UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Dist.
GENERAL

TRADE/2003/11/Add.1
27 February 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Seventh session, 12 to 16 May 2003
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2003-2005

Work Items

DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL

The Bureau of the Committee is submitting this draft programme of work for 2003 – 2005 to the Committee **for approval**. The draft programme is set out in two parts. The first part, contained in document TRADE/2003/11, introduces the programme of work and the strategic directions for the two subprogrammes. The second part, contained in the current document, describes the specific activities in detail.

In drawing up this programme of work, the Bureau has taken into account the deliberations of the Committee at its sixth session, as well as the decisions of the Commission at its fifty-seventh session. At the current session, the Committee will take into consideration any relevant recommendations emanating from the fifty-eighth session of the Commission (March 2003).

Two divisions, the Trade Development and Timber Division and the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division, service the work programme.

Information on the work under the Committee can be found on its website: http://www.unece.org/trade

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INTRODUCTION

1. The 2003 – 2005 programme of work for the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is set out in two parts. The first part, contained in document TRADE/2003/11, introduces the programme of work and the strategic directions for the two subprogrammes. The second part, contained in the current document, describes the specific activities in detail.

2. The Bureau of the Committee, at its October 2002 meeting, decided to recommend to the Committee that the cycle of the programme of work correspond to that of the United Nations budget cycle (see TRADE/2003/10). The Bureau agreed that the current programme of work could, on an exceptional basis, cover three years (2003-2005), rather than two. The next programme of work would therefore correspond to the next budget cycle - for 2006 and 2007.

3. The programme of work consists of the following two subprogrammes: Trade Development, and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development.

SUBPROGRAMME: TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

4. Activities under the UNECE's Trade Development subprogramme are focused on the key areas described in the Strategic Directions for the Programme of Work (TRADE/2003/11). The work items to be undertaken during the period 2003 to 2005 in each of these key areas are described below.

1 Development and maintenance of effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations

In response to the needs of the global economy

5. Development and maintenance of trade-related instruments, norms and standards is one of the core activities of UNECE. In order to further this work, UNECE will undertake the following activities:

1.1 Development of Trade Facilitation Standards and Recommendations under UN/CEFACT

Work Item 1.1.1 - Development of a Guide and formal Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking

6. Trade Facilitation Benchmarking relates to the measurement of specific trade facilitation procedures and activities, usually against an agreed standard. Benchmarking allows countries to measure their performance developments over time and against other countries and is an important tool in identifying areas needing attention and improvement.

7. Through the work of the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group, UNECE will develop a "Guide to Trade Facilitation Benchmarking" and will follow this up with a formal Recommendation. Work already undertaken by organizations such as the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be utilized in developing both the Guide and the Recommendation.

Target Audience: Governments and international trade organizations
Target Date for Completion: May 2005 (completion of the Guide is targeted for June 2004)
Team Responsibility: Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.1.2 - Development of a Declaration and/or Recommendation on Trade Security

8. Security is playing an increasingly important role in international trade. However, there is a danger in the current environment that unilateral and uncoordinated measures on trade security could emerge which would impede trade flows and could become a technical barrier to trade, particularly for developing economies and small and medium enterprises.

9. UNECE will consider the development of a common initiative between the World Trade Organization (WTO), UNECE, WCO, ICC, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and other relevant agencies, to ensure a comprehensive and facilitative approach to trade security across the entire trade transaction chain.

10. The intended outcome of this initiative would be a comprehensive review and harmonisation of the many existing trade facilitation measures in the security area throughout the entire trade transaction process, and a consolidation of the efforts of all organizations in ensuring a mutually beneficial and self reinforcing partnership between trade facilitation and security. It is intended that this work would complement the existing excellent work being undertaken by the WCO and others in the security area.

11. The initiative could, if necessary, also result in a joint declaration or recommendation on security and trade facilitation, addressing the needs and concerns of all parties. The declaration could promote a set of core principles that would guide the development of security related initiatives by Governments and or trade-related organizations.

Target Audience: Governments, international trade organizations and trade
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing, with formal Recommendation in May 2004
Team Responsibility: Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.1.3 - Development of a Recommendation on the establishment of a Single Window

12. The "Single Window" environment aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. Essentially, a "Single Window" is a system that allows traders to lodge information with a single body to fulfil all import- or export-related regulatory requirements.

13. Through the work of the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG), UNECE will develop a formal Recommendation for establishing and operating a Single Window for Trade Information and Procedures. The Recommendation will consist of a short formal section containing the core elements of the Recommendation, followed by four annexes with a more elaborate description of the Single Window and operational examples from trade and business.

Target Audience:	Governments and Trade in all countries, but with a special focus on transition and developing countries
Target Date for Completion:	May 2004
Team Responsibility:	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.1.4 - Development of a Recommendation regarding Driving Visa Requirements for International Truck Drivers

14. Obtaining visas for operators/crews involved in the transport of goods in international trade can be time-consuming and costly. This is particularly problematic in the central and eastern European region. The Trade Facilitation and Policy Team, in cooperation with the ITPWG, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the Transport Division of UNECE will work towards developing a formal recommendation designed to address this issue.

