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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development
Fourth session, 13 and 14 February 2003

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION

HIGHLIGHTS

At its fourth session, the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development:

- Elected Ms. Judit Habuda (Hungary) its Chair (paragraph 6)
- Decided to organize an Industry and Enterprise Development Week during one of the sessions of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (paragraph 10)
- Extended the mandates of the Teams of Specialists on CHEMISEED, on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation, on Women's Entrepreneurship and on Internet Enterprise Development (paragraphs 15, 19, 20 and 24)
- Adopted its programme of work for 2003-2004 (paragraph 30)

Introduction

1. The Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development held its fourth session on 13 - 14 February 2003.
2. Representatives of the following countries participated: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom.
3. Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) – TurnAround Management Programme also took part in the session.
4. The Director of the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division welcomed the delegations and highlighted the major accomplishments of the Working Party since its third session as well as the major forthcoming events to be held under its auspices. In order to better satisfy the needs of countries in the area of industry and enterprise development, the Bureau of the Working Party with the support from the secretariat should undertake an in-depth assessment of the programme of work. The objective of this review would be to identify programme elements, benefiting the majority of member states, and prioritization of activities on that basis. Future sessions of the Working Party should incorporate segments of substantive discussion on a selected topic in the form of the round table. This will also contribute to raising the profile of the Working Party.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/1

5. The Working Party adopted the provisional agenda with amendments.

Item 2: Election of officials

6. Ms. J. Habuda (Hungary) was elected Chair of the Working Party. Ms. D. Karajic (Croatia) and Ms. T. Skameykina (Russian Federation) continued their terms as Vice-Chairs of the Working Party.
7. Upon her election, the Chairperson thanked the members of the Working Party for their confidence and invited countries to practically contribute to the implementation of the industry and enterprise development work programme.

Item 3: Matters arising from the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

Documentation: ECE/TRADE/300

8. The Working Party took note of the secretariat report on the outcome of the sixth session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED).

9. The secretariat presented a proposal by the CTIED Bureau to organize an Industry and Enterprise Development Week including a Forum on this subject, and, possibly, a joint session of the WP.8 and the CTIED in May 2004.

10. The Working Party considered this proposal and agreed, in principle, to organize an Industry and Enterprise Development Week, including the Forum on a selected subject, around a yearly session of the CTIED. At the same time, it felt more appropriate to hold this event in 2005 so that the secretariat could have more time for preparations and the Working Party at its next meeting could discuss its agenda. The Working Party asked the secretariat to convey its opinion on this matter to the next session of the CTIED.

Item 4: Ongoing activities

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/2

11. Under this agenda item, the Working Party discussed the conditions for raising efficiency of its work, in particular the stability of the work programme and available resources, incorporation of substantive discussions into its sessions, prioritization of programme elements and more active involvement of the private sector. Several delegations emphasized the importance of having all the documentation for the Working Party sessions available in all the three working languages of the ECE and asked the secretariat to ensure this.

12. The Working Party heard the reports on the following sub-programmes:

Sub-item 4.1 Industrial Restructuring and Sustainable Industrial Development

4.1.1 Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/3
TRADE/WP.8/SEM.4/11
TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/1
TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/3
TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/SEM.9/2002/2

13. The Working Party heard a report on the ongoing activities of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring and on the results of its second meeting held on 12 February made by Mr. Chris Walker, Chairman of the Team. He invited the ECE member-Governments to more actively participate in the activities of this Team so that it could practically assist Governments of transition economies in designing the regulatory and policy framework for industrial restructuring. The Working Party took note of this report.

4.1.2 Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/4

TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/2

TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/4

14. Ms. Joelle Ory, Vice-Chair of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED informed the meeting on the work accomplished since the previous session of the Working Party, in particular on the preparations for the seminar on “Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils and Ground Water” to be held in Paris on 1 – 3 April 2003 with the assistance of this TOS.

15. The meeting took note of the proposals of the Team regarding the possible directions of its work. Several delegations supported the activities conducted under this sub-programme. The Working Party decided to extend the mandate of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED within the available resources.

Sub-item 4.2 Quality Management Systems

4.2.1 Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/5
OPA/AC.28/2

16. The Working Party heard a report by the secretariat on the ongoing activities of the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems. The report highlighted the cross-sectoral nature of the work on quality management systems and its close links to industrial restructuring.

