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### Economic Commission for Europe

#### Committee on Trade

#### Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

##### Twentieth session

Geneva, 1-3 November 2010

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

##### Programme of work and priorities of the Working Party

### Programme of work for 2011-2013 and table of priorities

#### Note by the secretariat\*

##### *Summary*

This document contains the programme of work for 2011-2013 based on the Working Party's Terms of Reference, and decisions taken at its most recent annual sessions, and at the meetings of the Bureau of the Working Party.

Additionally, at its meeting in Stockholm in May 2010, the Bureau also reviewed a table of priorities prepared by the secretariat. The table, which is included in this document, describes in detail the status of Working Party initiatives under way, and outlines their respective mandates.

The document contains an updated organizational chart which describes the structure of the WP.6 Bureau and the role of its rapporteurs.

The programme of work with its table of priorities is submitted to the Working Party for further discussion and adoption.

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\* At its previous sessions, the Working Party decided that delegations should take part in on-going appraisals (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/12) of the programme of work (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 81 (c))

## **I. Programme of work for 2011-2013**

### **A. Risk management in regulatory systems**

#### **1. Objectives**

- (a) Improved management of hazards that have the potential to affect the quality of products and services, and/or cause harm or damage to people, the environment, property and immaterial assets;
- (b) Collecting and sharing information about hazards resulting from use of products and from production processes;
- (c) Developing and sharing best practice on how to address these hazards through regulatory and managerial best practice.

#### **2. Work to be undertaken**

- (a) Discuss the establishment of a Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems;
- (b) Develop reference models on the use of risk-management tools by regulatory authorities, standardization bodies, conformity-assessment bodies and market surveillance authorities;
- (c) Undertake a survey based on the reference models to document actual use of risk management tools and areas in which they are needed;
- (d) Establish a plan for future activities on the basis of the results of the survey and in consultation with all stakeholders, and assure its implementation;
- (e) Organize a panel session on Risk Management as part of the twentieth annual session;
- (f) Draw up a proposal for an event to be held as part of the 2011 session of UNECE. If accepted, work in cooperation with the Office of the UNECE Executive Secretary in organizing it;
- (g) Establish links with other organizations as well as national and regional authorities that have established expertise in risk management.

### **B. Standardization policies**

#### **1. Objectives**

- (a) To provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences on issues of concern to States Members of the United Nations, and representatives of business and civil society in the area of standardization and related activities;
- (b) To promote the implementation and use of international standards.

#### **2. Work to be undertaken**

- (a) To complete the revision of Recommendation D on “Reference to Standards”, taking into account relevant international guidelines and documents;
- (b) To participate in the work of national, regional and international standards-setting bodies and other international governmental and intergovernmental organizations, as appropriate.

**C. Regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation: sectoral initiatives based on the UNECE Recommendation L developed by the Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (“START”)**

**1. Objectives**

- (a) To continuously review issues related to regulatory practices at the national, regional and international levels;
- (b) To strengthen regulatory cooperation;
- (c) To support existing and new sectoral or regional initiatives for projects using the mechanisms and principles of the “International Model for Technical Harmonization”, in cooperation with interested Governments, international organizations and private operators.

**2. Work to be undertaken**

- (a) Continue to publish the Regulatory Cooperation newsletter;
- (b) Facilitate good regulatory practice and strengthen regulatory cooperation at the regional and international level by sharing best practices through workshops, seminars and publications;
- (c) Support the work of the Sectoral Initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery, the Sectoral Initiative on “Equipment for Explosive Environments”, the Telecom Initiative, and the Initiative on the Safety of Pipelines;
- (d) If interest is expressed by national delegations, support new sectoral projects using the mechanisms and principles of the International Model for Technical Harmonization;
- (e) If financially possible, assist regional trade agreements which involve developing countries or countries with economies in transition in furthering regulatory cooperation among their members, based on the principles of Recommendation L;
- (f) Continue to work in cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, including by actively participating in its meetings, seminars and workshops.

**D. Market surveillance: support to the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS”)**

**1. Objectives**

- (a) To reinforce cooperation among market surveillance (MS) authorities worldwide;
- (b) To foster harmonization of MS approaches through developing internationally accepted definitions of terms, as well as through a clear framework and guidelines for carrying out market surveillance;
- (c) To continue to promote the implementation of Recommendation M on the “Use of Market Surveillance Infrastructure as a Complementary Means to Protect Consumers and Users against Counterfeit Goods”.

