



## Economic and Social Council

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### ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Technical Harmonization  
and Standardization Policies

Ninth session, 17-19 May 1999

#### PROVISIONAL AGENDA\*

for the ninth session  
(including the provisional programme for the  
Workshop on the Implementation and Use of International  
Standards)  
**to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 17 May 1999**

- |    |   |                   |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Adoption of the agenda  | TRADE/WP.6/1999/1 |
| 2. | Election of officers  |                   |
| 3. | Matters arising from the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and from the second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development | ECE/TRADE/222     |
| 4. | Workshop on the Implementation and Use of International Standards   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/2 |

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\* Registration and security information for session and/or Workshop attached as Annex II.

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|-----|--|--|
| 5.  | Review of developments in standardization activities and in the field of regulatory cooperation at the international, regional and national levels | TRADE/WP.6/1999/3<br>TRADE/WP.6/1999/4                         |
| 6.  | Coordination   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/5  |
|     | - ECE Standardization List   | ECE/STAND/20/Rev.4   |
| 7.  | Harmonization  |  |
|     | (a) Role of international standards in international harmonization etc.  | TRADE/WP.6/1999/6<br>ECE/STAND/17/Rev.3<br>STAND/R.121         |
|     | (b) Progress report on reforms in the standardization area in the transition economies   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/7  |
| 8.  | Conformity assessment  |  |
|     | (a) Review of developments in conformity assessment at the international, regional and national levels   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/8<br>TRADE/WP.6/1999/9                         |
|     | (b) Problems experienced by economies in transition relating to conformity assessment procedures   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/10<br>TRADE/WP.6/1999/11                       |
|     | (c) Quality policy issues  | TRADE/WP.6/1999/12<br>TRADE/WP.6/1999/13<br>TRADE/WP.6/1999/14 |
| 9.  | Metrology  |  |
|     | - Standardization of test methods  | TRADE/WP.6/1999/15   |
| 10. | Draft international agreement among UN/ECE member States on technical harmonization issues   | TRADE/WP.6/1999/16   |
| 11. | Programme of work  | TRADE/WP.6/1999/17   |
| 12. | Other business   |  |
| 13. | Adoption of the report   |  |

Delegates are kindly requested to take note of the following provisional timetable for discussion of agenda items, which was prepared at the request of delegations with a view to making organization and conducting of the meeting more flexible and to allowing experts to concentrate on different work areas:

DAY ONE	17 May - Items 1,2,3, 8 and 9
DAY TWO	18 May - Workshop (Item 4) and items 5, 6 and 7(a)
DAY THREE	19 May - Items 10, 7(b), 11, 12 and 13

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#### ANNOTATIONS

##### Introduction

1. The provisional agenda has been drawn up by the secretariat on the basis of: (a) the programme of work of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies; (b) the relevant decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-third session, the Working Party at its eighth session, the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development at its second session; and (c) the agreements reached by the office-bearers, coordinators and rapporteurs at their meeting in Stockholm in October 1998.

##### Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

2. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure, the first item on the provisional agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

##### Item 2 - Election of officers

3. In accordance with the Commission's rules of procedure and established practice, the Working Party is expected to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. It is recalled that Mr. C. ARVIUS (Sweden), Mr. V. KORESHKOV (Belarus) and Ms. M. SAUNDERS (United States of America), were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, respectively, of the eighth session.

##### Item 3 - Matters arising from the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and from the second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

4. The secretariat will report orally on the discussions held and the decisions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, which will be

held in May 1999 and on the results of the discussions held during the second session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and at the round table on the role of standards in international trade in June 1998. The report of the second session of the Committee, also containing recommendations of the round table, will be available as document ECE/TRADE/222.

**Item 4 - Workshop on the implementation and use of international standards**

5. At its last session, the Working Party decided to organize workshops to exchange views on the implementation and application of international standards in specific sectors with representatives of national standardizing bodies, authorities and economic operators.

