



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

TRADE/STEEL/GE.1/1999/4  
2 March 1999

ENGLISH ONLY

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STEEL

Second session, 24-25 March 1999

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES  
OF THE COMMISSION OF INTEREST TO THE AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STEEL

Note by the secretariat

The present note is designed to inform the ad hoc Group of Experts on Steel about the activities of other subsidiary bodies of the Commission which relate to the steel industry and which were adopted by the Commission at its fifty-third session held in April 1998. For ease of reference and with the aim of avoiding duplication of efforts, activities and projects of possible common interest are grouped under the three sub-programmes of the programme of work of the Group of Experts.

1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1.1. Environment

3. “Environment for Europe” process / Environmental Programme for Europe

**Description:** The Committee will participate in the preparation of the fifth ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 2002. At its sixth session in 1999, the Committee will approve a mandate for an ad hoc preparatory Working Group of senior

officials “Environment for Europe” and will screen further the environmental programme for Europe in order to implement priority actions recommended therein.

#### 01.1.2 Environmental performance reviews

**Description** : The Committee on Environmental Policy will review the environmental performance of selected ECE countries in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and relevant international commitments. The environmental performance reviews also serve the Environmental Programme for Europe and help to monitor national progress in the implementation of Agenda 21.

#### 01.1.3,5 and 6 Three multilateral environmental agreements : Convention of the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; and Convention on Environmental impact assessment in a Transboundary Context.

**Description** : The first Convention aims to strengthen international cooperation on the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents in order to improve overall industrial safety in the ECE region. The second Convention addresses issues of sustainable management of Transboundary water resources and pollution prevention. The third deals with the prevention, reduction and control of significant adverse Transboundary environmental impacts of different economic activities.

#### 01.3.1 Energy and the environment

**Description** : The fourth Ministerial Conference “Energy for Europe” endorsed the Policy Statement on Energy Efficiency and welcomed the Guidelines on Energy Conservation in Europe submitted by the Committee on Environment Policy. The Committee will review the implementation of decisions taken at the Aarhus Conference and prepare a follow-up report for the fifth Ministerial Conference to take place in Kiev in 2002. It will also assess the role of economic instruments, particularly environment-related energy taxes and removal of distortional energy subsidies, in integrating environmental policy with energy and other sectoral policies.

#### 01.4.3 Proposed Guidelines and/or other initiatives on integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies

**Description** : The Committee on Environmental policy will initiate a programme to improve the integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies. Particular attention will be given to the countries in transition. It is expected that the final outcome (Guidelines or charter) will be submitted to the fifth ministerial conference “Environment for Europe” to take place in Kiev in 2002.

1.2 Trade and Enterprise Development : Chemical Industry

Comparative data bank on chemical legislation in the countries of the ECE region

**Description:** The ad hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry undertook a comparative analysis of chemical legislation in ECE member countries. The purpose is to assist countries in transition in modelling their chemical legislation on a uniform basis with western European legislation. This will facilitate trade and promote standardization and harmonization.

1.3 Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

4.1 Exchange of technology for air pollution control

**Description:** Interested parties will organize target-oriented workshops focusing on the creation of favourable conditions for establishing contacts and cooperation among appropriate organizations and individuals in the private and public sectors that are capable of providing technology, design and engineering services, equipment or finance.

4.4 Control options and technologies for emissions from stationary and mobile sources

**Description:** Seminars and workshops are organized to exchange information on control options and technologies for reducing air pollution, including pilot projects, demonstration plants and full-scale units, and on related manufacturer/user experience and cost data on the application of specific techniques, with relevance to the long-range transport of pollutants.

2. RESTRUCTURING AND PRIVATISATION

2.1 Economic Analysis

**Description :** With effect from 1998, there are now 3 issues a year of the Economic Survey of Europe, appearing approximately in April, July and November. There is also an annual seminar, immediately preceding the opening of the annual session of the Commission, devoted to a specific economic issue. In April 1998, the seminar was devoted to "Enterprise and Bank Restructuring in the Transition Economies" and a selection of papers prepared for it are included in the second issue of the 1998 Survey. In May 1999, the seminar will be devoted to the macroeconomic consequences of population ageing and the reform of pension systems.

## 2.2 Energy

### 06.3.1 Energy Efficiency 2000

**Description:** The general objective is to reduce the energy efficiency gap between actual practice and best technologies, and between ECE countries, in particular between the former centrally planned economies and the market economies. The immediate objective is to enhance trade and cooperation in energy-efficient, environmentally sound technologies and management practices between participating States.

### 06.3.2 Energy conservation and efficiency developments, policies and prospects

**Description:** Workshops and special studies will be organised, joint activities will be developed with the Committee on Environmental Policy in the context of the European Energy Conservation Initiative to develop and harmonise guidelines and strategies to enhance energy efficiency and conservation.

## 3. STATISTICS AND MARKET INFORMATION SERVICES

### 3.1 Trade analysis

#### 07.2.2 Analysis of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems

**Description:** The secretariat analyses trends in trade for the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*.

### 3.2 Trade and Enterprise Development

#### Preparation and revision of guides relating to international commercial transactions

**Description:** The Working Party will undertake the preparation of guides and documents. It will provide advice to individual Governments on laws which would improve the investment environment in their countries and work with the World Trade Organization on laws that may have to be adopted to facilitate their accession to it.

#### Directory of the Chemical Industry

**Description:** The Group of Experts issues a directory of chemical producer companies and chemical products.

Trends in structural and ownership changes in the chemical industries of the countries in transition

**Description:** The secretariat will prepare a study on the above topic.

Studies of national developments in the chemical industry

**Description:** Study tours are organized on a regular basis.

Restructuring and modernization of the chemical industry of countries in transition

**Description:** The chemical industry of Ukraine has suffered serious decreases of production in recent years, and modernization through joint ventures, foreign investments, technology transfer and up-dating of existing technologies is required. A Workshop will be organized to seek to attract technical and financial partners to participate in the modernization of the chemical industry, which currently specializes in fertilizers, fibres and speciality chemicals.