Target Audience:	Governments in central and eastern European region, transport and forwarding operators
Target Date for Completion:	December 2005
Team Responsibility:	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team in association with SECI Regional Advisor and UNECE Transport Division (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.1.5 - Legal Aspects of Trade Facilitation

15. The UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Legal Group of UN/CEFACT, will work on preparing Recommendations to address problems and develop best practices and standards regarding the legal aspects of trade facilitation around the world.

Target audience:	Governments (especially developing and least developed transition economies), the business community (especially SMEs)
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team responsibility:	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.1.6 - Revision of Recommendation 12 - Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures

16. UN/CEFACT Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures, was first approved in March 1979 and sought a change in official and commercial practice to:

a) minimize the use of negotiable transport documents and encourage the use of alternative sea waybills or other non-negotiable transport documents;

b) encourage the use of single original transport documents;
c) encourage the use of blank back and standard transport documents.

17. However, this Recommendation has to be updated to take account of changes in electronic commerce and document handling. UNECE, through the International Trade Procedures Working Group, will prepare this update and will encourage the use of electronic documents.

Target Audience: Traders, shippers, transport industry
Target Date for Completion: May 2004
Team Responsibility: Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

1.2 Development and Maintenance of e-business Standards under UN/CEFACT

Work Item 1.2.1 - Development of ebXML Standard

18. UN/CEFACT is currently developing the next generation of e-business standards, ebXML (Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language). This is a modular suite of specifications that will enable enterprises of any size and in any geographical location to conduct business over the Internet.

19. ebXML is intended to provide an open XML-based infrastructure enabling the global use of electronic business information in an interoperable, secure and consistent manner by all parties.

20. Development of the ebXML specifications is an ongoing effort sponsored by Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and UN/CEFACT. Technical committees for the ebXML Registry, Messaging, Collaborative Partner, and Implementation are hosted by OASIS, and Business Process and Core Component work continues at UN/CEFACT.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Work supported by Trade Policy and Intergovernmental Cooperation Branch (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.2.2 - Maintenance of UN/EDIFACT

21. UN/EDIFACT comprises a set of internationally agreed standards, directories and guidelines for electronic data interchange (EDI), and in particular that related to trade in goods and services between independent, computerized information systems. The UN/EDIFACT directory currently comprises a set of over 200 messages that are used in such diverse sectors as transport, administration, finance, health care and architecture. UN/EDIFACT messages enable enterprises worldwide to exchange vital business information and to coordinate and optimise their supply chain processes. Today, UN/EDIFACT remains the sole internationally accepted standard for the electronic interchange of business information.

22. After a rapid development phase the UN/EDIFACT directories have now matured and reached maintenance mode. The directories are maintained in an open, international process. Business, government and EDI experts join in regional meetings in America, Europe and Asia. These meetings prepare for the global meeting of the UN/EDIFACT Working Group, where approximately 200 experts revise and extend

the standard twice a year. The directories are produced and published by the UNECE and may be downloaded free of charge by the international business community from the UNECE web site.

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Electronic Business Team (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 1.2.3 - Maintenance and extension of UN/LOCODE (UN Codes for locations)

23. UN/LOCODE defines in an unambiguous and precise way locations used in international trade. It is a five-character code system that is used throughout international trade to designate locations whenever there is a need for a coded representation for the names of ports, airports, inland clearance depots, inland freight terminals and other transport related locations, such as places of receipt and delivery, which are used for goods movements associated with trade (for example locations where Customs clearance of goods can take place), or otherwise proposed by Governments. UNECE maintains this code set and database on an ongoing basis. UN/LOCODE integrates other important location lists such as IATA Airport codes, the Lloyds Register for ports or codes of the Universal Postal Union.

24. Maintenance and extension of the UN/LOCODE system will include:

- Update and extension of the list of locations as required by UN/LOCODE users
- Development of a relational database system to support efficient maintenance and publication process
- Development of an Internet-based registration and dissemination system for UN/LOCODE

Target Audience: Business and Governments worldwide
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Electronic Business Team(UN/CEFACT)

1.3 Development of agricultural quality standards under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)

Work Item 1.3.1 - Development and Maintenance of standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

25. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will develop new standards for Pineapples and Shallots and will revise the standards for the following products: Apples, Citrus Fruit, Kiwifruit, Peaches and Nectarines, Pears, Plums and Strawberries (more can be added according to client needs)

Target Audience: Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumers
Target Date for Completion: 2003-2005
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.2 - Inner Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

26. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will develop objective criteria for inner quality/ maturity of fruit in the standards to achieve:

- better quality for the consumer;
- deletion of external quality criteria which are difficult to reach by certain production methods (e.g. organic) or production regions and might be perceived as technical barriers to trade.