17. The secretariat also informed the Working Party on the results of the collaboration of the Team of Specialists in question with the UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP. 6) in the area of quality standards. Countries were invited to contribute to the two projects currently developed by the UNECE in the area of harmonization of technical regulations in the telecom sector and in the area of market product quality surveyance. The meeting took note of these reports.

Sub-item 4.3 Poverty Alleviation

4.3.1 Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/6
TRADE/WP.8/AC.2/2002/2
OPA/AC.33/2

18. Mr. Yuriy Sosyurko, Vice-Chairman of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation and the secretariat informed the Working Party on its ongoing activities and the results of its third meeting held on 12 February. In order to reconcile its name with the actual focus of its work, the Team requested the Working Party to change its name to “The Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship”.

19. The participants expressed varying views on the suitability of UNECE as the host organization for this activity. The Working Party decided to extend the mandate of the Team by one year. It also asked the Team to modify its terms of reference so that the decision on the change of its name and on new terms of reference could be taken at the next session of the Working Party.

Sub-item 4.4 Women's Entrepreneurship

4.4.1 Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship.

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/7
TRADE/WP.8/AC.4/2002/2

20. The Working Party heard a report by the secretariat on the ongoing activities of the Team of Specialists. It extended the mandate of the Team for one more year.

Sub-item 4.5 Digital Economy Development

21. The Director of Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities presented the work on knowledge-based economy accomplished last year and introduced 11 country reports and a regional survey on the countries' readiness for knowledge-based economy prepared by the secretariat. The Working Party took note of this report.

4.5.1 Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/8
TRADE/WP.8/AC.3/SEM.5/2002/2
TRADE/WP.8/SEM.5/AC.3/2
TRADE/WP.8/AC.3/SEM.6/2002/2
TRADE/WP.8/AC.3/2002/4
TRADE/WP.8/AC.3/2002/6

22. A member of the Secretariat informed the Working Party on the activities of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development and its major accomplishments during the period under review. Given the expanding scope of its activities, Mr. James Dickson, Vice-Chairman of the Team requested the Working Party to change its name to "Team of Specialists on Knowledge Economy Development".

23. The Working Party decided to establish and adopted the terms of reference for an oversight Advisory Group to help the secretariat manage the Trust Fund available for the Digital Economy sub-programme (see Annex II). The Meeting nominated the Chair of WP.8 and the members of the Bureau of the TOS on Internet Enterprise Development to this Advisory Group.

24. The Working Party took note of the report by the secretariat and decided to extend the mandate of the Team of Specialists for one more year. It also asked the Team to modify its terms of reference so that the decision on the change of its name and new terms of reference could be taken at the next session of the Working Party.

Item 5: Regional Advisory Services

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/9

Sub-item 5.1 Entrepreneurship and SMEs

25. The Regional Advisor on Entrepreneurship and SMEs reported on the ongoing activities, which focused on assessing the status of SME development in transition economies of the region, developing the relevant statistical indicators and advising Governments on regulatory environment conducive to SME growth. In the future, the Regional Adviser will concentrate his activities on developing standards of good corporate governance for small and medium companies, and the creation of a sustainable business environment for SMEs. The Working Party took note of this report and suggested that the regional advisory activities in this area should be continued.

Sub-item 5.2 Women's Entrepreneurship

26. The Regional Advisor on Gender and Economy provided an overview of the work undertaken during the period under review and highlighted a number of events and training courses for women entrepreneurs organized in collaboration with ECE Governments and NGOs. The Working Party took note of this report and suggested that the regional advisory activities in this area should be continued.

Item 6: Proposals for new activities

Documentation:

27. The participants on the meeting made a number of proposals regarding the possible directions of the Working Party's work. In particular, they suggested that at its future meetings the Working Party should discuss the scope and the impact of new "cleaner" energy-saving and environmentally-friendly technologies as the basis for industrial restructuring, the implications of ISO environment protection-related norms for industry, legal barriers to the common economic space in the CIS area and the impact of EU enlargement on the competitiveness of enterprises.

28. The Working Party took note of these proposals. It asked the secretariat to consider them in conjunction with the review of the programme of work by Governments and when selecting the theme for the Round Table to be organized during the next session of the WP.8. The Working Party asked its Bureau to decide on the theme of this Round Table.

