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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Twenty-third session

Geneva, 18-20 November 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-third session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on 18 November 2013. The session will include an International Conference on "Standards and Regulatory Frameworks".

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Discussion on the Working Party's rules of procedures.
3. Election of officers.
4. Matters arising from recent meetings and areas of priority action for the Working Party.
5. International Conference on "Standards and Regulatory Frameworks":
 - (a) Concerns of the business community;
 - (b) Global best practice in use of standards in regulatory work: in particular as regards operationalizing sustainable development, managing risks, and addressing non-conformity to standards and regulations;
 - (c) Alternative business models of standards-making bodies;

¹ Delegates are requested to complete the registration form, available on the website, and send it to the UNECE secretariat at least two weeks before the session by e-mail regulatory.cooperation@unece.org or fax +41 22 917 0037. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Security office located at the Pregny Gate (see map: www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf).

- (d) Practical ways of enhancing cooperation between standards-making bodies and regulators: common terminology, information systems, awareness-raising and capacity-building etc.
- 6. Risk management in regulatory systems.
- 7. International regulatory cooperation:
 - (a) Regional projects;
 - (b) Sectoral projects.
- 8. Standardization and regulatory practice:
 - (a) Review of developments in standardization and national and regional regulatory activities;
 - (b) Discussion on the revision of the Recommendation D on “Reference to Standards”;
 - (c) Education on standards-related issues.
- 9. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation.
- 10. Market surveillance:
 - (a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance;
 - (b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative;
 - (c) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance;
 - (d) Update on the development of the Global Market Surveillance database.
- 11. Metrology.
- 12. Capacity-building.
- 13. Other business.
- 14. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Annotated provisional agenda	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/1	D

The provisional agenda and timetable were agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party and are presented here for approval.

2. Discussion on the Working Party's rules of procedure

Following the review of the UNECE reform by the Executive Committee, all UNECE subsidiary bodies are invited to review and, if necessary, amend their rules of procedures.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Guidelines on procedures and practices for ECE bodies	E/ECE/1468, Annex III	D

3. Election of officers

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the Working Party will elect a Chair and two vice-chairs. At the twenty-second session, the Working Party elected Ms. M. Stoldt (Germany) as Chair, Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus) and Mr. J. Mihok (Slovakia) as vice-chairs and Mr. C. Arvius as Senior Adviser to the Bureau.

4. Matters arising from recent meetings and areas of priority action for the Working Party

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies on its twenty-second session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2012/2	D
Report of the annual planning meeting of UNECE WP. 6 activities	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/3	D
Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Committee on Trade : "Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE"	E/ECE/1468	I

The Bureau will present the main areas of work covered by Working Party 6, and discuss areas of priority action for the coming months. It will introduce the report of the twenty-second session of the Working Party, discuss developments under different items, and review any outstanding items for discussion or for action.

The secretariat will provide an update on matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee on Trade, as well as previous sessions of the Working Party, and meetings of its subgroups. The secretary of the Committee on Trade will report in particular on the technical cooperation project on "Needs Assessments in Countries with Economies in Transition: Trade Facilitation and Regulatory Cooperation". Delegations will be invited to comment on the project.

Delegations will be informed of and invited to discuss the impact on the delivery of the WP.6 programme of work of the reallocation of resources resulting from the review of the

UNECE reform by the Executive Committee, and the budget cuts made by the General Assembly in late 2012.

5. International Conference on “Standards and Regulations”

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Concept note for the Workshop on Standards and Regulations	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/4	D
Draft Revised Recommendation D on Reference to Standards	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/5	D

At the request of the WP.6 Bureau, an International Conference will be held on “Standards and Regulatory Frameworks”. The conference will present and discuss global best practice in the use of standards in regulatory work: in particular for operationalizing sustainable development, managing risks, and addressing non-conformity to standards and regulations.

It will discuss practical ways of addressing business concerns and enhancing cooperation between standards-making bodies and regulators through practical means including a common terminology, appropriate information systems, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.

Authorities, standards-development bodies and academics, as well as representatives of the business community, are invited to present related activities already under way or planned both in UNECE member States and globally.

The conference is organized in cooperation with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Issues raised at the conference will be further discussed and addressed during the remainder of the Working Party session with a view to finding appropriate solutions to the concerns expressed by delegates.

6. Risk management in regulatory systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks</i> (publication)	ECE/TRADE/390	I
Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/6	D

The group will report on the work undertaken since the last session. Delegations will be invited to discuss priorities for the ongoing and further work of the Group going forward.

7. International regulatory cooperation

(a) Regional projects

The Working Party will be informed about the status of projects to reinforce regulatory cooperation, especially at the bilateral and regional level, with a particular focus on South-East Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Commission. Delegations will be invited to present recent developments in regulatory cooperation. In particular:

- Regulatory cooperation in the Eurasian Economic Commission and in the CIS;
- Ongoing efforts towards regulatory approximation between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Commission: in particular, delegations will be presented with the Recommendations for an approximation of the Russian, Customs Union and EU legislation in the field of technical regulations prepared by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs;
- Regulatory cooperation in the Organization for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

(b) Sectoral projects

The Team of Specialists on Standardization And Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team) will report on its activities and those of its sectoral initiatives.