Target Audience: Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumers
Target Date for Completion: 2004
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.3 - Harmonization of Produce Coding for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

27. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will harmonize the main parameters used in international trade (commodity, variety and grade/class) for use in electronic business and electronic export certification.

Target Audience: Traders and inspection services
Target Date for Completion: 2004
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.4 - Maintenance of Standards for Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2)

28. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2) will revise the standards for Almonds, Pistachios, Prunes (more may be added according to clients needs).

Target Audience: Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumer
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.5 - Development of a Sampling Plan to Determine the Moisture Content for dried Fruit

29. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2) will develop a sampling plan to determine the moisture content of dried fruit.

Target Audience: Inspection services
Target Date for Completion: 2005
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.6 - Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11)

30. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11) will develop new standards for Chicken, Veal, Turkey and Ovine and will revise the standards for Beef and Pork.

Target Audience: Trade
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.7 - Standardization of Seed Potatoes

31. Work on the standard: Introduction, field tolerances, list of pests to be checked on the mother tuber, destination tolerances, quality assurance, further development of annex IX, "Sampling Tubers for Virus Testing", superficial necrosis caused by virus, inclusion of test methods/ referencing methods

32. Special projects: Impact of genetically modified organisms (GMO) on the standard, concerns of seed buyers, research on national certification schemes

Target Audience: Growers, trade, inspection services
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 1.3.8 - Early and Ware Potatoes (GE.5)

33. The Group of Experts on Early and Ware Potatoes (GE.5) will work on the standards for tolerance for sizing and definition of long varieties.

34. The Group will also undertake the following projects:

- UNECE Conditions of Sale and RUCIP 2000
  (RUCIP :The whole body of the Rules and Practices of the Inter-European Trade in Potatoes and the Rules governing Expert Assessments and Arbitration)
- Report on national provisions for traceability

Target Audience: Growers, trade, inspection services
Target Date for Completion: 2005
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

1.4 Development of recommendations under the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)

Work Item 1.4.1 - Development and Maintenance of Recommendations on Standardization and Regulatory Policies

35. The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will revise and prepare new recommendations to Governments concerning establishing business-friendly standardization and regulatory environments and at the same ensuring the necessary protection of health, environment, etc. of the population. Such recommendations and their implementation are expected to contribute to eliminating technical barriers to trade.

Target Audience: Government regulatory authorities
***Target Date for Completion*:** 2003-2004
Team Responsibility: Working Party 6

Work Item 1.4.2 - Drawing up of Proposals on Conformity Assessment and Metrology Matters

36. WP.6 will draw up proposals aimed at harmonizing conformity assessment procedures in the region with a view to finding agreed objective criteria for metrology and conformity assessment procedures so as to achieve mutual confidence between partners. WP.6 will also study ways of a wider use in trade of agreements on mutual recognition of tests and certificates.

Target Audience: Certifiers, accreditators, companies
Target Date for Completion: 2003-2005
Team Responsibility: Working Party 6

2. Implementation/Capacity Building

Reduction of barriers to trade in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through the greater implementation of international and UNECE trade facilitation norms, standards, instruments and recommendations

37. Despite considerable advances over the past decade, greater implementation of existing trade facilitation recommendations, norms and standards has emerged as one of the pressing needs of many countries, especially transition and developing countries. In order to address this need, UNECE will undertake the following initiatives:

2. 1 Implementation/Capacity Building in Trade Facilitation and e-business

Work Item 2.1.1 - Capacity-Building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean

38. The objective of the project is to increase the competitiveness of companies in the Mediterranean region in regional and global markets. It aims to do this by simplifying and harmonizing trade procedures throughout the transaction chain; implementing automated processes and information technology for administration and commerce; and by facilitating the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in electronic business. It will focus on trade among the non-EU Mediterranean countries that are members of UNECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa.

39. Under the project, UNECE will develop e-learning tools for Trade Facilitation based on Recommendation 18 (in support of the Mediterranean project). These tools will also be available for training in other areas and projects.

40. Further, a study will be undertaken in each target country regarding the status and needs of trade facilitation and electronic business infrastructure, based on interviews with public officials and representatives of private business sectors or user associations. This study will utilize the Trade and Transport Facilitation toolkit of the World Bank's Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP).

41. The implementation of the project will result in:

- Broader application of the United Nations standards for trade facilitation and electronic business in Mediterranean countries that are not members of the European Union;
- Establishment of a network of expertise between national institutions, the United Nations regional commissions and UNCTAD for trade facilitation and electronic business, which will also promote better understanding of the work done in this area by other international organizations;
- Strengthened cooperation between the countries of the region with regard to trade facilitation and electronic business;
- Enhanced capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises in the region to join international supply chains and participate in trade facilitation and electronic business.

