?#W+) 3=+==[y+=!033]

UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ECONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE

+%C?A+5E7! a] 7?=?; 3Q+E7! a 7?; 3EE3a

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

SEMINAIRE $E_+; 3=!C$ SEMINAR

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Distr. GENERAL

Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/SEM.9/2002/1 25 June 2002

Original: ENGLISH

Workshop on "Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in ECE Region"

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 October 2002

Information Notice

1. This information notice gives details regarding the organization and participation in the Workshop on "Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in the ECE Region", organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The Workshop will take place in Geneva (Switzerland) on 28 October 2002. A provisional programme for the Workshop is attached to the present note.

Objectives of the Workshop

- 2. Market reforms in Eastern European and CIS countries have triggered radical changes in the structure of economy (industrial production in particular) and in the enterprise behaviour. Along with economic liberalization and the build up of market institutions, Governments have used a wide range of instruments to stimulate economic and industrial development, on the one hand, and to overcome negative economic and social consequences of rapid transformation, on the other. The results of these efforts have been mixed, and economic performance has varied significantly among countries. At the same time, in most of transition economies of the region, the impact of the state on the direction and speed of industrial restructuring has been paramount.
- 3. The Workshop will discuss major issues of government policy and the build up of institutions conducive to industrial restructuring in transition economies. Experts from western European and eastern European countries will present their views on the status and evolution of the framework conditions for industrial restructuring, and the use of specific instruments aimed at facilitating structural changes in industry and its individual sectors, and improving performance of enterprises. As a result of the Workshop, subject to resource availability, the UNECE Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (TOSIR) may prepare a Guide on best practices in industrial restructuring to assist relevant government agencies.

GE.02-31735

Programme of the Workshop

5. The provisional programme of the Workshop can be found in Annex I.

Organization

6. The Workshop will be organized in 2 working sessions. Two or three speakers will introduce the topics, and these introductions will be followed by discussion. The chairman of the session (discussion leader) will summarize the discussion of the topic.

Participation

- 7. Participation in the Workshop is open to all interested parties from UNECE member countries, as well as to representatives of other Member States of the United Nations, representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies, and international organizations, participating in the activities of UNECE. Broad representation of government officials, non-governmental organizations, and industry is expected.
- 8. Governments are invited to inform about this event relevant national bodies, professional industrial associations, trade union organizations and other stakeholders, so as to ensure participation of the most competent experts, dealing with various aspects of industrial restructuring.

Documentation

9. Registered participants will receive background papers (in English, French or Russian) by e-mail if such papers are made available to the secretariat by 11 October 2002. The secretariat encourages the submission of papers in electronic format, preferably by e-mail. Hard copies of these documents will be also distributed during the Workshop.

Interpretation and visual aids

10. Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian will be provided. Speakers will also have at their disposal facilities for projecting slides and computer facilities for electronic presentations (e.g. Power Point).

Participation fee and cost of attendance

11. There is no conference fee for this Workshop. Cost of travel and hotel accommodation in Geneva has to be borne by the participants.

Passport and visa

12. If necessary, participants should obtain entry visas from the Embassy or General Consulate of Switzerland in their country of residence. It is advisable to make visa applications well in advance of the date required. The UNECE secretariat will provide letters to Swiss authorities (i.e. consulates), confirming the attendance of those participants, who need such a letter, and make request directly from the secretariat.

Travel and hotel arrangements

13. Participants are requested to make their own hotel and travel arrangements.

Further information

14. Further information on the Workshop can be obtained from:

Mr. Iouri Adjoubei

Tel.: (+41 22) 917 2488/1964 Fax: (+41 22) 917 0178

E-mail: iouri.adjoubei@unece.org

Registration

15. Interested parties are invited to fill the attached Registration Form (Annex II) and return it by 18 October 2002 to the following address:

Mr. Iouri Adjoubei Room 429-2, Trade Division, UNECE Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

Fax: (+41 22) 917 0178

E-mail: iouri.adjoubei@unece.org

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE WORKSHOP

"Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in ECE Region"

28 October 2002 Geneva (Switzerland)



UNITED NATIONS

Monday, 28 October 2002

10.00 – 10.15 Opening Session

Welcoming address: Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová, Executive Secretary, UNECE

10.15 – 13.00 Morning Session

Chairperson: to be appointed

10.15 – 11.00 Topic 1. The role of the State in restructuring enterprises and sectors: overview of the problem

- (a) Framework conditions for industrial restructuring in the market economy: competition, hard budget constraints for enterprises, consistent enforcement of property rights. The objectives of the State in transition economies: operational market institutions, the rule of law, active industrial policy. The role of the public sector in transition countries: scope, operational mechanisms and regulatory instruments.
- (b) Major institutions and legal acts conducive to industrial restructuring: competition and bankruptcy law, corporate legislation, foreign investment regulations, functioning labour, land and real estate, and financial markets;
- (c) Structural reforms: privatisation, small-business support, reorganization of natural monopolies, education and innovation policies, and etc.

