



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
LIMITED

ECE/EX/2009/L.9
22 April 2009

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thirtieth meeting
Geneva, 4 May 2009
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

DECISIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Extension of the mandates of the
Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) and the
Ad hoc Team of Specialists on STANDARDIZATION and Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team)

Note by the secretariat

1. At its meeting on 14 July 2006, the Executive Committee approved the renewal of the mandate of the Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group), until the end of 2007.
2. The mandate of the Ad hoc Team of Specialists on STANDARDIZATION and Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team) was last extended under previous procedures in 2005, for a two-year period.
3. In November 2008, the Bureau of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP. 6) (the parent body of the “MARS” Group and “START” Team), having assessed their work, decided to recommend to the Committee on Trade to extend their

mandates for a two-year period. The decision was endorsed by the Committee on Trade at its third session (Geneva, 25-26 February 2009).

4. The Executive Committee is invited to consider and approve these extensions.
5. The terms of reference of the “MARS” Group and “START” Team are available in document ECE/TRADE/C/2009/11. The document also provides background information about the “MARS” Group and “START” Team, as well as a detailed description of the results achieved and the activities that are under way and planned.
6. The “START” Team is responsible for a number of sectoral initiatives that promote regulatory cooperation among countries in diverse sectors, including equipment for explosive environments, earthmoving machinery, pipelines safety, and telecom products. For an informal explanation of the work of these sectoral initiatives, delegations are invited to read the explanatory brochure “What UNECE does for you: UNECE works for better and convergent regulations” available at <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/ref-docs/Brochure-RegulatoryCooperation.pdf>
