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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Eighth meeting
Geneva, 13 October 2006

**DECISION ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION**

Note by the secretariat

**ESTABLISHMENT OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS
AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, at its first session (Geneva, 27-28 September 2006), decided to set up two teams of specialists: one on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and one on Intellectual Property.

The Executive Committee is invited to approve the establishment of these two teams of specialists and their terms of reference on the basis of the attached text taken from the decisions of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF TEAMS OF SPECIALISTS UNDER THE COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION**

A. Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

1. The Committee established the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and adopted its terms of reference as contained in conference room paper 2.
2. The Committee decided that the first meeting of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies should take place by 1 April 2007.
3. The terms of reference are contained in Annex I.

B. Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property

4. The Committee established the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property and adopted its terms of reference as contained in conference room paper 3.
5. The Committee decided that the first meeting of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property should take place by 1 December 2006.
6. The Committee requested the secretariat to contact potential donors and the members of the network of the former Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment in order to inform them of the recent decisions concerning IPR activities in the UNECE, to present them the new Team of Specialists and its programme, and to invite them to contribute to its implementation.
7. As soon as the Terms of Reference for the Team of Specialists have been adopted, the UNECE secretariat will make a UN Trust Fund available to facilitate implementation of the work programme.
8. Steps should be taken to ensure that private donors do not pull out of sponsorship due to transitioning over to administration through a UN Trust Fund.
9. The terms of reference are contained in Annex II.

ANNEX I

TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS POLICIES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

1. The programme of work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stipulates the establishment of a Team of Specialists to support the implementation of the programme of work in thematic area A. “Strengthening the competitiveness of member States’ economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation” taking into account cross-cutting issues related to innovation and competitiveness.

Mandate

2. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOSICP) supports the implementation of the parts of the programme of work of CECI related to Thematic area A: “Strengthening the competitiveness of member States’ economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation”. TOSICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness of UNECE member States, with specific focus on transition economies. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experiences gained and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas among UNECE member States. In its work, the TOSICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, the academic and business communities, and civil society.

Areas of work

3. To support CECI to achieve its relevant objectives, TOSICP engages in the following activities:
- (a) Exchange of experience gained, knowledge sharing and consultations in establishing effective organizational models of innovative development and competitiveness and of the channels through which the results of technological development and innovation diffuse in the modern economy and their role in national economic development and competitiveness.
 - (b) Organization of an expert meeting on good practices in organizational models facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation.
 - (c) Preparation of a synopsis of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation, to be discussed and approved by CECI.
 - (d) Supporting the broad dissemination of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation.

- (e) Exchange of experience gained in government policies facilitating technological development and innovation.
- (f) Organization of an expert meeting on innovation and competitiveness policies in the UNECE region: good practices and challenges.
- (g) Preparation of a synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development, to be discussed and approved by CECI.
- (h) Supporting the broad dissemination of good practices in policies options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development.
- (i) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, subsequent technical assistance and capacity-building on related issues could be initiated in requesting transition economies.

Membership

4. TOSICP comprises Government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated through the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with UN procedures, TOSICP is open for participation of other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations, who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

Modalities of operation

5. TOSICP operates in accordance with the guidelines for the Establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2).

6. TOSICP is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension if so decided by CECI. CECI modifies the Terms of Reference of TOSIC as may be required.

7. Secretariat support to TOSICP is provided by the UNECE secretariat.

8. TOSICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation. At the end of the period, for which it has been established, the team submits a full report on its accomplishments to the Committee.

9. Expenses associated with the implementation of TOSICP's plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.

ANNEX II
TEAM OF SPECIALISTS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

1. The programme of work for the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration stipulates the establishment of a team of specialists "in order to ensure continuity of UNECE's efforts in the area of intellectual property rights and to take advantage of the existing expertise, networks and resources of the former Intellectual Property Rights Advisory Group".
2. In order to ensure speedy implementation of the programme of work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration and to avoid jeopardising the flow of resources, the existing network will be integrated into the team of specialists for the following reasons:
 - (a) It will avoid the delays caused if a new network has to be established from scratch;
 - (b) It has guaranteed funding sources from both public and private sources;
 - (c) It has an extensive network of experts available to implement the work programme.

