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COMMITTEE ON TRADE

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and
Standardization Policies

Eighteenth session
Geneva, 3 - 4 November 2008
Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel session 1 – Market Surveillance Model Initiative

Provisional agenda

I. BACKGROUND

1. Market Surveillance (MS) practices vary significantly from country to country, presenting a barrier to a fully effective system of cross-border co-operation. For example, there is a widespread perception across the European Union that levels of surveillance and enforcement are uneven and inadequate to the detriment of fair competition, user safety and the notion of the Internal Market.
2. Due to the vast number of products put on the market worldwide, the challenges imposed on a market surveillance authority are enormous, and it is almost impossible to cover all the requirements of the technical legislation.
3. The key to improving this situation is the cooperation and harmonization of market surveillance approaches amongst countries. The establishment of a clear framework and guide for the operation of market surveillance, based on good practice worldwide, would be a major asset to regulators and would be a significant step forward in the enhancement of a safe, efficient and transparent market for legitimate trade.

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4. This session is organized to discuss different national and regional approaches and present the methodology of a proposed UNECE initiative to develop a model to guide the decision of market surveillance authorities, based on the results of a questionnaire that is being developed.

II. SESSION TIMETABLE (3 November 2008)

15:00	Introduction by the Convenor: Mr. Ivan Hendrikx
15:10	Presentation of national approaches to market surveillance
15:40	Presentation of existing initiatives to promote cooperation among market surveillance authorities
16:00	Presentation of the methodology of the proposed study (questionnaire number 1)
16:20	Panel discussion
16:40	Collecting information about market surveillance practices worldwide (questionnaire number 2)
17:00	Panel discussion
17:30	Discussion on conclusions and follow-up
18:00	Closing remarks
