activities under this thematic area and emphasized their relevance for transition economies.

17. The Committee took note of the results of the work under this thematic area and the progress achieved in the implementation of the related subprogramme.

E. Promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships (Agenda item 2 (e))

Documentation: Report on the International Conference “Taking Public-Private Partnerships Forward: New Opportunities for Infrastructure Development in Transition Economies” (ECE/CECI/CONF.3/2)
Policy recommendations on improving the legal background for efficient public-private partnerships (ECE/CECI/2008/5)
Report on the annual session of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (ECE/CECI/PPP/2008/2)

18. On behalf of the Chairperson of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations Office at Geneva introduced the work accomplished under this thematic area since the second session, including the progress in preparation of the training toolkit on How to do PPPs and the preparation of the policy recommendations on improving the legal background for efficient PPPs.

19. Several delegations commended the achievements under this thematic area, including the development and testing of the first set of training modules and the advice provided by the Team to national policymakers, and emphasized that the current economic and financial crisis could open new opportunities for PPPs.

20. The Committee took note of the results of the work under this thematic area and the progress achieved in the implementation of the related subprogramme.

F. Fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region (Agenda item 2 (f))

Documentation: Report on the International Conference on Strengthening Integration of the Economies in Transition into the World Economy through Economic Diversification (ECE/CECI/CONF.1/2)

21. The secretariat reported on the outcome of the above-mentioned conference organized in cooperation with DESA.

22. The Committee took note of this report.

G. Capacity-building activities (Agenda item 2 (g))

Documentation: Report on capacity-building activities (ECE/CECI/2008/7)

23. The secretariat introduced this item and presented the progress report on related capacity-building activities.
24. The Committee took note of the progress report on related capacity-building activities.

H. Status of CECI virtual platform for exchange of information (Agenda item 2 (h))

25. The secretariat reported on the progress in developing and expanding the CECI virtual platform for exchange of information. Its structure reflects the two main directions in the Committee's work: policy dialogue and capacity-building. Although the platform had already proved its potential as a knowledge-sharing tool, CECI stakeholders should be further encouraged to fully use it by adding materials, posting comments and channelling requests.
26. The Committee took note of this progress report and encouraged the continued use of the virtual platform in the course of programme implementation.

IV. POLICY DISCUSSION SEGMENT ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN THE UNECE REGION (Agenda item 3)

27. The Policy Discussion Segment was organized as two panel discussions with representatives of Governments, integration structures and the business community. The Chairperson's summary of the Policy Discussion Segment is presented under Agenda item 6.

V. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009-2010 (Agenda item 4)

Documentation: Draft Programme of Work for 2009-2010 (ECE/CECI/2008/6)

28. The Committee considered its Programme of Work in the light of the experience gained in 2006–2008. The decisions on the Programme of Work for 2009-2010 are presented under Agenda item 7.

VI. PREPARATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2008-2009 (Agenda item 5)

Documentation: Performance evaluation of the subprogramme for 2008-2009 (ECE/CECI/2008/8)

29. The secretariat introduced this item and brought to the attention of the Committee the modalities of planning for the performance evaluation of the 2008-2009 Programme of Work. The decision on this item is presented under Item 7 of the Agenda.

30. The Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary explained that this performance evaluation was part of a United Nations-wide effort to improve transparency and accountability. At the same time, this exercise was not just a means for monitoring and evaluating past and current performance, but also a management tool for the Committee to review and shape the future priorities of its Programme of Work. The Special Advisor commended the Committee for taking the lead in preparations within UNECE and for setting an example for other subprogrammes to follow.

VII. PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY OF THE POLICY DISCUSSION SEGMENT (Agenda item 6)

31. The Chairman presented the following summary of discussion organized under the Policy Discussion Segment (Item 3 of the Agenda):