6. At the meeting of office bearers, coordinators and rapporteurs in October 1998, it was decided to organize a Workshop during the May 1999 session of the Working Party. The purpose of the Workshop is to look into the actual situation regarding the implementation and use of international standards in some sectors. The sectors chosen are electrical safety, measuring instruments and medical devices. During the Workshop discussions will be held on questions related to the national/regional implementation of international standards and the practical application of these standards by authorities and business operators. The discussions will focus on any related difficulties or problems as well as possible means for improvement with the objective of further facilitating the conditions for international trade and market access. (The provisional programme of the Workshop is attached to the current document as annex I.)

7. Representatives from responsible international standardizing organizations (for instance: International Organization for Standardization, International Electrotechnical Commission, International Organization for Legal Metrology), officials from national standards bodies and regulatory authorities and businessmen from UN/ECE member States will take part in the discussions. Recommendations of the Workshop will be presented to the Working Party for its approval.

8. As background documents for this agenda item, the Working Party will have documents submitted by international, regional and national standards bodies and by national regulatory authorities, the provisional agenda for the Workshop (TRADE/WP.6/1999/2) and recommendations from the Round Table on the Role of Standards in International Trade of 16 June 1998 (annex III to document ECE/TRADE/222).

**Item 5 - Review of developments in standardization activities and in the field of regulatory cooperation at the international, regional and national levels**

9. International and regional organizations and groupings (including the European Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States) and national delegations are invited to report on their standardization and regulatory activities. Insofar as such information is available sufficiently in advance of the meeting, it will be issued as document TRADE/WP.6/1999/3.

10. Delegations are invited to submit information on their national legislation, administrative procedures, systems for technical harmonization, etc. (horizontal issues), as well as on new technical regulations in various sectors (sectoral issues) as agreed at the seventh session (ECE/STAND/46, paragraph 22(a)). Submissions will be issued as document TRADE/WP.6/1999/4.

#### **Item 6 - Coordination**

##### **- ECE Standardization List**

11. The Working Party will have before it the fourth revised version of the ECE Standardization List (ECE/STAND/20/Rev.4). The secretariat will report on comments received from interested organizations and countries. The organizations listed therein and delegations are invited to submit their comments and suggestions concerning preparations of the fifth version of the List as well as information on how their Governments set priorities for international standards development. Submissions will be issued as document TRADE/WP.6/1999/5.

12. The Working Party may wish to set up an ad hoc group to consider questions under the programme element "Coordination".

#### **Item 7 - harmonization**

##### **(a) Role of international standards in international harmonization etc.**

13. It is recalled that at its seventh and eighth sessions the Working Party discussed ways of establishing transparent systems for the national transposition of international standards. From the analysis of information received it seemed that many of international standardizing organizations had no specific systems for follow-up of the national transposition by members of the standards developed by these organizations. The added value of national transposition to promote the use of international standards was also discussed.

14. The Working Party will have before it a note on the experience of some of the ECE Subsidiary Bodies in monitoring the transposition at national level of their standards, etc. and how these recommendations are used by member States at a national level (TRADE/WP.6/1999/6).

15. The Working Party will also have before it the ECE Recommendations on Standardization Policies (ECE/STAND/17/Rev.3). Rapporteurs and Coordinators will prepare proposals concerning possible further action for the effective review and implementation of existing ECE recommendations based on the discussions at the Workshop on the Implementation and Use of International Standards.

##### **(b) Progress report on reforms in the standardization area in the transition economies**

16. It is recalled that at its last session the Working Party decided to cooperate with the secretariat in preparing a paper on the impact of norms and standards on the international trade of transition economies and on the progress they had made in the area of standardization and related activities for the sixth

"Münster Process" Conference 1/ to be held in the Russian Federation in autumn 1999 (TRADE/WP.6/1999/7).

17. Delegations from transition economies are invited to report on the progress of reforms in standardization related areas in their countries.

18. The Working Party may wish to set up an ad hoc group to consider the proposals under the programme element "Harmonization".

#### **Item 8 - Conformity assessment**

##### **(a) Review of developments in conformity assessment at the international, regional and national levels**

19. International and regional organizations and national delegations are invited to report on developments in conformity assessment (including quality policy and metrology issues) at the international, regional and national levels (TRADE/WP.6/1999/8).

20. The Working Party will be presented with suggestions for future strategies in this area by the Rapporteur on conformity assessment. It will also receive a progress report by the Coordinator for laboratory accreditation (TRADE/WP.6/1999/9).