Target Audience:	Non-European Union Mediterranean countries, members of UNECE, ESCWA and ECA. Policy makers in Governments and trade in transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion:	2004
***Team Responsibility*:**	Technical Cooperation and Projects Team, in cooperation with the Trade Facilitation and Policy Team for technical assistance to Governments, and the Electronic Business Team for UNeDocs training tool. (CTIED)

Work Item 2.1.2 - UNeDocs

42. Today's global trading system crucially depends on the efficient exchange of information along the supply chain. Despite the computerization of the supply chain management systems in the 1980s and the development of global information networks such as the Internet in the 1990s, the core information to manage the movement goods and monitory flows is still based on the exchange of paper trade documents. With the growing volume of international trade, the reduced turnover times and the increased requirements of security and transparency there is a global need for more efficient trade documentary systems and for an integration of trade documents into ICT environments. It is estimated that the maintenance of today's mainly paper based trade documentation system costs globally about 500 billion USD per annum. This includes direct and indirect documentary costs such as repeated data entry operations on each stage of the supply chain, data validation and delays caused through erroneous or missing documents.

43. The facilitation of international documentary procedures is a core competency of the UNECE. Already in the 1970s the UNECE developed the UN Layout Key (UNLK), a standard for paper documents, which harmonizes the layout and content of trade document and simplifies their use. Today all modern international trade documents such as the Single Administrative Document, the TIR carnet or the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) Airway Bill are based on the UNLK. Most advanced trading

countries have also built over the years national trade document systems that are aligned to the UN Layout Key.

44. In recent years the need for a new focus on the UN Layout Key has become apparent: The increased use of advanced logistical concepts in global trade requires that developing countries and transition economies align their trade documentation to international standards if they want to participate in global trade. In addition it has become necessary to integrate paper trade documents into the electronic information interchange systems that are now available to trade, such as UN/EDIFACT, XML and the Internet.

45. To this end the UNECE has started the United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project. The purpose of the project is to develop and implement solutions for efficient trade document systems based on international trade standards and on technologies that are accessible to traders from SMEs and developing countries. The project combines existing UNECE standards for paper documents with eBusiness standards such as the United Nations Trade Data Element Directory (ISO 7372) and the UN/EDIFACT to define the electronic equivalents for paper documents. The project thus provides a migration path from paper based trading environments to the advanced the electronic systems. The electronic documents integrate UNECE trade recommendations and are thus an instrument to promote and implement trade standards on a global level.

46. Specifically UNeDocs aims to:

- Provide a new e-business interpretation of the UNLK
- Provide tools and technical assistance to support the alignment of national trade documentation to international standards
- Provide training on document-related trade facilitation instruments
- Develop and publish electronic equivalents for paper trade documents
- Provide support in the implementation of electronic window concepts
- Encourage the development of national policies in support of the use and implementation of electronic documents, such as legislation for electronic signatures, security and confidentiality, harmonization of cross-border trade requirements.

Target Audience:	Cross-sector, including administrations; focus on transition economies and developing countries
Target Date for Completion:	Tools for document modelling mid-2003
Team Responsibility:	Electronic business team / MP (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 2.1.3 - Assessment of Capacity Building Requirements of Trade Facilitation Organizations (PRO Organizations) in Transition Economies

47. UNECE will undertake a study of established trade facilitation organizations (PRO organizations) in transition economies to determine their current operational status, activity level, resources, and funding arrangements. The main purpose of the study will be to identify the lessons learned from current operations and determine future capacity building requirements.

Target Audience:	Organizations and policy makers in Governments in both transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion:	June 2004
***Team Responsibility*:**	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (CTIED)

Work Item 2.1.4 - Tools for Trade

48. UNECE will develop instruments that support the implementation of trade facilitation, including Web publication of standards, standards as downloadable databases and XML integration of code lists.

Target Audience:	Transition and developing economies, but not exclusively
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing; demand and technology driven
***Team Responsibility*:**	Electronic business team (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 2.1.5 - Capacity-Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Russian Timber Sector

49. The Trade Development and Timber Division is currently implementing the project “Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Russian Timber Sector". The project, initiated at the request of the Russian Federation, aims at strengthening the trade performance of the Russian forest sector by contributing specific trade facilitation expertise from the Division.

50. The focus is on:

- Sustainable development
- Direct cooperation at the enterprise level
- Regional cooperation at the level of the North-Western regions of the Russian Federation
- Trade, timber and environment issues
- Cross-sectoral work.

51. The project partners are from the public and private sectors in the Russian Federation and in Europe. They include a wide range of private enterprises, local and regional governments, and major forest sector institutions.

52. The principal activities are as follows:

- Sustainable management practices for the timber enterprises
- Improved trade procedures in the timber industry
- Innovative trade finance techniques
- Capacity building for improved foreign investment
- Sustainable use of biomass
- Timber port operations

53. These activities are based on the core competencies of the Trade Development and Timber Division and the priority needs of the Russian forest sector. Experts from the Timber Branch, the Policy and Governmental Cooperation Branch, and the Global Trade Solutions Branch work closely together in the project for the benefit of the Russian timber enterprises.