- (a) The main objective of the Policy Discussion Segment under Item 3 of the Agenda was to identify linkages with the relevant activities of the other UNECE sectoral committees and to discuss options for closer cross-sectoral cooperation within UNECE in addressing such issues. The segment addressed two subsets of such issues: session 1 tackled issues related to eco-innovation and clean energy for higher competitiveness; and session 2 dealt with wider economic integration through innovative development of efficient and safe transport and trade links.
- (b) The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration was honoured by the participation in two high-level panels distinguished representatives of Member States' Governments, international organizations and integration structures as well as from the business and academic communities.
- (c) The first panel addressed important cross-sectoral issues related to the linkages between the work in the UNECE subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration and those on environmental policy and sustainable energy in search of synergies and further cross-sectoral cooperation. It identified linkages with CECI work, including those pertaining to the links between innovation and environmental protection, innovative solutions for higher energy efficiency and, thus, cleaner energy, as well as the relations between these issues and international competitiveness. In particular, panellists drew attention to the following issues:
 - (i) The challenge of making the case for environmental protection and climate change mitigation actions as an opportunity, not a burden. Environmental protection is a source of jobs and market opportunities. By anticipating changes, actions in this area can be a source of competitive advantage. In addition, reduction of waste and energy consumption serves to lower costs;
 - (ii) Environmental concerns need to be mainstreamed in the policy and need an integrating policy approach. Sectoral approaches are ineffective. By contrast, exercises involving various stakeholders as well as regional solutions have greater promise;

- (iii) Market mechanisms are necessary for providing the right signals and incentives to economic agents. Regulations serve to overcome market failures. Public policy has also a role in mapping out the future;
- (iv) Addressing cross-border environmental problems is not possible without an international institutional framework. International multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks, which mobilise different sources of expertise, generate demonstration effects and facilitate the identification of low cost solutions;
- (v) Financing is often available for clean energy and eco-innovation projects but actual investments are constrained by the absence of consistent strategies, insufficient transparency and other project-based barriers. This is especially the case as regards related licences and permits. There is often insufficient information about opportunities;
- (vi) In the context of the current financial turmoil, infrastructure appears as a relatively attractive, low-risk investment target. Infrastructure is likely to be one of the sectors to benefit from increased interest;
- (vii) Education and, more generally, human capital issues are paramount to both raising awareness and increasing policy design and implementation capacity;
- (viii) Eco-innovation can reduce the cost of environmental protection, increase energy efficiency and facilitate the necessary shift to low-carbon economy. International cooperation serves to allay concerns on the impact on competitiveness;
- (ix) There are a variety of instruments that can be used in this area, including targeted incentives; reduction of barriers for the diffusion of existing technologies; state support to new technologies; green procurement; consumer awareness campaigns; publicly funded long-term strategic research and demonstration activities; removing energy subsidies that stimulate wasteful energy consumption; and internalising the implied costs of environmental pollution through penalties, among others;
- (x) Intellectual property is an essential dimension of the definition a suitable framework for technology transfer. There is a need to strike a balance between the protection of rights holders and the facilitation of dissemination of technologies;
- (xi) Technology transfer has a clear cooperative dimension that cannot be addressed only through intellectual property aspects. Other policies and infrastructures are necessary to encourage cooperation between developers and users. Training is an essential element of technology transfer;
- (xii) Demand by commercial users of technology is critical for the generation and dissemination of environmental technologies and climate change mitigation

efforts. Technological solutions may already exist but they are not always demanded. Policy efforts are needed to stimulate demand through appropriate incentives; and

(xiii) Preferably, this demand has to be specific (related to a particular problem in a particular context), as the best way to encourage both technology transfer and local invention, while attracting the necessary commercial interest.

(d) The panellists and the participants in this panel of the Policy Discussion Segment also made some concrete proposals, in particular:

(i) Since eco-innovation is a horizontal policy, coordination is critical for the effectiveness of efforts in this area. Therefore, CECI could work with other UNECE Committees to strengthen the links between various approaches and provide efficient responses to existing challenges;

(ii) National policies to address environmental challenges are neither effective nor fully feasible, given the global nature of the problems and the concerns that individual actions may be damaging to competitiveness. International partnerships should be developed further as a suitable arrangement to address issues related to the generation, financing and transfer of environmental technologies. UNECE and CECI can contribute to the promotion of such international partnerships;

(iii) In particular, public-private partnerships (PPPs) could be used as a framework to reconcile the need to generate commercial interest with public concerns and the lack of attractiveness of market mechanisms in developing economies and countries with economies in transition;

(iv) The implementation of projects is often constrained not by the availability of financing but by the absence of the necessary skills to identify and design these projects. Capacity-building activities under CECI could make a positive contribution to overcome these bottlenecks;

(v) Information and awareness efforts should be strengthened, as a basis for effective coordination. International organizations are important vehicles for facilitating public awareness raising efforts;

(vi) Since challenges are global, there is a need to provide wide platforms for interaction, with open networks that encourage participation of all stakeholders. CECI could make a positive contribution to this end; and

(vii) The targets and mechanisms of technology transfer need to be reconsidered, in particular taking into account that technology flows may not be unidirectional. CECI is well placed to contribute to this effort as it covers various aspects of the technology transfer process and the related interlinks in its thematic areas.