Item 7: Cross-sectoral issues: High Level Task Force on Valuation and Capitalization of Intellectual Assets.

Documentation: OPA/CONF.1/2002/1
OPA/CONF.1/2002/2

29. The secretariat presented the results of the first meeting of the High Level Task Force on Valuation and Capitalization of Intellectual Assets held in November 2002 and its recommendations. The Working Party took note of this report.

Item 8: Adoption of the program of work

Documentation: TRADE/WP.8/2003/10

30. The programme of work was adopted (see Annex I and III).

Item 9: Other business

Sub-item 9.1 New procedure for the preparation and adoption of the report

31. The Working Party discussed and adopted a new procedure for the preparation and adoption of its session reports. Starting from the fourth session of the Working Party, the secretariat will prepare the report on the meeting after the session has taken place and not during that session. Once ready, the report will be reviewed and adopted by the Bureau of the WP. 8.

Sub-item 9.2 Streamlining the documentation

32. The Working Party decided to discontinue the document on "Ongoing activities", which duplicated the part on "work accomplished" of the Programme of work.

Sub-item 9.3 Date of the next meeting

33. The Working Party decided that its next meeting would take place on 12 - 13 February 2004.

Item 10: Adoption of the report

34. In accordance with the new procedure adopted by the Working Party, the report of its fourth session will be adopted by its Bureau.

Annex I

Programme of Work for 2003-2004

1. The draft programme of work for 2003 – 2004 was drawn up on the basis of the decisions taken at the fourth session of the Working Party held in February 2003 as well as the decisions taken by the sixth (May 2002) sessions of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). As agreed at the third session of the Working Party, the proposed programme of work is grouped around the three major topics: (a) industrial restructuring and sustainable industrial development, (b) entrepreneurship development and (c) emerging knowledge-based economy.
2. Delegations are expected to comment upon the projects in progress, agree, when required, upon the extension of the mandates of the existing teams of specialists, and decide upon the new projects to be undertaken and teams of specialists to be set up under the programme of work for 2003 – 2004.
3. A calendar of planned and proposed meetings of the Working Party and its Teams of Specialists can be found in Annex I.

Programme framework

4. The mission of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) is to promote industrial restructuring and sustainable industrial development, enterprise development and knowledge-based economy. To implement this mission it undertakes to:
 - (i) identify and examine best practices and policies conducive to industrial restructuring and enterprise development;
 - (ii) organize the exchange of information and experience, and facilitate international cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to promote the development of competitive business in the UNECE region; and
 - (iii) make recommendations on government action encouraging industrial restructuring, development of new enterprises and emergence of knowledge-based economy.
5. At its third session in February 2002, the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development confirmed the grouping of its activities around the three themes: (a) industrial restructuring and sustainable industrial development, (b) entrepreneurship development and (c) emerging knowledge-based economy. In February 2003, the fourth session of the Working Party endorsed this grouping.
6. The first group of issues addresses the already existing enterprises and industries and less so new enterprises. The second group deals with operational conditions for new enterprises (SMEs in particular) and entrepreneurial activities of different strata of population (i.e. has an explicit social dimension). Finally, the third group of issues is multi-dimensional, because the emerging knowledge-based economy creates new conditions for the sustainability of industry in the future on the one hand, and broadens opportunities for new entrepreneurs, on the other.

In more detail:

7. The first theme (sub-programmes Industrial Restructuring, CHEMISEED, Quality Management Systems) relates to the creation of an enabling environment and enhanced competitiveness of (a) the already existing enterprises and industries, and (b) new emerging enterprises. In particular, under this heading the Working Party addresses the issues of regulatory and policy framework, and corporate governance conducive to restructuring uncompetitive enterprises and industries, on the one hand, and those related to the sustainable development of industry and its sectors (remediation of chemically-polluted sites and quality standards), on the other.

8. The second theme (sub-programmes Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation and Women's Entrepreneurship) concerns the creation of an environment conducive to the emergence of new private enterprises and the development of entrepreneurship, in particular women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship as a means of poverty alleviation. Under the latter heading, the Working Party has decided in the current biennium to focus on the support to youth entrepreneurship as a means of assisting transition economies in offsetting the adverse impact of economic/industrial decline on vulnerable groups of population.