54. The project activity "Improved Trade logistics for the Sustainable Use of Biomass" is a good example of the practical results achieved so far. The development of sustainable use of biomass from the Russian forest industries as a substitute for fossil fuel has become a leading activity in the field.

Target Audience: Russian Forest Sector
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Technical cooperation and projects team (CTIED)

Work Item 2.1.6 - Participation in WTO Seminars and Workshops Within the Doha Development Agenda

55. The task of assisting developing and transition economies in implementing standards and trade facilitation measures is considerable. The WTO has embarked on a programme of capacity-building seminars and training workshops to assist these countries in understanding and planning for trade facilitation implementation. The Trade Development branches will, subject to the availability of travel funding, assist the WTO in these initiatives, especially in relation to transition economies.

Target Audience: Transition and developing economies
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
***Team Responsibility*:** Trade Facilitation and e-business teams (CTIED)

Work Item 2.1.7 - Development of an Interregional Partnership for Promoting Trade as an Engine of Growth Through Knowledge Management and Taking Advantage of Information and Communication Technology

56. UNECE will work with the other regional commissions, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies, to develop a common project proposal for capacity-building in trade facilitation and e-business for sustainable development that would include the following components in an incremental approach, and would make the best use of the existing infrastructure:

- Trade facilitation policy and implementation issues
- Technical assistance to Governments
- Capacity-building for SMEs in electronic business
- Support to countries, sub-regions and regions in formulating negotiating objectives and strategies on trade facilitation

Target Audience: Developing and transition economies throughout the world
Target Date for Completion: Project implementation 2004-05
***Team Responsibility*:** Technical Cooperation and Projects Team in cooperation with ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA and ESCAP (CTIED)

Work Item 2.1.8 - Support of Trade Facilitation Measures and UN/EDIFACT Implementation in Selected Eastern European Countries

57. Through the joint UNECE – Czech Republic project, "Support of trade facilitation measures and UN/EDIFACT implementation in selected Eastern European Countries," cooperation has been established with several CIS countries that have contributed to the implementation of UNECE's Recommendations.

As an example, the work of the national trade facilitation body in Ukraine recently resulted in the adoption by the Parliament of a law on the, "Strategy for Ukraine as a transit country." To speed up the movement of documents and ensure equivalency between paper and electronic documents, the trade facilitation body has also prepared laws on electronic documents and electronic signature. The former has already been adopted by the Parliament. Further activities by the project include a mission in February 2003 to Uzbekistan to explore the feasibility of establishing a national Trade Facilitation body there.

Target Audience:	Governments and trade in selected Eastern European Countries.
Target Date for Completion:	2003-04
***Team Responsibility*:**	Electronic Business Team and Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 2.1.9 - Support for Trade and Transport Facilitation in SECI and the Stability Pact

58. Through the office of the Regional Adviser for Trade Facilitation, the Trade Development and Timber Division works closely with and actively supports initiatives undertaken by the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), and Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SP), and other organizations / institutions involved in SECI / SP related activities in of trade and transport facilitation. Specific activities include:

- The finalization of a review concerning the existing visa regimes for businesspeople and professional drivers in the SECI countries, by compilation of a comparative study based on the currently available country finding reports and subsequently, elaboration of best practice recommendations (in cooperation with the project expert group and the SECI Coordinator's office), with a view to the eventual elaboration of a respective draft UN/CEFACT recommendation.
- The finalization and implementation of a joint UNECE / UNODC / SECI project concerning professional law enforcement personnel exchange and training, in analogy to the EU Customs 2000/2002 programs, in the SEE region.
- Support for modernization and sustainable development of the customs services of the SECI countries, in the framework of Working Table II of the Stability Pact, SECIPRO and TTFSE, in order to re-enforce a holistic approach to customs reform in line with the principles of the EU Customs Blueprints, and with a view to facilitate the creation of the emerging Free Trade Area that comprises eight countries of southeast Europe and is based on a network of bilateral free trade agreements.
- Support and monitoring of the Bulgarian Customs Reform Program and coordination of this program with SECI, SP and TTFSE.
- Support of the Trade Facilitation Component under TTFSE and coordination with SECIPRO.
- Support to the capacity building process of the existing PRO organizations in southeast Europe by building operative links between SECIPRO and EUROPRO, with a view to facilitate direct cooperation, information exchange and know-how transfer to the PRO organizations in southeast Europe.
- Development and implementation of a project aiming at sustainable creation / further development of the Customs Post-clearance Audit Function in the SEE countries. This project will be developed in the framework of the Valuation Fraud Task Force established under the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime, Bucharest.

- Support to the development of new PRO organizations with special emphasis on the South Caucasus region, by building operative links with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and facilitating know-how transfer from SECIPRO and EUROPRO, in cooperation with the World Bank.
- Trade facilitation and customs related support to projects concerning the Trans European Network Corridors in southeast Europe, in the framework of respective SECI / SP initiatives and projects.

