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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development**

Fifth session, 12 and 13 February 2004

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2004-2005**

Note by the secretariat

**Introduction**

1. The draft programme of work for 2004 – 2005 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 seventh (May 2003) session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED). The present document summarizes the work accomplished during the period after the fourth session and highlights the targets for the next biennium. 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 2004 – 2005.

3. A calendar of planned and proposed meetings of the Working Party and its Teams of Specialists is annexed.

**Programme framework**

4. The mandate 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 emergence and successful operation of 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 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. The first group of activities 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. Finally, the third group of issues is multi-dimensional, because the emerging knowledge-based economy creates new conditions for the sustainability of existing industries and companies in the future on the one hand, and broadens opportunities for new entrepreneurs, on the other.

6. 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 or emerging enterprises. In particular, under this heading the Working Party deals with 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.

7. 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, including women's entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship as a means of poverty alleviation. Under the latter heading, the Working Party has decided to focus in the current biennium on the support to youth entrepreneurship as a means of assisting transition economies in offsetting the adverse impact of economic/industrial decline on vulnerable population groups.

8. Finally, the third theme (sub-programme Digital Economy Development), dealing with the emerging knowledge-based economy is cross-sectoral, having an impact on both sustainable industrial development and entrepreneurship development. In this area, the Working Party contributes to raising awareness of member States and assists in assessing their readiness for the knowledge-based economy, which is a major component of sustainable development in the future. These readiness assessment reports covered 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 privately-owned companies and different types of entrepreneurs are explored.

## **1. Programme: Industrial Restructuring and Sustainable Industrial Development**

### Description:

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

## **1.1 Sub-programme: Industrial Restructuring**

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

### Description:

10. 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 UNECE countries share their views and discuss lessons drawn from their experience in industrial restructuring. These lessons 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:

11. The Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring (TOSIR) contributed to the organization of two meetings: the Workshop on “Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring” and the Conference on “Innovation as a Vehicle for Industrial Restructuring”, which were held in Geneva on 23 and 24 April 2003, respectively. The secretariat has prepared for publication the Summary Proceedings of the above-mentioned Workshop and Conference. It also placed the texts of presentations made at the Workshop and the Conference on the website of WP.8 (respectively at <http://www.unece.org/ie/industry/paperswshop.htm> and <http://www.unece.org/ie/industry/paperscon.html>). TOSIR also contributed to the organization of the Regional Forum on “Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring” held in Moscow (Russian Federation) on 26-27 November 2003.

### Work to be undertaken:

12. A Regional Workshop “Territorial Aspects of Industrial Restructuring: Problems of Single Industry Towns and Areas” will be held in May 2004. In October 2004, subject to the contribution of external resources from TOSIR, the secretariat will organize a Seminar on “Managerial Tools of Industrial Restructuring”. The secretariat will publish the summary proceedings of the Regional Forum on Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring and place the papers presented at this Forum on the UNECE website.

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

Executing body: Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED

### Description:

13. The CHEMISEED sub-programme was supposed to cover all aspects of security, safety and sustainable development in the chemical sector, including the problems of polluted sites and their cleanup. In reality, its principal objective has been to assist countries in transition to remediate chemically polluted sites.

### Work accomplished:

14. In cooperation with “Association Interchimie”, the Team of Specialists on Chemiseed organized a Seminar on “Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils and Ground

Water” held in Paris on 1 – 3 April 2003. The report on the Seminar and papers presented at the Seminar can be consulted at the following web addresses: <http://www.unece.org/ie/intersol/documents/reportweb.pdf> and (<http://www.unece.org/operact/intersol/>).

Work to be undertaken:

15. The future work under this sub-programme is subject to decision on the extension of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED to be taken by the fifth session of the Working Party.

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

Executing Body: Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems

Description:

16. 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 practice in national policies for promoting quality assurance systems, and organises the exchange of information and experience 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. The secretariat proposes to cluster the activities of the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems under the WP.6 (Working Party on Technical Harmonization Policy), which is better placed than the WP.8 to host these activities.

Work Accomplished:

17. 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” 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 of the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The Team initiated feasibility studies for 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 website (<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:

18. The TOS will finalize the Guidelines on Integrated Management Systems and will continue its work on the comparative analysis of excellent quality models and practices for SMEs taking into account the European Excellent Quality Model developed by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The TOS will explore the feasibility of developing the Guidelines and tools for environmental assessment of enterprises based on the DAFCO (Les delegations académiques à la formation continue, France) project proposal. It will also contribute to the creation of a Portrait Gallery of Enterprises - winners of national and international quality awards.