9. Finally, the third theme (sub-programme Digital Economy Development), dealing with the emerging knowledge-based economy is cross-sectoral, having impact on both the sustainable industrial development and entrepreneurship development. Under this heading, the Working Party contributes to raising awareness of member States and assists in assessing their readiness for the knowledge-based economy, which is the major component of sustainable development in the future. These readiness assessment reports cover the material infrastructure, regulatory and information components of the issue. At the same time, the impact of the emerging knowledge-based economy as well as opportunities it offers for new private companies and different types of entrepreneurs are explored.

1. Programme Title: Industrial Restructuring and Sustainable Industrial Development

Description:

10. The Working Party assists member States, and transition economies in particular, in addressing the problems of restructuring uncompetitive enterprises and industries, on the one hand, and promoting the principles of sustainable development in industry and its sectors, on the other.

1.1 Sub-programme Title: Industrial Restructuring

Executive Body: Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (TOSIR)

Description:

11. Industrial restructuring is a key element of economic reforms in both market and transition economies. Through this mechanism, enterprises and national economies integrate into the regional and world markets. It is important that representatives of governments and other stakeholders in the ECE countries share their views and discuss lessons drawn from their experience of industrial restructuring. The discussion of its modalities and social implications might assist countries in developing joint approaches and raising efficiency of restructuring in the context of transition. Issues such as regulatory framework, industry-specific aspects of industrial restructuring, the role of new enterprises in alleviating the burden of restructuring, and industrial and territorial clustering are expected to be covered under this work area.

Work Accomplished:

12. The secretariat published the Summary Proceedings of the Round Table on “Industrial Restructuring in European Transition Economies: Experience to Date and Prospects” organized in Geneva in February 2002 in the three working languages of the ECE (ECE/TRADE/291). It also 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>). The Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring contributed to the organization of a Workshop on “Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring” focusing on the issues related to transition economies scheduled for April 2003.

Work to be undertaken:

13. A Regional Conference on the “Role of New Technologies in Industrial Restructuring” will be organized in April 2003. In conjunction with this Conference, a Workshop on “Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring” will be also held. A Forum on Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring will be organized in November 2002.

**1.2 Sub-programme Title: Sustainable Industrial Development – Chemical Industry
Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED)**

Executive body: Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED

Description:

14. The CHEMISEED sub-programme covers all aspects of security, safety and sustainable development in the chemical sector, including the problems of polluted sites and their cleanup. In particular, the principal objective of this sub-programme is to assist countries in transition to remediate chemically polluted sites.

Work accomplished:

15. The Team of Specialists on Chemiseed contributed to the preparations for the Seminar on “Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils and Ground Water”, which will be held in Paris on 1 – 3 April 2003. The papers presented for the Seminar can be found at the WWW homepage of the Seminar (<http://www.unece.org/operact/intersol/>)

Work to be undertaken:

16. Programme proposal made by the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED at its third meeting in October 2002 can be found in the report of that meeting (TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/4) presented to the fourth session of WP. 8.

I.3. Sub-programme Title: Quality Management Systems

Executive Body: Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems

Description:

17. The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems assists governments and enterprises, in particular SMEs, in the implementation of quality management systems in order to increase the competitiveness of enterprises in their countries. To this end, the Team of Specialists examines best practices of national policies for promoting quality assurance systems, and organises the exchange of information and experiences between governments and other stakeholders; collects and analyses information on the use of national quality award schemes and excellent quality models; develops and promotes benchmarking to measure competitiveness of enterprises; raises quality awareness and promotes the creation of quality development centres.

Work Accomplished:

18. The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems contributed to the organization of the Expert Meeting on "How to become a Supplier of Large National and Transnational Corporations" to be held on 20 – 21 March 2003. It also started a comparative analysis of excellent quality models and practices for SMEs taking into account the European Excellent Quality Model by EFQM. The Team initiated feasibility studies of establishing Total Quality Centres in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. A Project Proposal on Quality Management Systems for the Russian Light Industry based on the ISO 9000 series of standards and on Group Training and Implementation Methodology was elaborated. The Team decided to start a "Gallery of Companies - Winners of National Quality Awards Schemes" to be placed on the Team's WWW site (<http://www.unece.org/operact/quams.htm>, the respective questionnaire can be found at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/qwinners.htm>).