Target Audience: Governments and trade in South Eastern European Countries.
Target Date for Completion: 2003-05
***Team Responsibility*:** Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 2.1.10 - Capacity Development for Women in Trade

59. UNECE will cooperate with ActInvest to prepare and deliver a programme of capacity building workshops to enhance the participation of women in international trade in transition economies.

Target Audience: Women in trade in transition economies.
Target Date for Completion: Project implementation 2003-04
***Team Responsibility*:** Trade Facilitation and Policy Team / TB (CTIED)

2.2 Implementation/Capacity Building in Perishable Produce Standards and Quality

Work Item 2.2.1 - Seminars on Quality Control and Quality Development for Perishable Produce

60. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) will coordinate with the different specialized sections the development of regional seminars for quality control and quality devebpment in 2003 and 2004.

Target Audience: Governments and SMEs
Target Date for Completion: 2003-2004
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

Work Item 2.2.2 - Food quality/safety seminar

61. The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will provide technical assistance/ training programmes - preparation of a food quality/ safety inter-regional seminar in cooperation with ESCAP, Codex Alimentarius, OECD, WTO and EAN International.

Target Audience: Governments and SMEs
Target Date for Completion: 2003
Team Responsibility: Working Party 7

2.3 Implementation/Capacity Building in Standardization and Quality

Work Item 2.3.1 - Implementation/Capacity-Building in Standardization and Harmonization issues

62. This project is aimed at a better understanding and wider implementation of principles of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in the region, in particular in countries acceding to the WTO. It is intended to strengthen cooperation between the national standards-setting bodies in the UNECE region. A number of workshops will be organized at the invitation of interested Governments.

***Target Audience*:** Regulatory and trade authorities in transition economies
Target Date for Completion: 2003-04
***Team Responsibility*:** Working Party 6 (with CTIED)

Work Item 2.3.2 - Implementation of the UNECE Recommendation "International Model for Technical Harmonization"

63. The Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques ("START" Team) will develop proposals on the practical implementation of the "International Model" in sectors where there is an interest from Governments in regulatory convergence. The Team will work closely with business associations and companies.

Target Audience: Regulators and companies
Target Date for Completion: 2003
Team Responsibility: Working Party 6

Work Item 2.3.3 - Seminars on Quality and Environmental Management

64. Working Party 6 will organize seminars on quality and environmental management standards in the transition economies to raise awareness of such systems and provide guidance on how to implement them. These seminars should help to enhance capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises in the region to compete successfully both on national and international levels.

Target Audience: Regulators and companies
Target Date for Completion: 2003-2004
Team Responsibility: Working Party 6

3. Policy

Assisting trade policy development through the provision of an open international platform for the exchange of views and the development of constructive initiatives, particularly with respect to the concerns and priorities of UNECE member States with economies in transition

65. Developing and contributing to trade and economic policy initiatives is a major activity of UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division. This work includes initiatives on information and communication technologies for development, contributions to sustainable development, work related to EU enlargement, and important policy development initiatives in standardization and trade facilitation. The major activities that will be carried out in the planning period are outlined below.

3.1 ICT For Development

Work Item 3.1.1 - Contributions to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development

66. The Trade Development and Timber Division will act as the Secretariat for the UNECE ITC Task Force. The Division will provide support to special UN ICT initiatives, including the United Nations ICT Task Force, and related input to the 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Target Audience:	All UNECE public/private sector
Target Date for Completion:	WSIS, December 2003 and ongoing for ICT Task Force
Team Responsibility:	Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Team (CTIED)

3.2 Sustainable Development

Work Item 3.2.1 - Contributions to Sustainable Development

67. Trade and Sustainable Development is an important element of UNECE's Trade Development programme of work for 2004-2005. In this area, UNECE will work closely with UNCTAD and the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. The work programme will primarily support the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) plan of implementation in the areas of certification, conformity assessment and technical harmonization as well as logistics and facilitation of trade in sustainable biomass.

68. UNECE's work on trade facilitation helps to promote sustainable economic and social development by encouraging a more efficient use of resources for any given level of trade transactions, primarily in the areas of transport and paper use. This work on increased trade facilitation also enhances the sustainable participation of SMEs in trade by reducing procedural and cost barriers. Therefore, the work contributes to the WSSD goals of enhancing the capacities of developing countries to benefit from liberalized trade opportunities and narrowing the digital divide.

69. In environmental/hazardous goods control, trade facilitation makes possible improved tracking and handling as well as reduced border-crossing delays, thus contributing to the WSSD goal of preventing damage resulting from the trans-boundary movement of such goods.

70. In support of sustainable consumption and production patterns, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards will be reviewing its standards to see if and how they may need to be adapted for organically grown products (see Section 1.3). In addition, the implementation of such standards in the agricultural export sectors of less developed transition economies will help these countries to open

markets in the rest of Europe, thus contributing to economically sustainable development and the WSSD goal of enhancing access to existing markets and developing new markets for value-added agricultural products.