##### **(b) Problems experienced by economies in transition relating to conformity assessment procedures**

21. Delegations and international and regional organizations are invited to report on their experience and/or obstacles faced by them in the field of conformity assessment.

22. The Rapporteur on conformity assessment will present a paper on the regulatory instruments that could provide a basis for the proper use of the supplier's declaration (TRADE/WP.6/1999/10). Delegates are invited to submit information on regulatory instruments used in their countries to facilitate the use of the supplier's declaration.

23. The secretariat will report on the UN/ECE Forum on Enforcing Intellectual Property Rights in the Transition Economies held in Geneva in October 1998 and on discussions at the Forum relating to how trade and standards officers might contribute to enforcing intellectual property rights (TRADE/WP.6/1999/11).

24. The Working Party may wish to set up an ad hoc group to consider these proposals under the programme element "Conformity Assessment".

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1/ "Münster Process" - regular meetings of Ministers of Economy, Industry and Trade of a number of developed market and transition economies.

(c) Quality policy issues

25. National delegates and international and regional organizations are invited to report on their experience in introducing and using different quality infrastructure schemes (TRADE/WP.6/1999/12).

26. It is recalled that at its eighth session the Working Party asked the secretariat and rapporteurs to decide on the future of the questionnaire on ISO 14000 which was discussed at the meeting. At their meeting in October 1998, the rapporteurs decided that it would be useful to concentrate the scope of this questionnaire on a particular sector, namely the chemical industry, in view of its importance in the UN/ECE region and of the environmental concerns often raised by activities of chemical enterprises. Hence, the rapporteurs on quality will present a paper on recent developments relating to the preparation of standards in the ISO 14000 family (TRADE/WP.6/1999/13) and a paper on the preparation of a workshop on the experience of using of ISO 14000 standards in the chemical industry in UN/ECE member States (TRADE/WP.6/1999/14).

27. It was decided at the meeting of rapporteurs that, in implementing this project, the Working Party will cooperate with the UN/ECE ad hoc group of experts on the chemical industry and a representative of that group will report to the meeting on possible cooperation in this area.

Item 9 - Metrology

(a) Standardization of test methods

28. It is recalled that, at the eighth session, the Rapporteur for metrology submitted a proposal to prepare guidelines on methodology for measuring procedures (document TRADE/WP.6/1998/10). The Working Party decided to ask the rapporteurs for metrology to expand the prepared draft in consultation with interested international and regional organizations.

29. The Working Party will have before it a note prepared by the rapporteurs on metrology containing a detailed outline of the proposed guidelines on methodology for measuring procedures (TRADE/WP.6/1999/15).

Item 10 - Draft international agreement among UN/ECE member States on technical harmonization issues

30. The Working Party will have before it a note (TRADE/WP.6/1998/5) containing a conceptual outline of an international agreement on technical harmonization issues. It is recalled that, at its seventh session, the Working Party requested the secretariat and rapporteurs to prepare a first draft. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development at its second session in June 1998 endorsed the idea of preparing such an agreement. A draft agreement and its protocols are issued as document TRADE/WP.6/1999/16 and addenda.

**Item 11 - Programme of work**

31. The Working Party will have before it for approval and completion a draft programme of work prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the decisions of the Working Party at its eighth session and the agreements reached by the coordinators and rapporteurs at their meeting in October 1998 (TRADE/WP.6/1999/17).

32. It is recalled that the Commission requested all principal subsidiary bodies to rank in order the priority of programme elements in their work programmes. The Working Party may wish to set up an ad hoc group to review the draft programme and carry out this rank ordering of the programme elements.

**Item 12 - Other business**

33. The secretariat will report on preparations for a workshop on technical harmonization and standardization policies which is provisionally scheduled to be held in Turkey in mid-1999.

34. The Working Party has received requests from a number of countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) asking for technical assistance in different areas, in particular, the drafting a CIS model law on technical barriers to trade. The Working Party is expected to receive from the CIS a concrete request in this regard together with the latest draft of such a law.

35. Provisional arrangements have been made to hold the tenth session of the Working Party in Geneva from 23 to 25 October 2000.