Speakers:

11.00 – 12.00 Topic 2. Building institutional framework for industrial restructuring

- (a) Institutional basis for the protection of property rights: practical country experiences; mechanism and efficiency of contract enforcement; competing privatization models and their impact on restructuring; bankruptcy as an instrument of property rights protection.
- (b) Corporate governance and restructuring, the role of strategic investors, minority shareholders, managers and other stakeholders.
- (c) Policy measures imposing hard-budget constraints on enterprises: lowering barriers to entry, competition policy at federal and regional levels (including import duties), regulation of domestic prices and tariffs, including energy tariffs, taxation policy;
- (d) Support for investment finance: capacity building in banking; development of the stock market; promotion of foreign investment, taxation instruments, encouraging investment, etc.

Speakers: Expert from Germany

Expert from OECD

Expert from the World Bank

12.00 - 13.00 Topic 3. Public sector restructuring

- (a) Major types of public enterprises in transition economies; methods and instruments of their management (nominating Government representatives on the boards of directors, contracting commercial agents to represent government interests, concession, public holding companies, strategic agreements with management, byout schemes);
- (b) Restructuring public enterprises (full or partial privatization, organizational streamlining and sponsoring of spin-offs, State investments, modern systems of motivation for management); opportunities arising from the break up of natural monopolies. Country approaches and experiences.

Speakers: Expert from Russian Federation

Expert from Poland Expert from Kazakhstan

13.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 18.00 Afternoon Session

Chairperson: to be appointed

15.00 - 16.00 Topic 4. Bankruptcy as an instrument for industrial restructuring

- (a) Bankruptcy as a means of orderly market exit of inefficient companies; "pro-owner" and "pro-creditor" bankruptcy legislation; the record of bankruptcy legislation application in different groups of transition economies.
- (b) Bankruptcy as an instrument of property redistribution and enhanced vertical integration in industry; the State as creditor and owner.

Speakers: Representatives of government bodies responsible for the implementation of bankruptcy legislation

Representatives of industries and enterprises

16.00 - 17.00 Topic 5. Government SME policy in the context of industrial restructuring

- (a) Major components and directions of government support for SMEs (simplified rules of establishment, accounting and taxation; special credit facilities; preferential terms of participation in government procurement);
- (b) Measures, facilitating the establishment of spin-off companies in the course of industrial restructuring. Opportunities offered by new technologies and synergies between the innovation and SME policies. Government support for modern business schemes (outsourcing and international supply chains)

Speakers: Expert from Hungary

Expert from the Czech Republic

Expert from Romania

17.00 – 18.00 Topic 6. General discussion: is it feasible to import best practices?

The session will be dedicated to the exchange of views between government bodies in charge of industrial restructuring, private companies, international organizations and representatives of academia on ways and means to improve the regulatory and institutional framework for restructuring in transition economies, and facilitate the flow of information on best practices in this area. It will also consider suggesting some follow-up actions by the UNECE secretariat.

Panel: speakers from the previous sessions

page 8 Annex II



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Conference Registration Form Please Print Title of the Conference Date Workshop on "Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring", 28 October 2002 Organization or Agency **Participant** Mr. **Family Name** First Name Mrs. Ms. **Participation Category** Head of Delegation **Observer Organization** Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your permanent **Delegation Member** NGO (ECOSOC Accred.) mission? **Observer Country** Other (Please Specify Below) YES NO (delete non applicable) Participating From / Until **Document Language Preference** English French Other Official Occupation (in own country) Passport or ID Number Valid Until Official Telephone No. Fax No. E-mail Address Permanent Official Address Address in Geneva Accompanied by Spouse Family Name (Spouse) First Name (Spouse) On Issue of ID Card Security Use Only Participant Spouse photograph Participant Signature photograph if form is if form is sent in Card No. Issued sent in advance of advance of the the conference date. conference date. Spouse Signature Please PRINT your Please PRINT your name on the reverse name on the reverse Initials, UN Official side of the side of the Date photograph photograph