71. UNECE's Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will be exploring the applicability of its work in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly in the area of timber certification. Specific work includes the implementation of the Working Party's recommended International model for technical harmonization based on good regulatory practice and its recommendations, guidelines and regularly organized exchanges of information on certification and conformity assessment practices (see Section 2.3).

72. The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) also contributes actively to policy dialogue on how to develop the trade sectors of transition economies and increase these countries' integration into regional and global trade networks, taking account of environmentally sensitive products, the growth of environmental services, and the growing demand by consumers for socially responsible enterprises.

73. In the areas of technical cooperation, this subprogramme also has a project to support the financing and facilitating of trade in biomass (Work Item 2.1.5), which directly supports the WSSD implementation goal of improving access to fuelwood sources and supplies and commercializing biomass operations as well as implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Target Audience: Governments and trade
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Multidisciplinary (CTIED and WP.6)

3.3 Economic integration in a wider Europe

Work Item 3.3.1 - EU Enlargement: Economic Integration in a Wider Europe

74. The Trade Development and Timber Division, as the UNECE focal point for EU matters and EU liaison, will provide substantive support for UNECE work on the implementation of EU enlargement and economic integration issues. Strategic papers will provide research on greater integration of non-accession European and Central Asian member States into the European and global economy, based on UNECE's instruments to facilitate trade and transport in the region.

75. UNECE has supported European economic integration for more than 50 years through targeted economic cooperation initiatives. UNECE instruments have proved vital in facilitating trade, transit and customs matters and promoting common legal instruments for transport and EU cross-border cooperation. In the post-enlargement EU, the active use of these instruments and UNECE' s experience and expertise could greatly facilitate the development of a pan-European economic space. UNECE instruments provide the basis for many EU activities and legislation and the EU's agreements with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and southeast European countries. In order to strengthen trade, business and investment in a wider Europe, there will be a need for non-acceding countries to adopt and implement legislation that complies with the *acquis communautaire*, but that is not necessarily identical to it. UNECE provides a common platform for this.

76. Over the planning period, UNECE is to promote closer cooperation in economic and trade links in the wider Europe through a variety of activities and programmes. Most importantly, UNECE will work towards the implementation and coordination of norms and standards supporting trade in the region by helping to build a common framework for technical harmonization and standardization and building bridges for prosperity and peace.

77. In April 2003, UNECE is to hold a one-day workshop in Geneva on *Trade, Business and Investment in a Wider Europe.* This workshop will help identify the main trade and investment-related issues in the region and the impact of EU enlargement on existing trade networks, especially in southeast Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The workshop will also focus attention on the institutions and measures to promote trade and investment, in particular the implications for investment in the non-acceding countries and institutional structures, notably in the banking system. Workshops on trade related economic integration will also be held in 2004 and 2005.

78. UNECE will intensify its cooperation especially in the more fragile regions of southeast Europe and the low-income countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States. It will offer its norms and standards for use between the EU and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, to provide a more politically acceptable common platform for all parties involved.

79. UNECE is already working closely with SECI and the Stability Pact in this region and has received requests from several Governments to intensify trade-related activities. A number of countries have urgent needs for assistance, particularly in the areas of cross-border trade infrastructures, border-crossing procedures, technical harmonization and quality standards, inspection and accreditation agencies, and customs control services at major crossing points. The Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation will address these issues.

80. UNECE support to the development of trade in a wider Europe will also focus on enhancing the implementation and use of electronic documents and ICT. This work will include seminars focused on capacity building, especially in the area of e-business as a means to improve integration into international supply chains. For example, UNECE, with support from the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, is developing a feasibility study to implement electronic trade documents in the customs service of Serbia and Montenegro. UNECE will also work to achieve a broader application of UN standards for trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean region through the project on *Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean,* detailed under Work Item 2.1.1 above.

81. UNECE activity in technical standardization and harmonization issues in the Commonwealth of Independent States aims to provide the countries with recommendations and/or policy options to facilitate their market reforms and integration into the world economy.

82. The UNECE Working Party on Technical Standardization and Harmonization Policies will continue to play a significant role in promoting the improvement of the Commonwealth of Independent States interstate standards on the basis of their harmonization with international and regional standards and other international documents concerning standardization and metrology. The Working Party has regular contacts with the CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (including

presentation and discussion of major Working Party documents and projects at its sessions). The Council has recognized the importance of the UNECE recommendations, and uses the "International Model for Technical Harmonization" (Recommendation "L") as a guide for harmonization in the Commonwealth of Independent States (see Work Item 2.3.2).