- (e) The second panel addressed cross-sectoral issues related to linkages between CECI work and the work in the UNECE subprogrammes on transport and trade with a view to identifying options for fostering wider economic integration in the UNECE region and strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation. Among the issues raised, and proposals made in Session 2 were the following:
- (i) Trade facilitation is a key pre-condition for attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) and for a country to integrate into global supply chains and hence to become more competitive because it reduces the economic distance to markets. The costs of complying with regulations in different national jurisdictions is a barrier especially for many small and medium-sized enterprises to engage in international trade and to participate in global supply chains;
 - (ii) Trade facilitation is not only a technical, but mostly a political issue. It requires a strategic approach to implementation, including at the regional and international levels. It also requires close cooperation between Governments and the business community to identify bottlenecks and to implement cost-effective solutions;
 - (iii) UNECE legal instruments and standards, such as the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT) Single Window and the convention on the harmonization of frontier controls, are important trade facilitation tools. However, poor governance and a lack of training sometimes limit the impact of such instruments on trade facilitation;
 - (iv) A challenge is to reduce barriers to trade without exposing consumers to inflows of goods that do not meet safety, health and environmental standards, and without exposing firms to unfair competition from goods that violate such standards or infringe intellectual property rights. Market surveillance agencies need to respond to this challenge;
 - (v) At the level of the European Union, the Rapid Alert Information System on Dangerous Products (RAPEX) and the Internet-based Information and Communication System for Europe-wide cross-border Market Surveillance of technical products (ICSMS) are instruments for the exchange of information on unsafe goods between national market surveillance agencies, and between market surveillance agencies and consumers;
 - (vi) Owners of intellectual property rights (IPRs) brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of how to allocate the costs of storing and destroying counterfeit goods stopped at borders. At present, these costs typically fall on the rights owners, i.e. on the party harmed by the trade in counterfeits. Instead rights owners proposed to explore the possibility of enlisting the cooperation of international carriers in imposing these costs on the producers or shippers of the counterfeits through properly defined freight conditions;
 - (vii) There is a complementarity between trade facilitation and investments in transport infrastructure in fostering competitiveness. On the one hand,

improvements in roads will not have a large positive impact on competitiveness, if the goods shipped on these roads are being held up at the border. On the other hand, trade facilitation will not have a big positive impact on competitiveness if goods cannot even reach the border for lack of transport infrastructure;

(viii) Improvements in road infrastructure require substantial investments, particularly in geographically big countries. PPPs are a promising instrument to finance these investments. However, their use is often constrained by a lack of legal frameworks and experience in their implementation and management;

(ix) There have been significant technological innovations originating in the private sector for congestion-reducing road planning, management and design and in renewable and environmentally friendly materials for building roads. The challenge is for the public sector to deploy these technologies by including environmental impact criteria in its procurement tenders;

(x) Public awareness programmes are very important for improving transparency and promoting innovative solutions to safe and efficient transport and trade links. UNECE and CECI can contribute to the promotion of such programmes; and

(xi) Capacity-building is one obvious area of possible strengthening of cross-sectoral cooperation within UNECE. CECI could consider developing joint capacity-building activities with other UNECE subprogrammes in areas of common interest.

- (f) The Committee extended its gratitude to the panellists for their valuable contribution to the discussions and the useful and practical suggestions for fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region. The Committee thanked the Moderators of the two panels for skilfully steering the discussions. The Committee also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in organizing these policy discussions on an interesting and highly relevant topic.

VIII. ADOPTION OF CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS, INCLUDING THOSE ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (Agenda item 7)

32. The Committee agreed on the following conclusions and decisions:

- (a) Having examined the status of programme implementation, the Committee noted with appreciation that the main objectives and outputs envisaged in the CECI Programme of Work for 2006-2008 had been successfully achieved.
- (b) The Committee also noted that a series of policy-oriented normative documents had been endorsed at its annual sessions. It invited Member States to disseminate these documents as well as the recommendations of expert meetings and other policy-relevant findings in their countries and use them in their decision-making

process. The Committee asked the secretariat to use these documents and findings when planning and organizing the respective capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