**2. Work to be undertaken**

- (a) Review approaches and practices in the area of market surveillance at a global level, and promote an exchange of information and best practice among national authorities worldwide by supporting the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (MARS);
- (b) Support the work of the Market Surveillance Model Task Force for developing a generic model and guidelines of good practice for market surveillance;
- (c) Support the work of the “MARS” Group on definitions to promote better mutual understanding at an international level and to bridge the major variations in the use of terms related to market surveillance;
- (d) Continue to promote the principles of Recommendation M, and, if sufficient funds can be raised, support its implementation in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (e) Continue to cooperate actively with: the PROSAFE initiative of the European Union, ISO/CASCO and specifically its newly established STAR Group, as well as CEN and CENELEC and EASC and other regional and national bodies.

**E. Conformity assessment****1. Objectives**

- (a) To review and promote harmonized international conformity-assessment principles and practices, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements for the acceptance of conformity-assessment results;
- (b) To participate in trade-related work on conformity assessment in other international and regional organizations.

**2. Work to be undertaken**

- (a) Organize and follow up on a panel session on conformity assessment as part of the twentieth annual session;
- (b) Continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information and experience on conformity-assessment issues of concern to UNECE member States, other States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and representatives of business and civil society;
- (c) Continue to cooperate actively with all relevant national, regional and international stakeholders.

**F. Metrology****1. Objectives**

- (a) To exchange information on national metrology policies and practices in UNECE member States;
- (b) To consider possible ways of establishing criteria for metrological procedures.

## 2. Work to be undertaken

- (a) Continue providing a discussion forum for metrology issues of concern, with special emphasis on countries in transition;
- (b) Continue to cooperate actively with interested UNECE member countries and national, regional and international organizations.

## G. Capacity-building and technical cooperation

### 1. Objectives

To support implementation of its recommendations and other programmes, the Working Party will evaluate and, when possible, respond to requests for training and capacity-building from interested countries and organizations from the UNECE and other regions. To that end, it will continue working with donors to obtain extrabudgetary resources for financing such projects.

### 2. Work to be undertaken

- (a) Explore the possibility of raising extra-budgetary funds for the implementation of Recommendation M in countries with economies in transition and developing countries;
- (b) Explore the possibility of raising extrabudgetary funds to assist regional trade agreements that involve developing countries or countries with economies in transition to further regulatory cooperation among their members, based on the principles of Recommendation L;
- (c) Cooperate more actively with organizations engaged in capacity-building and technical-cooperation activities relating to standards and regulations and that work towards a coordinated approach to standardization, conformity assessment and accreditation.

## II. Table of priorities for 2011-2013

### A. Explanatory note and key to the table

1. Provisional priority levels for the programme of work were assigned as follows:
  - Priority A: 2010-2011**
  - Priority B: Ongoing work**
  - Priority C: Postponed**
2. The seven major areas of work are as follows:
  - Risk management
  - Standardization policies
  - Regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation: Support to the Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team)
  - Market surveillance: support to the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
  - Conformity assessment

- Metrology
  - Capacity-building and technical cooperation
3. The source documents are as follows:
- Report of the nineteenth session ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/19
  - Report of the Conference on Risk Assessment and Management ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2010/2
  - Programme of work, 2008-2010 ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1
  - Report of the seventeenth session ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13
4. The following abbreviations are used in the table::
- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| CA    | Conformity assessment                                       |
| CROs  | Common regulatory objectives                                |
| MS    | Market surveillance   |
| RC    | Regulatory cooperation                                      |
| RM    | Risk management   |
| SIEEE | Sectoral Initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments |
| SIEMM | Sectoral Initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery               |
| SIPS  | Sectoral Initiative on Pipeline Safety                      |
| SIT   | Sectoral Initiative on Telecom                              |
| Stand | Standardization policies                                    |

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Area of work</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Chair/Team/Group /Task Force Leader</i>	<i>Current status ( as of June 2010)</i>
A	RM	2009 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/19, para.10(c))	Creation of a Group of Expert on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM)	Mr. D. Macrae Mr. V. Nikonov	Under discussion
A	RM	Ditto	Development of a methodology for assessing the use of risk management tools in regulatory systems. Undertaking a survey to document actual use and outstanding needs.	Mr. V. Nikonov Mr. D. Macrae	Preliminary results will be presented on the WP session
B	Stand	2008 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2007/13, para. 35)	As follow-up to the discussion on the challenges faced by the Russian regulatory authorities in their work at the seventeenth session in 2007, and the UNECE-WP.6 International Forum on Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade, the Working Party entrusted Office bearers and the UNECE secretariat to: (a) prepare a reference/information document for interested regulatory authorities in the UNECE and other regions; and (b) initiate work on the revision of Recommendation D	WP.6 and secretariat	“Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade” published 2010. A proposal for the revision of Recommendation D was discussed at the nineteenth session. At the twentieth session the WP will consider a proposal to set up a Working Group for the revision of Recommendation D.
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment (SIEEE) was established by the Working Party at its seventeenth session in 2007. Its terms of reference were approved at the eighteenth session in 2008, and the proposed CROs at the nineteenth session in 2009.	Mr. F. Lieniesch	The task force will hold a meeting in Stockholm and discuss the best approach to promote the CROs among policy-makers and representatives of standardization bodies in developing countries that do not have a framework for Ex-equipment yet. Other priorities include the revision of the existing CROs, the procedures relating to market surveillance and the development of best practice in market surveillance.