Work to be undertaken:

19. The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems will organize an Expert Meeting on "How to Become a Supplier of Large National and Transnational Corporations" on 20 - 21 March 2003 in Geneva. An interactive CDROM for the ecological assessment of enterprises in accordance with the ISO 14,000 standard requirement will be adapted for use by transition economies (second quarter 2002 – mid. 2003). A comparative analysis of excellent quality models and practices for SMEs will be made taking into account the European Excellent Quality Model by EFQM (second quarter 2002 – end 2003). A Total Quality Management Centre in the Russian Federation will be established under the auspices of UNECE and UNEP (2002 – 2003).

A Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Quality Centre will be established under the auspices of UNECE (2002–2003). A Support Centre for the Public Movement for Quality in the Ukraine will be established (2002–2003). A study tour on the learning experiences of winners and finalists of the European Quality Award competition for implementing quality management systems will be organized (second–third quarter of 2002–2003). The TOS decided to elaborate a Model of Integrated Management System (MIMS). A Discussion Paper on this issue (TRADE/WP.8/AC.5/2002/1) was presented at the twelfth session of the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP. 6) held on 28-31 October 2002. It was suggested to implement MIMS as a joint project with WP.6.

2. Programme Title: Development of Entrepreneurship

Description:

20. The Working Party assists member States, and transition economies in particular, in creating the environment conducive to the emergence and development of new market economy enterprises. It also examines the issues of women's entrepreneurship and of entrepreneurship as a means of poverty alleviation, facilitates information exchange on best practices in these areas and develops recommendations to Governments. The present programme does not cover the relevant activities related to the development of SMEs, which are implemented by the regional advisory services.

2.1. Sub-programme Title: Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

Executive Body: Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

Description:

21. The objective of this sub-programme is to identify policy instruments, which have proved to be effective in reducing poverty and social inequalities through entrepreneurial activities, exchange information on best practice in eradicating poverty through the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, and provide policy recommendations to Governments of transition economies. During the current biennium, the sub-programme focuses on supporting the youth entrepreneurship as a means of assisting transition economies in offsetting the adverse impact of economic/industrial decline on vulnerable groups of population.

Work accomplished:

22. In August 2002, the Team of Specialists organized the First Regional Forum on Youth: "Security, Opportunity and Prosperity", which developed recommendations to the UNECE and other organizations of the UN system dealing with youth issues (available on the WWW page of the Team at the following address <http://www.unece.org/operact/meetings/youth/recomend.htm>). At its second meeting in August 2002, the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation decided to create three sub-groups dealing with the project selection, elaboration of recommendations and best practices in the area of youth entrepreneurship.

Work to be undertaken:

23. The secretariat will draw on the recommendations of the August 2002 Regional Forum on Youth to promote further discussion of problems surrounding youth entrepreneurship and offer advice to Governments aimed at its facilitation. The opportunities for effective public private partnership in this area will be fully examined. The secretariat will explore feasibility of organizing a workshop on youth entrepreneurship in BSEC countries in Moldova in the first half of 2003 (in cooperation with BSEC and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation) and the feasibility of contributing to the organization of the first subregional forum on Youth Entrepreneurship for the countries of south-eastern Europe and CIS in Kiev (Ukraine).

2.2 Sub-programme Title: Women's Entrepreneurship

Executive Body: Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship

Description:

24. The sub-programme aims at coordinating the effort of the member States in promoting women's participation in enterprise development and improving women-entrepreneurs' access to finance, information and international networks. The Team of Specialists will assist member-States in promoting women's entrepreneurship through (i) assessing the situation of women-entrepreneurs in individual countries (ii) discussing national policies and identifying best practices, and (iii) establishing guidelines and policy recommendations.

Work Accomplished:

25. The TOS contributed to the organization of the Second Regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, which will be held on 17-18 March 2003. The Secretariat contributed to the organization of the Sub-regional Round Table on Women's Entrepreneurship at CEI Economic Summit in Trieste, Italy (November 2001) and of the Round Table on Women and ICT (CEI Summit, Macedonia, November 2002). The TOS held its second meeting on 30 August 2002, at which it established two task forces: (i) on best practices and projects and (ii) on network building. The first task force has developed a standard format for project proposal and criteria for project evaluation, and the second task force has prepared a standard questionnaire for building networks among women entrepreneurs. The Team also created its WWW page at the UNECE website (www.unece.org/operatct/women/team.htm) The Portrait Gallery of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs was expanded to include about 200 women entrepreneurs from 34 countries (<http://www.unece.org/operact/gallery>). UNECE also continued its contest of Excellent Women Entrepreneurs for the year 2002, which will be concluded in March 2003 at the second Regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs (information on the contest and its participants can be accessed at <http://www.unece.org/indust/sme/candidates.htm>).

