



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/WP.6/1999/5/Add.1
6 May 1999

ENGLISH ONLY

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

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

COMMENTS ON THE ECE STANDARDIZATION LIST AND
DRAFT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL
HARMONIZATION ISSUES

This paper has been submitted by the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing.

This is a working document, presented for discussion and comments to delegates on issues to be discussed under agenda items 6 and 10.

The present document is reproduced in the form and language in which it was received by the secretariat.

**Comments on the ECE Standardization List and Draft
International Agreement on Technical Harmonization Issues**

A. ECE Standardization List (ECE/STAND/20/REV.4)

Item 4.7 Forest protection:

- **column 3** could be supplemented by criterion A (health)
- **column 4** could be supplemented by **Test methods used in assessment of individual aspects**
- **column 5** could be supplemented by inclusion of **CEN**
- **column 6** could be supplemented by the following organizations: **UNCD, EUROSTAT, EFICS (European Forestry Information and Communication System)**

Item 16 Quality assurance and assessment:

- **column 6** could be supplemented by **OECD and ISTA (International Seed Testing Association)**

Item 17.2 Products (goods and services) classifications

- **column 6** could be supplemented by inclusion of **FAO**

Item 11.1, column 6 contains reference to the nowadays non-existent organization of **EWOS**.

General comment: the list of sectors could be supplemented by the sector of **Labour safety and occupational health protection management**, as well as by the field of **Pressure and lifting equipment safety**, requirements for **occupational protective equipment** (other than those protecting from chemical substances), **scaffolding and equipment for works in heights and above free depth**

Item 17.1 Industries (activities) classifications and Item 17.2 Products (goods and services) classifications would need more specification with respect to what kinds of classification do they comprise (whether the NACE classification, rev. 1 - issued by EUROSTAT; or standard industries classification issued by EUROSTAT according to UN (CPC) etc.)

B. Draft International Agreement among UN/ECE member States on Technical Harmonization Issues (TRADE/WP.6/1999/16/Add.1)

B.1. Draft International Agreement among UN/ECE Member States on Technical Harmonization Issues - the body of agreement

- ! **Article 1, para 1.1.1** could be amended as follows: *"To achieve high levels of safety, environmental **and consumer** protection and ..."*
- ! **Article 1, para 1.1.6** could be amended as follows: *"... through the procedures laid down in the specific protocols, **which are integral part of this Agreement.**"*
- ! **Article 4, para 4.2** contains a reference to Annex B, which is not included in the version of the Agreement provided by Secretariat
- ! **Article 5, para 5.1** contains a reference to Annex B
- ! **Article 6, para 6.1** contains an erroneous reference to Article 2 (instead of Article 3)
- ! **Article 8, para 8.1 and 8.2** contain an erroneous reference to Article 9 (instead of Article 6, perhaps)
- ! **Article 8, para 8.2** contains an erroneous reference to paras 11.1 and 10.1 (in both cases the right reference should be para 8.1)
- ! **Article 10, para 10.2** contains an erroneous reference to a non-existent para 13.1 (instead of reference to para 10.1)
- ! **Article 10, para 10.4** contains an erroneous reference to a non-existent para 13.3 (instead of reference to para 10.3)
- ! **Page 2, para 2** could be amended as follows: *"RECOGNIZING the right of subnational,.....and maintain technical regulations in the areas of health, safety, environmental **and consumer** protection..."*
- ! **Page 2, para 3** could be amended as follows: *"RECOGNIZING also that this Agreementexisting international agreements on health, safety environmental **and consumer** protection..."*
- ! **Page 2 - the four main objectives** could be supplemented by the following fifth item:
- " - the promotion of consumer's interests and issues by means of disseminating information at international, national and sub-national level"*
- ! Some experts proposed a change of the title of the Agreement to *International Agreement ... on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies*, with respect to the fact, that the Agreement deals with harmonization of technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

B.2. Draft International Agreement among UN/ECE Member States on Technical Harmonization Issues - Annex A

- **Article 5, para 5.2** contains probably erroneous reference to Article 8; according to the context the reference should be to Article 7
- **Article 9** contains an erroneous reference to a non-existent Article 13
- Some of the bodies expressed a lack of an article establishing a contracting basis for potential further negotiated documents. Furthermore, according to some experts, the Agreement is lacking a general mechanism or principle for integrating the Protocols into the contracting framework.

B.3. Draft International Agreement among UN/ECE Member States on Technical Harmonization Issues - Protocols (TRADE/WP.6/1999/16/Add.1)

- **Protocol 1, item 3** contains a reference to items B.8.1-4. A logical reason for the **B** in the designation is not clear.
 - **Protocol 4, item 5** - perhaps the first sentence could be "*.a set of measurement standards traceable to **recognized national** ...*", with respect to the envisaged agreement on mutual recognition of national standards, within the Metric Convention.
 - **Protocol 2, item 3, para 4** could be amended as follows: "*... environmental protection, **consumer protection** and improvements in fire safety;*"
 - **Protocol 2, item 3, para 5** could be amended as follows: "*...transport and storage of goods **with regard to the protection of consumer's interest***"
 - **Protocol 4, item 3** could be amended as follows: "*...from the point of view of their safety and influence on health and environment **with regard to the consumer protection***"
 - Some of the experts expressed a lack of clear explanation of the position of this Agreement towards the existing agreements (e.g. WTO, PECA etc.)
-