Mandate

3. Supporting the implementation of the parts of the programme of work of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration related to intellectual property, the Team of Specialists (TOS) on Intellectual Property addresses the issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in economic development of the UNECE member States, with specific focus on transition economies.
4. The overall goal of the Team of Specialists is to build up local innovation systems, to help in commercializing intellectual property and to improve the investment environment in creative, innovative and high technology industries in the UNECE region among others via effective enforcement of intellectual property rights.
5. The activities of the Team of Specialists aim at facilitating the effective regulatory protection of intellectual property rights and strengthening their role in innovative development. In its work, the TOS responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of the private sector, consumers, researchers and civil society.
6. The Team of Specialists would support the Committee and member States in the policy development and capacity building objectives:
 - (a) Improved implementation of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in countries in the region;

- (b) The development of support frameworks covering, in a holistic manner, all aspects of intellectual property rights commercialization and implementation, for those governments who request such assistance;
- (c) Improved awareness by domestic private sectors of their intellectual property rights and the means available for implementing them;
- (d) Better communication and cooperation between the holders of IPRs and the civil servants involved in their protection;

Activities

7. To support the Committee to achieve its relevant objectives, the Team of Specialists engages in the following activities:

- (a) Exchange of experience gained on IPR commercialization, protection and enforcement.
- (b) Exchange of views (“consultations”) on specific issues related to legal framework, policies and business practices in the field of intellectual property on request from member States, in order to, among other things, to assess the effectiveness of national systems;
- (c) Preparation of an analytical comparative report on the commercialization of IP assets, on transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets and on the establishment of well functioning markets for such products on the basis of existing reports;
- (d) Organization of a meeting on IPR protection and transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets in economies in transition;
- (e) Preparation of a collection of good practices and good policies of intellectual property commercialization and protection in the UNECE member countries with the aim of identifying specific areas of action;
- (f) Preparation of a guidebook on commercialization strategies for IP products in the UNECE member countries;
- (g) Development of policy recommendations for the consideration of the Committee;
- (h) Capacity-building activities, including advisory missions and national and regional seminars in identified areas on specific requests of member States;
- (i) Contribution of inputs to other thematic areas of work, as required by the Committee.

Working principles

8. The activities of the Team of Specialists in support of the above objectives are based on the following principles:

- (a) Public and private sector partnership to promote improvements in the commercialization, protection and exploitation of intellectual properties, to the benefit of economies of member States.
- (b) A focus on assistance and recommendations rather than evaluation or judgment, when working with Governments to improve the implementation of intellectual property rights;
- (c) The paramount importance of building confidence and an understanding of the mutual interest of the public and private sector participants in the Team;
- (d) Full cooperation and coordination in all the Team's activities with the major international programmes on intellectual property, including the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Trade Organization (WTO) and the European Union.

Membership

9. The Team of Specialists comprises Government experts, as well as experts from relevant intergovernmental organizations, private sector, consumer associations and academia. National experts are nominated through the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with the Committee. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS is open for participation of experts from intergovernmental organizations and international business, consumer and research associations which would like to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

Modalities of operation

10. The Team of Specialists operates in accordance with the guidelines for the Establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the UNECE (ECE/EX/2).

11. The Team of Specialists is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension if so decided by the Committee. The Committee modifies the Terms of Reference of the TOS as may be required.

12. Secretariat support to the TOS is provided by the UNECE secretariat:

- (a) A regular staff member of the secretariat will service the Team of Specialists and in particular regular meetings which will in principle be financed from the regular budget.
- (b) The TOS can make use of appropriate institutional arrangements, including the creation of a steering group or a Bureau, in order to secure speedy organization of technical cooperation activities; and
- (c) UN Trust funds can be used to hire an external programme manager with specific experience in the field in order to secure among others implementation of the

programme and contacts with donors as well as to finance the implementation of the programme.

13. The TOS should avail itself of all appropriate expertise to avoid any undue delay in implementation.

14. The TOS develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation. At the end of the period for which it has been established, the team submits a full report on its accomplishments to the Committee.

15. Expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS's plan of work are covered mostly through extra-budgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.

16. At its first meeting, which will take place no later than 1 December 2006, the TOS will appoint a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. At the same meeting, it will adopt its plan of work for 2007-2008.