Work to be undertaken:

26. The Second Forum of Women-Entrepreneurs will be held in Geneva on 17–18 March 2003. The secretariat will prepare a publication on women's entrepreneurship in eastern Europe and CIS countries based on selected materials prepared for the First UNECE Forum of Women-Entrepreneurs and meetings of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship. The feasibility of the regional Congress of Women's Credit Unions and of a Round Table on E-commerce will be explored.

3. Programme Title: Emerging knowledge-based economy

Description:

27. Under this programme, the Working Party provides information and contributes to raising awareness of member States, and transition countries in particular, regarding the emerging new type of economy, decisively dependant on the input of intellectual capital and innovation. It also assists member States in assessing their readiness for the knowledge-based economy. On the basis of such assessment, this programme facilitates the identification of lacunas in the material infrastructure, information systems and regulatory framework for innovation and implementation of new technologies.

Work accomplished:

28. On the initiative of the secretariat, ECE produced 11 country reports ("Towards a Knowledge-based Economy. Country Readiness Assessment Reports") for Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Yugoslavia (ECE/TRADE/311/2-12), assessing their readiness for the knowledge-based economy. In addition, a regional overview of this issue was also prepared (ECE/TRADE/311/1).

3.1. Sub-programme Title: Digital Economy Development

Executive Body: Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (TSIED)

Description:

29. Under this sub-programme, the impact of emerging digital economy on the societies of member countries, related opportunities and challenges to economic development and social progress are examined. The sub-programme aims at assisting member States in using information and communication technologies, capturing economic gains accruing from that use and at facilitating their integration into the emerging global knowledge-based economy. To this end, the UNECE secretariat and ITU secretariat have agreed to cooperate further through a MoU on the Information Economy Development with special reference to e-policy and e-regulations.

Work accomplished:

30. The Team contributed to the organization of the UNECE Joint International Conference on E-Work and Telework for Women (January 2002, Poland), Workshop on E-Regulatory Framework Development (February 2002), UNECE Forum on Online Dispute Resolution (June 2002), UNECE/EU Joint Expert Panel on E-Strategy and E-Policy Development (October 2002, Belgium), UNECE Side Event on E-Policy and E-Regulation for the Pan-European Conference of the World Summit on the Information Society (November 2002, Romania) and UNECE/SSPA International Seminar on E-Government (December 2002, Italy). The Team held its fourth and fifth meetings. The secretariat published the Information Economy Report 2002-2003 (ECE/TRADE/297) covering 16 countries of the region, and continued working on the new publications “Cyberspace Regulatory Framework Development” and “Online Dispute Resolution”.

Activities to be undertaken:

31. The TOS will contribute to the organization of the UNECE-SSPA International Seminar on Public Management for Electronic Government Development in Europe and Transition Economies, 13 – 14 December 2002 (Caserta, Italy); Second Workshop on Cyberspace Regulatory Framework, 12 February 2003 (Geneva, Switzerland), CIS Regional Conference on Knowledge Economy Development, 12 April 2003 (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), UNECE Annual Forum on Online Dispute Resolution, 5–6 June, 2003 (Geneva, Switzerland), Forum on Knowledge-based Economy Development, 5 November 2003 (Geneva, Switzerland) and Annual Seminar on E-Government Development, 4–5 December 2003 (Caserta, Italy). The secretariat will continue the implementation of the UNECE/EU Project on E-Work Development in Central and Eastern Europe, 2002-2003 (e-work development aims at promoting new methods of work through ICT tools such as telework and mobile work). In order to assess the potential for digital economy development in transition economies, the Team will prepare Information Economy country reports. This series will continue, country by country, on an annual basis, as resources are available. The secretariat is planning to prepare the following publications: “Cyberspace Regulatory Framework Development” (2003), “Online Dispute Resolution” - Proceedings of the June 2002 UNECE Forum on “Online Dispute Resolution: State of the Art and Main Issues” (2003), a report on e-Payment Systems development in transition economies in cooperation with the German Institute of ITAS (2003) and “E-Policy Development in Transition Economies” (2003).