- (c) The Committee noted with satisfaction the establishment of an active constituency of CECI stakeholders, including business community and expert networks in UNECE Member States. This constituency, on the one hand, contributes to successful programme implementation and, on the other hand, benefits from CECI results and outputs. In line with the Committee' Terms of Reference, representatives of the business community regularly participate in and actively contribute to CECI events.
- (d) The Committee emphasized the role of the CECI Teams of Specialists as important pillars of CECI activities. The Committee expressed gratitude to the Teams, their Bureaus and members for their fruitful contribution to the work under the subprogramme.
- (e) The Committee also noted that it endeavoured to meet a growing demand for CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services from countries with economies in transition. The amount of such demand-driven work increased considerably in 2008.
- (f) The Committee took note of the progress report on the CECI Information Exchange Platform and encouraged its use as an instrument of knowledge-sharing by its Teams of Specialists and expert networks.
- (g) The Committee adopted its Programme of Work for 2009-2010 as contained in Part II of document CEC/CECI/2008/6, taking into account the deliberations under this agenda item (Annex I).
- (h) The Committee stressed that the structure and content of the draft CECI Programme of Work for 2009-2010 had taken into account the results of work undertaken in 2006-2008. The Committee noted with appreciation the work undertaken by the CECI Bureau, the Teams of Specialists and the secretariat in preparing the draft of the Programme of Work.
- (i) The Committee recommended to take due consideration of the challenges related to the current global financial and economic crisis in the future activities under the subprogramme. It emphasized the role of long-term structural policies which become increasingly important. The crisis situation should be seen not only as a challenge but also as an opportunity for knowledge-based development.
- (j) The Committee recommended to renew the mandates of the Teams of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, on Intellectual Property and on Public-Private Partnerships for the period 2009-2010. The Committee invited members of the Teams of Specialists to continue their active contribution to the

programme implementation including capacity-building activities and policy advisory services.

- (k) The Committee welcomed a stronger emphasis on capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in the Programme of Work for 2009-2010. It thanked all the stakeholders who had contributed extrabudgetary resources and made in-kind contributions to the programme implementation so far. In view of the growing demand for CECI capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services from countries with economies in transition, the Committee agreed that there would be a need to match this demand with an adequate level of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources.
- (l) The Committee welcomed the willingness of the European Business Angel Network, Russian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (Russian Federation), Public-Private Partnership Centre and Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning (Republic of Kazakhstan), Vnesheconombank (Russian Federation) and other partner organizations to develop cooperation with CECI, in particular in the area of capacity-building, including in the area of PPPs and innovation.
- (m) The Committee supported the following proposals:
 - (i) to organize jointly with the Economic Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning (Republic of Kazakhstan) an international event on “Public-Private Partnerships facing global challenges” within the framework of the II Astana Economic Forum in March 2009 (Kazakhstan);
 - (ii) to organize jointly with the Russian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association an International Conference “Practical Aspects of Public-Private Partnerships in Innovation” within the framework of the Xth Venture Capital Fair in October 2009 in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation);
 - (iii) to organize jointly with the Market Research Foundation (Russian Federation) an International Conference “World Economic Crisis: New Opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships” in April 2009 in Kaliningrad with the participation of regions of the Russian Federation.
- (n) The Committee welcomed the establishment of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, which would serve as a vehicle for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services in SPECA member countries.
- (o) The Committee also welcomed the developing cooperation in capacity-building between CECI and CIS in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, and between CECI and Regional Cooperation Council in countries of South-East Europe.

- (p) The Committee invited the Member States and other interested parties to consider different options to strengthen the support for capacity-building activities with extrabudgetary resources and in-kind contributions and requested the secretariat to continue its fund-raising efforts to this end.
- (q) The Committee took note of the report by the secretariat and agreed on the measurement methodology and the modalities of collecting information on the indicators of achievement for the 2008-2009 biennial performance evaluation. It encouraged Teams of Specialists and networks of experts to actively contribute to this process, in particular by completing the evaluation questionnaire to be distributed by the secretariat.
- (r) The Committee took note of the issues raised during the Policy Discussion Segment and the proposals regarding the work of UNECE and CECI and invited the Bureau together with the secretariat to take them into account in the future work of CECI and in coordination with other relevant Divisions and Committees.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda item 8)

A. Dates of the next session

33. The Committee decided that its fourth session would take place on 30 September - 2 October 2009 (Wednesday – Friday). For technical reasons, the dates for the session were subsequently moved to 28-30 September 2009 (Monday – Wednesday).
34. At the closure of the session, several participants expressed their appreciation of the work of the Committee, which had become an important platform for exchanges of experiences of practical relevance to stakeholders, including the business community. It was also noted that the recommendations on the effective governance of PPPs were taken into account by the Parliament of the Russian Federation when developing the relevant legislation.