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A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Telecom Products (SIT) started work in 2002, and its terms of reference were approved by the Working Party in 2003. It drew up CROs for the following equipment: personal computers (PCs); PC peripherals; legacy Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) terminals; Bluetooth, Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN); a Global Standard for Mobile Telecommunication (GSM); and International Mobile	Mr. P. Döfnäs	A letter was sent by the Chair of the Working Party to the Chair of the negotiating group on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) on the possible use of the International Model in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 15)	The Sectoral Initiative on Earth Moving Machinery (SIEMM) started work in 2003 and developed a proposal for CROs in 2004, which was endorsed by the Working Party at its fourteenth session. Revised CROs were adopted at the nineteenth session in 2009 to address the requirement for third-party certification in countries where the supplier declaration of conformity (SDoC) is not recognized.	Mr. D. Roley	The Coordinator of SIEMM will continue to promote the CROs under their revised form. The Working Party will also discuss a proposal by SIEMM for the use of a general format for certificates of conformity.
A	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 15)	At its seventeenth session, the Working Party took note of a preliminary proposal for the establishment of a Taskforce on Oil and Gas Pipeline Safety based on Recommendation L. At its nineteenth session the Working Party decided to establish a new initiative on pipeline safety (SIPS). Preliminary work has already started: a questionnaire to document regulatory practices in this sector was prepared and five countries (Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Kazakhstan and Turkey) have replied.	Ms. N. Volkova	The secretariat awaits the nomination of a new Coordinator for SIPS.



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B	RC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 15)	Support new sectoral or regional initiatives for projects using the mechanisms and principles of the International Model for Technical Harmonization, in cooperation with interested Governments, international organizations and private operators.	WP.6 and secretariat	
B	RC and Stand	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 12)	Provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences on issues of concern to UNECE member States, other States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and representatives of business and civil society, in the area of standardization and related activities.	WP.6 and secretariat	
A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 18(b))	The General Market Surveillance Model initiative began in 2007 and its terms of reference were approved at the eighteenth session in 2008. The revised but informal version of the model was presented at the nineteenth annual session. It is supplemented by an introductory document developed by the secretariat (ECE/TRADE/C/ WP.6/2009/11).	Mr. I. Hendrix	Discussions are under way with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to explore the possibility of developing the General Market Surveillance Model into a published training document for regulatory authorities.
A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 18(c))	At its eighteenth session, the Working Party endorsed the proposal by the "MARS" Group to reinforce the work on common definitions.	Mr. W. Kool	A draft document was presented at the nineteenth session. Delegations are invited to submit additional terms that they believe should be included in this list and any deviating definition from their national legislation of the terms listed.

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A	MS	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 19)	The Working Party agreed to explore the interest of ISO/CASCO in reinforcing cooperation in the area of market surveillance.	MARS and secretariat	UNECE regularly attends the meetings of the ISO/CASCO STAR Group.
B	MS	2008 annual session (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/18, para. 18(d))	The Working Party recommended that the UNECE member States, as well as all other States, where legal and institutional frameworks permit, encourage their national market surveillance bodies to use the approaches proposed in Recommendation M.	WP.6 and secretariat	WP.6 will encourage an exchange of experience on Recommendation M
B	M	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, paras. 23 and 24)	Continue providing a discussion forum for metrology issues of concern, with special emphasis on countries in transition.  Maintain contact with interested UNECE member countries and metrology organizations (e.g. the International Organization of Legal Metrology and the Euro-Asian Cooperation of State Metrology Institutions) to explore their interest in developing new recommendations for guidelines on the methodology for measuring procedures.	Mr. W. Kool, Bureau and secretariat	WP.6 is preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate collaboration between UNECE and OIML.
B	CA	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 21),	Continue to provide a forum for the exchange of information and experience on conformity-assessment issues of concern to UNECE member States, other States Members of the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and representatives of business and civil society.	WP.6, Bureau and secretariat	Organize a panel session on conformity assessment with coordinators of sectoral initiatives and with international organisations (ISO/CASCO, ILAC, IAF)

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B	CB and TC	Programme of work 2009-2010 (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2008/14/ Rev.1, para. 25),	To support implementation of its recommendations and other programmes, the Working Party will evaluate and, when possible, respond to requests for training and capacity-building from countries and organizations in the UNECE and other regions. To that end, it will continue working with donors to obtain extrabudgetary resources for financing such projects.	WP.6 and secretariat	

### III. Organizational chart of the Working Party

