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Committee on Trade

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Twenty-fourth session

Geneva, 24-26 November 2014

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on 24 November 2014. The session will include an International Conference on "Safer products and workplaces, safer communities", on 25 November 2014.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of additional officers
3. Matters arising from recent and forthcoming international and UNECE meetings and areas of priority action for the Working Party.
4. International Conference on "Safer products and workplaces, safer communities":
 - (a) Non-compliant goods as challenges for resilience and sustainability;
 - (b) Counterfeit goods: a growing concern for consumers, business and authorities;
 - (c) Global best practice in use of standards to sustain business compliance with regulations: cooperation with customs, cooperation across borders, the role of the business community and conformity assessment bodies, etc.
5. Risk management in regulatory systems.

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).



6. High level segment on international regulatory cooperation:
 - (a) Avoiding technical barriers to trade: best practice in mutual recognition and equivalency
 - (b) Regional projects: updates on progress on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and on the Eurasian Economic Union;
 - (c) Sectoral projects.
7. Standardization and regulatory practice:
 - (a) Review of developments in standardization and national and regional regulatory activities;
 - (b) Education on standards-related issues.
 - (c) Review of relevant developments in regulatory practice
8. Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation.
9. 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.
10. Metrology.
11. Capacity-building.
12. Other business.
13. 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.6/2014/1	D

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

2. Election of additional officers

In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the Working Party at the twenty-third session, had 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 for a two-year term until November 2015. The Working Party will be asked to take a decision as to the opportunity of electing additional vice-Chairpersons, and if a positive decision is taken, it will call for nominations for the post. It may then proceed to elect one or more additional vice-Chairpersons based on its decisions.

3. 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-third session	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2013/2	I
Report of the annual planning meeting of UNECE WP. 6 activities	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/10	D
Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Committee on Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/3	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-third session of the Working Party, for adoption by the plenary, 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 within the United Nations, including: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Committee on Trade, previous sessions of the Working Party, and meetings of its subgroups.

Delegations will, in particular, 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 current discussion in the Executive Committee of the ECE on synergies between the Trade Committee and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration aimed at deciding by the end of 2014 whether or not to merge the two Committees.

4. International Conference on “Safer products and workplaces, safer communities”

At the request of the WP.6 Bureau, an International Conference will be held on "Safer products and workplaces, safer communities". An informal document with a detailed programme of the Conference will be posted on the UNECE WP. 6 website closer to the date of the event.

It will discuss practical ways of addressing the growing concerns of consumers, business and authorities about the proliferation of non-compliant, dangerous and counterfeit goods and equipment on the marketplace and at the workplace. Experts will illustrate and showcase practical means to promote compliance with standards and regulations, including developing a common terminology and appropriate information systems, and conducting 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.

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.

5. Risk management in regulatory systems

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks	ECE/TRADE/390	I
Progress report on the activities of the Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/4	D
Standards and Normative Mechanisms for Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Reduction	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/5	D

As requested by the Bureau of the WP. 6 at the “Annual planning meeting of UNECE WP.6 activities” on 18 June 2014, the Working Party will have before it the translation into Russian – prepared by the Secretariat in 2014 and in printed form – of the publication on “Risk Management in Regulatory Systems”, originally issued in 2012 in English only.

The Group of Experts on Managing Risks in Regulatory Systems 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.

The secretariat will report on its activities in using the UNECE recommendations and best practice on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems to address sustainable development and disaster risk reduction (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/5) and will take decisions on further development of related activities.

6. High level segment on international regulatory cooperation

(a) Avoiding technical barriers to trade: best practice in mutual recognition and equivalency

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Methodological Arrangements to Avoid Technical Barriers to Trade	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/11	D

At the request of the WP.6 Bureau, experts will be invited to make presentations on best practice in mutual recognition and equivalency of regulations and on the role UNECE WP.6 recommendations can play in eliminating technical barriers to trade.

(b) Regional projects

The Working Party will be informed about the status of projects for reinforcing 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.

(c) 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.6/2014/6	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Earth-Moving Machinery	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/7	D
Progress report on the sectoral initiative on Equipment for Explosive Environments (SIEEE)	ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/8	D

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

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

7. 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 current developments in the field of standardization in major regional groupings and countries and how they might affect the delivery of the programme of work.

(b) Education on standards-related issues.

Intergovernmental organizations, international, regional and national authorities will be invited to submit information on the progress in the implementation of Recommendation I. Depending on the information received, a break out session meeting of the interested experts may be organized, in the same format of the one that was held during the 2013 Annual Session of WP. 6.

(c) Review of relevant developments in regulatory practice

Intergovernmental organizations, international, regional and national authorities will be invited to report on relevant trends in their regulatory activities.

8. 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.

9. Market surveillance

As the current Chair of the MARS Group will not continue in office, the Working Party will be invited to elect another candidate for the position. Additionally, candidatures for the post of vice-Chair of the MARS Group will be considered.

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.6/2014/9	D

The Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group) will report on its activities and on its meeting in Belgrade.

(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 on-going work for discussion.

(c) Common definitions and terminology in market surveillance

<i>Title of document</i>	<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>For information/decision</i>
Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms	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 needed information and to promote the database to potential users.

10. Metrology

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

11. 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.

The secretary of the Committee on Trade will present the results of the needs assessment studies undertaken by the Secretariat on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (ECE/TRADE/407² and ECE/TRADE/410³).

Delegates will be briefed about capacity building projects being developed on the basis of the recommendations contained in the studies. They will have an opportunity to highlight further areas where activities are deemed as priority.

12. Other business

The Working Party will select tentative dates for its meeting in 2015.

13. 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. (ECE/TRADE/C/WP.6/2014/2)

III. Tentative timetable

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
24.11	15:00 – 15:10	1	Adoption of the agenda
	15:10 – 15:20	2	Election of additional officers
	15:30 – 16:30	3	Matters arising from recent meetings and overview of areas of priority action for the Working Party
	16:30 – 18:00	6	High level segment on Regulatory Cooperation
		6 (a)	Avoiding technical barriers to trade: best practice in mutual recognition and equivalency
		6 (b)	Regional cooperation

² *Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kazakhstan*, available at the UNECE web-site: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trade/Publications/ECE-TRADE_407E-Kazakhstan.pdf

³ *Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Tajikistan*, will be available soon.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>
		6 (c)	Sectoral projects
25.11	10:00 – 13:00	4	International Conference on “Safer products and workplaces, safer communities”
	13:00 – 18:00	4	International Conference on " Safer products and workplaces, safer communities”(continued)
26.11	10:00 – 12:00	7	Standardization and regulatory practice
		7 (a)	Review of developments in standardization and relevant national and regional regulatory developments
		7 (b)	Education on standards-related issues
		7 (c)	Review of relevant developments in regulatory practice
	12:00 – 13:00	5	Risk management in regulatory systems
	15:00 – 15:45	8	Review of recent developments in conformity assessment and accreditation
	15:45 – 17:00	9	Market surveillance
		9 (a)	Updates from regional groupings and the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance ("MARS" Group)
		9 (b)	Update on the Market Surveillance Model Initiative
		9 (c)	Common definitions and terminology in Market Surveillance
		9 (d)	Update on the development of the Global Market Surveillance database
	17:00 – 17:20	10	Metrology
	17:20 – 17:30	11	Capacity-building
	17:30 – 17:40	12	Other business
	17:40 – 18:00	13	Adoption of the report