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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STEEL

Ad Hoc Meeting on the Steel Market

Second session, 30 October 1998

REPORT ON THE SECOND SESSION

1. The ad hoc Meeting on the Steel Market held its second session on 30 October 1998.
2. Representatives of the following countries took part in the Meeting: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, and Spain. The Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China were represented under article 11 of the terms of reference of the Commission.
3. The Meeting was attended by a representative of the European Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Metal Worker's Federation (IMF). At the invitation of the secretariat, a representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also attended the Meeting.

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Adoption of the agenda

4. The ad hoc Meeting on the Steel Market adopted its agenda (TRADE/STEEL/AC.1/3).

Election of officers

5. Mr. A. Signora (France) and Mr. P. Tardy (Hungary) were reelected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively.

The Steel Market in 1997 and Prospects for 1998

(a) Annual publication: The Steel Market in 1997 and prospects for 1998

5. Mrs. Carol Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the UN/ECE Trade Division, reported that the annual publication of "The Steel Market in 1997 and Prospects for 1998" had been distributed in the middle of July as scheduled. The annual publication was made on the basis of information provided by delegations, and other information gathered on the iron and steel industries not only from the member countries of the Economic Commission for Europe but also of other major steel producing countries.

(b) Presentation on the current steel market trends in the ECE member countries and other regions

6. Mr. P. Fish, Managing Director of the UK-based consultancy company MEPS, was invited to the Meeting as the keynote speaker. He made a presentation on the current steel market trends in the world steel industry.

(c) Development of the market situation in 1998 and prospects for 1999

7. The ad hoc Meeting on the Steel Market heard statements made by each delegation on developments in the market situation in 1998 and prospects for 1999.

8. At the initiative of the Chairman, the presentations were followed by discussions and questions on issues raised in the statements.

Study Tour in the People's Republic of China

9. During the Meeting, the Chinese delegation invited the ad hoc Group of Experts on Steel to held a Study Tour in China. The Study Tour is planned to take place in October 2000 with a duration of about 8 days. Details of the organization will be discussed between the Chinese delegation and the secretariat to prepare a draft programme for the Study Tour. The Chairman of the ad hoc Meeting on the Steel Market and several delegations expressed their sincere appreciation to the Chinese delegation for its invitation.