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Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development

Fourth session, 13 and 14 February 2003

Sub-item 4.1.1 of the provisional agenda

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING

Progress Report

1. The UNECE Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (TOSIR) was established by the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development at its third session in February 2002. This session adopted the terms of reference of TOSIR and the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development endorsed this decision at its sixth session.
2. On 26 April TOSIR held its first session. At that session it elected its Chairperson and adopted its programme of work.
3. In accordance with its programme of work, TOSIR has contributed to the organization of the Workshop on “Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring” initially scheduled for 28 October 2002. The programme of the Workshop has been developed and keynote speakers identified. The Workshop has been postponed by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair of TOSIR for insufficient number of registrations.
4. The secretariat published the Summary Proceedings of the Round Table on “Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies: Experience to Date and Prospects” (ECE/TRADE/291) in the UNECE official languages. It also created the WWW page of the Team on Industrial Restructuring (<http://www.unece.org/operact/wp8/tosind.htm>) and placed the texts of presentations made at the Round Table on the WWW site of WP.8 (<http://www.unece.org/operact/industry/papers.htm>).

5. As a result of the enhanced contact network generated by TOSIR, a number of ECE countries have received some international technical assistance. In particular, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine have requested assistance in restructuring their industrial sectors from the EBRD TurnAround Management Group (TMG), the Managing Director of which is a TOSIR member. TMG has been able to secure funds for all these countries and has active ongoing SME development and industrial restructuring programmes in all of the above-mentioned countries. In Montenegro, the TurnAround Management programme is now part of the official government policy response to the economic transformations induced by the mass voucher privatization.