**Item 13 - Adoption of the report**

36. In accordance with established practice, the Working Party will adopt the report of its ninth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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Annex I

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS  
(in the fields of electrical safety, measuring instruments and  
medical devices)

Tuesday 18 May 1999, 10 a.m.  
Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Purpose of the Workshop:**

- S To gather information regarding the methods for implementing international standards at the national level by the national members of international organizations and the use of international standards by authorities and companies.
- To address difficulties and problems encountered in implementing and using international standards.
- To discuss possible means to achieve increased use of international standards with the objective of further facilitating the conditions for international trade and market access.
- S To consider the objectives in the ECE Standardization List in relation to the work of international standardizing organizations.
- (These objectives are: participation by Governments in the activities concerning the implementation of international standards and in the activities of the international standardizing organizations; rationalization and avoidance of duplication of work; feedback on work in progress concerning projects in the List; uniform presentation of the result of the work.)

These questions will be discussed on the basis of the situation in three sectors: **electrical safety, measuring instruments and medical devices.**

**Keynote speakers will include:**

- S Representatives from responsible international standardizing organizations (ISO, IEC, OIML) and from regional and national standards bodies
- S Officials from national regulatory authorities in ECE member countries
- S Executives from western and eastern European companies.

**Participants** will also include delegates from national standards and standardization bodies and agencies from the ECE region, representatives of international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations (including: World Trade Organization (WTO), European Union (EU), European Committee for Standardization (CEN), European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC)), officials from Geneva-based permanent missions and representatives from the business community.

## **Issues to be addressed**

### **A. General**

- What constitutes an "international standard" and what are the achievements of international standards/standardizing organizations play in the field of electrical safety, measuring instruments and medical devices?
- Existing international standards in the field of electrical safety, measuring instruments and medical devices drawn up by or being prepared by ISO, IEC and OIML. Can standards drawn up by these organizations be considered truly international (is national representation the best guarantee for accountability? extent of involvement in the work of all interested parties or all parties concerned? desired level of transparency of procedures and of the results?)
- Progress in alignment in eastern European countries to international and European standards in the three sectors concerned. Any specific difficulties or problems in this regard?
- Level of concordance between international and regional standards (CIS, CEN/CENELEC) in the three sectors? Any specific differences or gaps?

### **B. Implementation (transposition) of international standards at the national level (by standardizers, authorities)**

- Are there any obligations on members/countries (authorities) to transpose and use international standards on the national level in the three sectors?
- How are standards transposed at the national level (degree of technical equivalence, numbering system etc.) in the three sectors? Are national deviations registered in any way?
- Would a commitment to implement the results of international standardization by the national member bodies promote participation in the work and use of the results?

**C. Use of international standards (by authorities, economic operators)**

- To what extent are international standards in the three sectors used at the national level? (e.g. to what extent are the standards referred to in national technical regulations? which methods for reference are used?)
- Use of European standards in third countries. Possibilities and eventual constraints?
- Are products following international standards in the three sectors generally accepted - with regard to national legislation - in UN/ECE member countries? Have particular obstacles been encountered?
- Frequency of the use of/reference to international standards in business contracts/transactions?

**Findings/conclusions**

Information provided and issues raised by participants will be compiled and analysed in the work on international standardization matters within the Working party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies with the view to identifying suitable proposals for further action in this area.

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**Annex II**

**REGISTRATION FORM AND SECURITY INFORMATION**

Title of the meeting:      **WORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND  
STANDARDIZATION POLICIES  
9th ANNUAL SESSION - 17-19 May 1999 and  
WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND USE OF  
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS - 18 May 1999**

**Security instructions:** Please note that, in accordance with the new security rules, delegates will only be admitted to the building after they have obtained their security badges. These badges are available at the UN Security Office, Villa Les Feuillantines (which is situated at 13 Avenue de la Paix, almost opposite the main entrance of the Palais des Nations, at the Place des Nations). If you register in advance using the attached form, your badge will have been prepared and will only need to be picked up. If you do not register in advance, you will have to fill out the same form and wait while the form is approved and the badge is prepared by the Security Office.

(Please return the attached registration form to Mr. Sergei Kouzmine, fax No (41 22) 917 0479 or by mail, Office 433-1, Trade Division, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva)



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

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