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Telecom	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/7	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/8	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/9	D

The conveners of the ongoing sectoral initiatives will report on activities and recent achievements in the initiatives on Equipment for Explosive Environments, Telecom, Earth-Moving Machinery and the Safety of Pipelines.

The Working Party will consider proposals from delegations on new regulatory convergence dialogues.

8. Standardization and regulatory practice

(a) Review of developments in standardization and relevant national and regional regulatory activities

Intergovernmental organizations and international and regional standardization bodies will be invited to present recent developments in standardization and regulatory activities.

The Working Party will discuss the principal directions of the development of standardization in major regional groupings and countries and how they might affect the delivery of the programme of work.

The Working Party will consider the issue of standards and technical regulations in relation to organically produced products.

(b) Proposed revision of Recommendation D

Further to a proposal by the Bureau, and to the discussions during the Workshop on Standards and Regulations, delegations will be invited to discuss the revision of Recommendation D on “Reference to Standards”

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Draft Revised Recommendation D on Reference to Standards	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/5	D

9. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation

National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on trade-related aspects of conformity assessment and accreditation.

10. Market surveillance

National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on developments in market surveillance, including the implementation of Recommendation M, “Use of market surveillance infrastructure as a complementary means to protect consumers and users against counterfeit goods”, and Recommendation N, “Good Market Surveillance Policies and Practices”.

(a) Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Report of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance, its activities and its meetings	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/10	D

The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) will report on its activities and on its meeting in Prague. The Coordinator for Liaison with Market Surveillance Bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS Liaison Coordinator) will present recent activities of the CIS Working Group on Market Surveillance.

(b) Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Market surveillance general concept and how it relates to the activities of the Working Party	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/11	I
Draft guide to the use of the General Market Surveillance Model	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2009/12	I

The Coordinator of the General Market Surveillance Model initiative will present an update on the ongoing work. Delegations will be invited to present any further comments they may have on the General Market Surveillance Model.

(c) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
<i>Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms</i>	ECE/TRADE/389	I

The delegates will be invited to comment and propose revisions to the *Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms*.

(d) Update on the development of the Global Market Surveillance database

The secretariat will present the Global Market Surveillance database and activities undertaken to develop it. Delegations will be invited to provide input on how to facilitate access to the information and to promote the database to potential users.

11. Metrology

National delegations and international and regional organizations will be invited to report on developments in metrology.

12. Capacity-building

The Working Party will receive an update on planned capacity-building activities. Delegations will be invited to present their priorities for support relating to regulatory cooperation and standardization policies and suggestions regarding potential sources of extrabudgetary funding.

13. Other business

The Working Party will select tentative dates for its meeting in 2014.

14. Adoption of the report

According to agreed practice, during its session the Working Party will approve a list of main decisions. The secretariat will subsequently draft the descriptive part of the report, in consultation with the office bearers.

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
18.11	15:00 - 15:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
	15:10- 15:20	2	Discussion on the Working Party's rules of procedure
	15:20 -15:30	3	Election of officers
	15:30 - 16:00	4	Matters arising from recent meetings and overview of areas of priority action for the Working Party
	16:00 - 17:30	7	International regulatory cooperation
		7 (a)	Regional projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory cooperation in the Eurasian Economic Commission and in the CIS • Regulatory cooperation between the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Commission • Regulatory cooperation under the umbrella of the Organization for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
	17:30 – 18:00	7 (b)	Sectoral projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral initiative on Telecom • Sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery • Sectoral initiative on Explosive Environments Equipment
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19.11.	10:00 - 13:00	5	International Conference on "Standards and Regulatory Frameworks" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening • Use of standards in regulatory work: global best practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For sustainable development - In managing risks - In addressing non-conformity to standards and regulations
	13:00- 18:00	5	International Conference on "Standards and Regulatory Frameworks" (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries' experiences related to reference to standards in regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Mandatory standards" - National experience implementing

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
			Recommendation D
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overcoming the problem of missed revenue from use of standards in regulations - Reference to norms developed by standards-making bodies of different jurisdictions • Practical ways of enhancing cooperation between standards-making bodies and regulators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common terminology, - Information systems (e.g. the unified electronic database of terms and definitions in the field of standardization); - Awareness-raising and capacity-building
20.11	10:00 - 12:00	8	Standardization and regulatory practice
		8 (a)	Review of developments in standardization and relevant national and regional regulatory developments
		8 (b)	Discussion on the Revision of Recommendation D
		8 (c)	Education on standards-related issues
	12:00 - 13:00	6	Risk management in regulatory systems
	15:00-15:45	9	Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation
	15:45 -17:00	10	Market surveillance
		10 (a)	Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
		10 (b)	Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative
		10 (c)	Common definitions and terminology in Market Surveillance
		10 (d)	Update on the development of the Global Market Surveillance database
	17:00- 17:20	11	Metrology
	17:20 - 17:30	12	Capacity-building
	17:30 - 17:40	13	Other business
	17:40- 18:00	14	Adoption of the report