Annex II

Internet Enterprise Development Trust Fund Oversight Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

1. **Objective.** The Oversight Advisory Group (OAG) is established by the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development (WP.8) to facilitate the management of the Internet Enterprise Development Trust Fund. The OAG will give advice to the secretariat on disbursements from this Trust Fund, with the view of enhancing its contribution to the objectives of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (TSIED), which is mandated to:

- Make formal consultations with experts of the Internet-based enterprises, government representatives and qualified organizations under the framework of public-private sector partnership.
- Support the governments of transition economies in developing information society initiatives including relevant policies and regulatory framework designed to accelerate the process.
- Assist in the creation of an enabling environment for e-commerce and Internet-based services development in transition economies towards enhancing enterprise development.
- Assist other international organizations and non-governmental organizations in furthering the objectives of national Internet Enterprise Development initiatives.
- Assist countries in transition in organizing seminars, symposia, workshops and other informal forums on issues related to Information Society development (TRADE/WP.8/2000/7).

2. **Composition.** The OAG will consist of the members of the Bureau of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development and the Chair or a Vice-Chair of the WP.8.

3. **Organization.** The Secretariat will prepare an annual cost plan for expenditures from the Trust Fund. This cost plan/budget will be made available to members of the OAG for comment and suggestions. Actual expenditures (i.e., use of funds) will be compared with the budgeted cost plan each year and made available to the OAG. As per United Nations rules, the management of the Trust Fund and approval of expenditures will remain with the Secretariat. The Oversight Advisory Group will have an advisory and monitoring role so as to enhance the activities and the objectives of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development.

Annex III

Provisional List of Meetings of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development for 2003-2004

2003

12	Feb	Third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation
12	Feb	Second Workshop on Cyberspace Regulatory Framework
12	Feb	Second meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
12	Feb	Seventh meeting of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development
13-14	Feb	Fourth session of the Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development
14	Mar	Third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship
17-18	Mar	Second Regional Forum of Women-Entrepreneurs
19	Mar	Forum on Best Practice in Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs: The Croatian and Slovenian Experience
20-21	Mar	Expert meeting on How to Become a Supplier of Large Enterprises and Transnational Corporations
22	March	Second meeting of the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems
1-3	Apr	Seminar on Groundwater and Soil Decontamination (Paris, France)
12	Apr	CIS Regional Conference on the Knowledge-based Economy Development, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
23	Apr	Workshop on Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in ECE Region
24	Apr	Conference on Innovation as a Vehicle for Industrial Restructuring
30 Jun-1 Jul		UNECE Forum on Online Dispute Resolution
13	Oct	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED

14	Oct	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship
14	Oct	Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs: The Russian Experience
15	Oct	Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs: The Slovak Experience
15-16	Oct	Expert meeting on Best Practice in Women's Entrepreneurship
16-17	Oct	Expert meeting on Best Practice in Promoting and Supporting SMEs
7	Nov	Forum on Knowledge-based Economy Development
6-7	Nov	Eighth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development
26-27	Nov	Regional Forum on Handling Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring in Transition Economies
28	Nov	Third meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
4-5	Dec	Annual UNECE/SSPA International Seminar on Public Management for E-Government Development (Caserta, Italy)

2004

9-10	Feb	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialist on Youth Entrepreneurship
11	Feb	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
12-13	Feb	Fifth session of the WP.8
29-30	Mar	Third UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs
30	Mar	Fifth meeting of the TOS on Women's Entrepreneurship
30	Mar	Joint UNECE-CEI Meeting of the Working Group on SMEs
31	Mar	Sixth Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship in Countries in Transition
1-2	Apr	Expert Meeting on SME-related issue
11	Apr	Workshop on Industrial Restructuring in Single Industry Towns and Areas
17-18	May	Workshop on Quality Benchmarking

5-6	Jul	Expert meeting on gender aspect of EU enlargement
21	Oct	Workshop on Managerial Practices Conductive to Industrial Restructuring
22	Oct	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring