

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

1. When considering the Report of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Council adopted on 4th August, 1948, a resolution which "... notes with satisfaction that the Economic Commission for Europe at its Third Session adopted unanimously a Resolution on the setting up of an ad hoc Committee on Industrial Development and Foreign Trade."

The Economic and Social Council further invited the Economic Commission for Europe "... to submit to the next Session of the Council a Progress Report on its activities in the field of industrial development and trade including a description of any technical means contemplated to foster the development of intra-European trade". As the Economic Commission for Europe has not held a meeting since August 1948, the present Progress Report is submitted by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Commission.

2. The ad hoc Committee on Industrial Development and Trade met at the end of September 1948. Its meeting was essentially devoted to a discussion of the best structural organization which could, within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe, promote the development of industry and foreign trade. The ad hoc Committee decided to recommend to the Commission the establishment of a Committee on the Development of Trade, with terms of reference as shown in the attached Appendix to this report. An account of the meeting of the ad hoc Committee is contained in the Interim Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the Eighth Session of the Economic and Social Council.

3. After the meeting of the ad hoc Committee, the Executive Secretary consulted the Governments on two alternative courses of action: (a) to start the work of the Committee on the Development of Trade on a provisional basis, before the Terms of Reference recommended by the ad hoc Committee had been formally approved by the Economic Commission for Europe, (the discussion of these Terms of Reference being thus postponed until the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission, to be held in May 1949); or (b) to hold a Special Session of the Commission at an earlier date.

Early in December, when the replies from the Governments had come in, it was decided that no Special Session of the Commission was necessary as the Governments had notified their agreement to start directly the work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, on a provisional basis. The date of the first meeting of the Committee was subsequently fixed for 14th February. Its Terms of

Reference will be considered at the Fourth Regular Session of the Commission in May.

4. The ad hoc Committee had further invited the Executive Secretary to prepare "... on the basis of the Resolution adopted by the ad hoc Committee, suggestions as to the activities of the Committee now being created, taking into account the exchange of views which took place in the course of the meeting of the ad hoc Committee and the proposals put before it by the different delegations". Acting upon these instructions the Executive Secretary issued, on 22nd December, suggestions for a work programme of the Committee on the Development of Trade (Document IDT/23).

5. The discussions of the ad hoc Committee were concerned essentially with organizational matters. Therefore, pending the meeting of the Committee on the Development of Trade, it is impossible to present "a description of any technical means contemplated to foster the development of intra-European trade", as requested by the Resolution of the Economic and Social Council.

6. A description of the activities of other Committees of the Economic Commission for Europe in the field of industrial development and trade will be found in the Interim Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the Eighth Session of the Economic and Social Council (Document E/1074).

Terms of Reference for a Committee on Development
of Trade. (Document E/ECE/IDT/5)

The ad hoc Committee on Industrial Development and Trade

RECOGNIZING that the increase of production and trade both through the full utilization of national resources and through the more rapid development of the economies of the European countries, is a prerequisite for the achievement and maintenance of a high level of economic activity in Europe, and

RECOGNIZING that it is the task of the Economic Commission for Europe to contribute to the fulfilment of these aims:

CONSIDERING the existence since the war in the countries of Europe of the shortage of a number of industrial products necessary for the speedy rehabilitation and development of the economy of European countries, and also the desire of many European countries, devastated by the war and industrially backward, to develop their national industry,

CONSIDERING the authority given to the Commission by the Economic and Social Council at its Seventh Session

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Economic Commission for Europe that a Committee on the Development of Trade be established, with the following terms of reference:

- I. The Committee, acting as a consultative body, shall serve as a forum for discussion of and exchange of views on questions which fall within its competence;
- II. The Committee shall study, consult on and submit recommendations on measures that will result in an expansion of trade between the European countries and also between those countries and countries outside Europe;
- III. The Committee shall draw the attention of the appropriate committees of ECE to problems of agricultural and industrial development which are of importance to intra-European trade and shall collaborate as may be necessary with these committees in expanding production and trade;
- IV. The Committee shall, whenever necessary, approach the various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations with requests for assistance in achieving its task, in accordance with the agreements between the United Nations and the Agencies;
- V. The Committee shall not make recommendations leading to an infringement of the sovereign rights of any government, its task being to facilitate economic agreements between countries on the basis of equal rights and mutual advantages of the contracting parties.