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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Working Party on International Legal  
and Commercial Practice

Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of  
Intellectual Property Rights for Investment

Fifth session, 29 September 2003  
(Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda)

**Progress report on support projects**  
(Note by the secretariat)

**Introduction**

The present progress report summarises the activities of the UNECE Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment on the support projects being undertaken in accordance with the approved programme of work. The objective of the support projects in transition economies are to facilitate the sustainable protection and enforcement of IPRs in those countries and creating a climate favourable for indigenous technological development, foreign and domestic investment.

**(a) Estonian support project**

As requested by the Government of Estonia and as a follow-up of the training activities organized by the Advisory Group, a pilot newsletter on IPR has been produced and circulated in the country in order to promote awareness of the importance of IPR enforcement. The newsletter was published and funded by the Institute of Law, University of Tartu.

At the request of the Government of Estonia, a round table meeting was held in Tallinn on 2 September 2003 between members of the Advisory Group and representatives of the enforcement agencies who had received training from the Advisory Group in 2000.

**(b) Kyrgyz support project**

At the request of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, a consultative visit to Kyrgyzstan was undertaken on 4-6 December 2002. The Report on the consultative visit was issued in June 2003 (WP.5/AG.3/2003/2) and will be distributed during the present session of the Advisory Group.

The Steering Group will consider further requests for training if they are received in conjunction with training in other central Asian republics.

**(c) Polish support project**

At the request of the government of Poland, the Steering Group and Operations Committee started preparations for a Regional conference on the Internet and IPRs to be held in Warsaw in April 2004. Representatives from Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany and others will be invited.

During the Sixteenth Meeting of the Steering Group held in London on 11 July 2003, a number of issues and questions were raised that will be discussed with the Polish Government. It was agreed that the most appropriate participants for this Conference would be high-level government officials and private sector and, as the timing of the conference coincides with the 2004 enlargement of the EU, that high-level speakers should be invited from the EU. It was proposed that once the aims and an agenda outline for the conference has been developed, the Secretariat will prepare an Information Bulletin for ECE member governments, emphasizing the importance of high level government participation.

In December 2003 the World Summit on the Information Society will be held in Geneva. The documents from this meeting will be relevant to the planning of the content of the conference.

**(d) Russian Federation support project**

At the request of the Government of the Russian Federation, the Advisory Group organized two training seminars in Moscow: one on the role of IPR in business development for SMEs and institutions on 31 October -1 November 1 2002 and another on IP enforcement for judges, prosecutors, police and customs on 26-28 November 2002. Further projects are being considered.

**(e) Serbia and Montenegro support project**

At the request of the government of Serbia and Montenegro, the Advisory Group organized two seminars in Belgrade, one on IPR enforcement for judges, prosecutors, police and customs on 4-5 February 2003, and one on the Valuation and commercialization of IPRs for SMEs and institutions on 27-28 March 2003.

**(f) Tajikistan Support project**

A support project is under preparation in association with the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. A donors' conference under the auspices of UN/ECE SPECA was held on 23-24 June 2003. The conference was attended by senior governmental representatives from the Central Asian republics. One of the aims of the conference was to mobilize resources for funding co-operative projects in the Central Asian republics.

The Steering Group considered what would be the most appropriate and desirable project to develop in central Asia during the Steering Group Meeting on 11 July 2003 in London. Many of the companies represented on the Steering Group have extensive information on the legislation in these countries. After some discussion, it concluded that rather than conduct a full consultative meeting in any of these countries, that a regional enforcement training programme would be the most productive. This would be based in Kazakhstan, and the other Central Asian republics would be invited to send representatives.

**(g) Ukrainian support project**

At the request of the government of Ukraine the Steering Group and Operations Committee have undertaken preparations for an enforcement-training seminar in Ukraine on 11-13 November 2003. The seminar will be held at the Ukrainian Industrial Property Institute in Kiev.

The Steering Group agreed during the meeting on 11 July 2003 that a maximum of 70 participants should be invited. It was noted that the majority of speakers were confirmed. The work has started on the requests for assistance received from the Government of Ukraine. The Steering Group acknowledged with appreciation the financial support for the seminar pledged by US PTO in a MOA signed in April 2003.