Annex

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2009-2010

2009

A . Policy-oriented and Normative Work

1. Policy-oriented meetings

- (a) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (b) Expert meeting on technological readiness for innovation-based competitiveness and promoting an enabling ICT policy and regulatory framework (with the participation of the TOS-ICP and TOS-IP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”, “Financing Innovative Development”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”.

- (c) PPP forum (to be organized in cooperation with the PPP Unit from the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Netherlands).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (d) International conference on promoting innovation-based entrepreneurial opportunities in the UNECE region. The conference will be held in conjunction with the annual session of CECI, with the participation of the TOS-ICP and TOS-IP. The Teams will hold brief meetings at the margins of the conference.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”, “Financing Innovative Development”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

2. Normative work

- (a) Good practices and policy options in promoting innovation-based entrepreneurial opportunities.

- (b) Good practices in ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness.

B. Capacity-Building Activities and Policy Advisory Services

1. Development of training materials and modules
 - (a) Training module on policy options and practical instruments for enhancing the innovative performance of firms.
 - (b) Training module on policy options and instruments for early stage financing of innovative firms.
 - (c) Modular training toolkit on IPR commercialization focusing on improving framework conditions for entrepreneurs and SMEs.
 - (d) Training Toolkit on “How to PPPs” (a synopsis of training modules covering key areas of PPP design and governance) – Part I.
2. Field activities
 - (a) Modular training and policy seminar on promoting knowledge-based development (covering all Focus areas) for policymakers and practitioners from CIS countries (Minsk) (in cooperation with the CIS Secretariat).
 - (b) Regional capacity-building workshop on new opportunities for infrastructure development based on PPPs (in a CIS country).
 - (c) Subregional capacity-building event for on IPR commercialization and enforcement (in a South-East European country).
 - (d) Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building event on early stage financing of innovative firms (in a CIS country).
 - (e) Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG KBD) in conjunction with a capacity-building event in a SPECA member country.

Note: The secretariat will respond to ad hoc requests from Member States Governments for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

2010

A. Policy-oriented and Normative Work

1. Policy-oriented meetings

- (a) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP), including Substantive Segment with a tentative thematic orientation on promoting innovation in the services sector.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”.

- (b) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property (TOS-IP), including Substantive Segment with a tentative thematic orientation on commercialization and protection of IPRs in universities and public research organizations.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

- (c) Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnerships (TOS-PPP).

Addresses Focus area(s): “Public-Private Partnerships”.

- (d) Expert meeting on policies to address financing and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms.

Addresses Focus area(s): “Financing Innovative Development”, “Innovation and Competitiveness Policies”, “Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development”, “Commercialization and Protection of IPRs”.

2. Normative work

- (a) Policy options for promoting innovation in the services sector.

- (b) Synopsis of good practices in commercialization and protection of IPRs in universities and public research organizations.

- (c) Policy recommendations on strengthening governance in public-private partnerships.

- (d) Synopsis of good practices and policies in address financing and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms.

B. Capacity-building Activities and Policy Advisory Services

1. Development of training materials and modules
 - (a) Training module on promoting entrepreneurial opportunities and growth in new innovative firms.
 - (b) Training module on strategic management of IPRs and addressing the related regulatory challenges.
 - (c) Training module on ICT policy for promoting innovation-based competitiveness, including e-commerce regulatory framework.
 - (e) Training Toolkit on “How to PPPs” (a synopsis of training modules covering key areas of PPP design and governance) – Part II.
2. Field activities
 - (a) Modular training and policy seminar on promoting knowledge-based development for policymakers and practitioners from CIS countries.
 - (b) Regional capacity-building event on the development of PPP units in South-East Europe.
 - (c) Subregional modular cross-thematic training on promoting knowledge-based development (covering all Focus areas) for policymakers and practitioners in South-East Europe and/or the Caucasus.
 - (d) Regional/subregional capacity-building event on ICT policy and regulatory framework for promoting innovation-based competitiveness and facilitating e-commerce.
 - (e) Meeting of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD) in conjunction with a capacity-building event in a SPECA member country.

Note: The secretariat will respond to ad hoc requests from Member States Governments for capacity-building activities and policy advisory services on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

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