## **2. Programme: Development of Entrepreneurship**

### Description:

19. The Working Party assists member States, and transition economies in particular, in creating the environment conducive to the emergence and development of new enterprises in a market economy setting. 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: Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation**

Executing Body: Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

### Description:

20. The objective of this sub-programme is to identify policy instruments which have proved 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 youth entrepreneurship as a means of assisting transition economies in offsetting the adverse impact of economic/industrial decline on vulnerable population groups.

### Work accomplished:

21. The Team of Specialists contributed to the organization of the Workshop on "Promotion of SMEs – Strategic Direction in the Development of Youth Entrepreneurship", which was held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, on 27-28 March 2003. On the basis of its deliberations, the TOS developed selected recommendations to major stakeholders. It also participated in the organization of the CIS Forum on Youth held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 24-26 November 2003. At its third meeting in February 2003, the Team of Specialists decided to focus its work on youth employment and to change the name of the TOS to the "Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship" requesting the WP.8 to endorse this decision.

### Work to be undertaken:

22. The secretariat will explore the feasibility of organizing a South-Eastern European Youth Forum in Belgrade (Serbia and Montenegro) and a Regional Forum on Youth for countries of Central Asia in 2004. In cooperation with the World Youth Bank (WYB), it will continue working on the project on "UNECE match-making of needs and requirements of all stakeholders in youth prosperity". The objective of this project is to promote, empower and implement the "Good governance capacity-building" in UNECE member countries.

### **2.2 Sub-programme: Women's Entrepreneurship**

Executing Body: Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship

### Description:

23. The sub-programme aims at coordinating member States' efforts to promote women's participation in enterprise development and improve 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:

24. The TOS contributed to the organization of the Second Regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, which was held in Geneva on 17-18 March 2003. The second publication on Women's Entrepreneurship dedicated to the "Best Practices in Financing for Women Entrepreneurs and Access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" prepared by the secretariat is expected to be available by the time of the fifth session of the Working Party. The secretariat organized a session on "Women's Entrepreneurship in a Wider Europe" within the framework of the Central European Initiative's Sixth Summit Economic Forum (19-21 November 2003, Warsaw, Poland). TOS also prepared a regional assessment of data availability on ICTs and gender, and an evaluation of women entrepreneurs' training needs.

#### Work to be undertaken:

25. The TOS will contribute to the organisation of the Sub-regional Forum on Women Entrepreneurs in Turkey and Central Asia scheduled to be held in 2004. The Team will also continue the background review of the existing methodologies and data related to women's entrepreneurship by sub-regions, as well as the analysis of training needs and capacity (TNCA) in selected sub-regions.

### **3. Programme: Emerging knowledge-based economy**

#### Description:

26. Under this programme, the Working Party provides information and contributes to raising awareness of member States, and transition countries in particular, of the emergence of a 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.

#### **3.1. Sub-programme: Digital Economy Development**

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

#### Description:

27. Under this sub-programme, the impact of emerging digital economy on 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:

28. The Team of Specialists contributed to the organization of the Second Workshop on Cyberspace Regulatory Framework which took place in Geneva in February 2003. It also contributed to the organization of the second UNECE Forum on Online Dispute Resolution held in Geneva on 30 June - 1 July 2003.

Activities to be undertaken:

29. The future work programme under this sub-programme will be developed subject to decisions on the major directions of work and on the extension of the mandate of the Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development to be taken by the fifth session of the Working Party.

## ANNEX

### PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOR 2004

9-10 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Youth Entrepreneurship
10 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED
11 February	Fourth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
12-13 Feb.	Fifth session of the WP.8
29-30 March	Third UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs
30 March	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship
31 March	6 <sup>th</sup> Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition: The Romanian and Slovak Experience
1 – 2 April	Expert Meeting on Good Governance for SMEs
April/May	Sub-regional Forum of Women Entrepreneurs, Istanbul, Turkey
April/May	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship, Istanbul, Turkey
21 May	Workshop "Territorial Aspects of Industrial Restructuring: Problems of Single Industry Towns and Areas" (place to be decided)
5 – 6 July	Expert meeting on gender aspect of EU enlargement
21 October	Workshop on Managerial Practices Conducive to Industrial Restructuring (place to be decided)
22 October	Fifth meeting of the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring
November	Expert meeting on Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Excellent Quality Models