Target Audience: All UNECE public/private sector
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Multi-disciplinary (CTIED)

3.4 Trade Facilitation Policy

Work Item 3.4.1 - Development of Trade Facilitation Policy and Undertaking Relevant Research

83. UNECE's Trade Development and Timber Division will prepare policy papers on key trade topics for discussion at high-level meetings throughout the planning period. For example, papers on trade security and the income distribution impact of trade facilitation will be prepared for the May 2003 International Forum on trade facilitation. Possible other areas for research and policy development include:

- Strategies and approaches for implementing trade facilitation in transition economies
- Facilitating trade in services
- Implementing trade facilitation within the WTO
- 20 years of trade facilitation Pro organizations – current practices, lessons learned and future requirements
- Measuring trade facilitation Implementation
- Trade facilitation strategies for landlocked countries
- Public/private sector models for implementing trade facilitation
- Options for funding trade facilitation implementation
- Regional versus global approaches to trade facilitation implementation
- Benefits and costs of trade facilitation
- Trade facilitation and development
- Trade facilitation case studies in transition and developing economies – lessons learned and recommendations for the future

84. Clearly, this is a large agenda and UNECE will necessarily by highly selective in its approach to these topics.

Target Audience: Various
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Multidisciplinary, possibly in cooperation with other Divisions within UNECE and also private consultants (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

Work Item 3.4.2 - Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Policy Working Group within UN/CEFACT

85. At its Plenary meeting in May 2002, UN/CEFACT decided to establish a Policy Group to develop proposals, concepts and ideas on future strategies and directions for trade facilitation and e-business, directed towards Governments and the private sector in all regions. The Group may develop

recommendations on specific policy issues, such as the inclusion and implementation of trade facilitation and e-business tools and measures in overall trade and ICT policy. It will report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary. The secretariat will support the work of the Policy Group.

Target Audience: Governments and trade
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

3.5 Standardization Policy

Work Item 3.5.1 - Standardization Policy: Eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade

86. Differences in standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment rules create major obstacles to trade. With the liberalization of international trade, it is becoming increasingly important to reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade. Hence the need for further work towards harmonization and convergence in this area.

87. UNECE contributes to the implementation of the relevant WTO rules and provisions through offering advice on the possible forms and mechanisms of their practical implementation. This work will continue over the planning period

Target Audience: Governments
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: Working Party 6

4. Promotion of the value and effectiveness of trade facilitation instruments and standards in trade and economic development and promotion of trade

88. There is a pressing need for greater awareness and understanding of the benefits, implications and available resources for trade facilitation and e-business implementation. Clearly, more must be done to sensitise policy makers to the core issues involved, as well as to the strategies and approaches for implementation. UNECE plans to undertake the following projects to address this need:

4.1 Forums

Work Item 4.1.1 - International Forum on Trade Facilitation 2003

89. Following the success of the 2002 International Forum on Trade Facilitation, UNECE has been requested to hold a similar Forum in May/June 2003 on the theme “Sharing the Gains of Globalization”. The Forum will hold parallel sessions on specific topics of interest to participants and will have a high level of participation from the private sector. It will focus on practical issues involving the implementation of trade facilitation, and will provide extended opportunities for policy debate and formulation.

Target Audience:	Governments, business organizations, trade practitioners, trade-related international organizations, and trade negotiators
Target Date for Completion:	May/June 2003
Team Responsibility:	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (CTIED and UN/CEFACT)

4.2 Multiplier Point Network

Work Item 4.2.1 - Development and Maintenance of the Multiplier Point Network

90. The Trade Development and Timber Division has set up a network of Multiplier Point in 25 transition economies. These Multiplier Points disseminate trade information for the UNECE and the wider United Nations system and bring this information to the many potential beneficiaries in member States, including business, trade associations, Governments, NGOs, civil society and other major groups.

91. The organizations joining the network promote, distribute and translate into national languages reports, recommendations, standards, documents, publications, guidelines and other forms of information to promote effective implementation of the work done by UNECE. The target audiences are the business community, including start-up entrepreneurs and local, regional and national authorities in charge of developing an enabling environment for business and trade. The programme significantly contributes to local capacity building. Since April 2001, 51 organizations from 25 central and eastern European countries as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States have joined and now participate in the activities of the network.

92. During 2003-2005, the Multiplier Points network will continue to contribute to UNECE visibility in the region and prove the potential for promoting United Nations publications and documentation related to the creation of a favourable environment for business and trade. The major activities will include the incorporation of new countries and organizations into the network, and its extension throughout western Europe and North America; focusing the attention of participating organizations on United Nations debates on major social and economic issues; maintaining and developing a web site in the three UNECE working languages (English, French and Russian); an increasing exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and know-how; increased dissemination of UNECE recommendations, standards, directives, documents and other sources of information throughout the network; and continued strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the experts of the network.

Target audience:	Business community, including start-up entrepreneurs, local, regional and national authorities in charge of business and trade, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Governments, missions, delegations, international organizations, and civil society groups.
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Information and Promotion Team (CTIED)

4.3 Information Dissemination

Work Item 4.3.1 - Promotional Material on Agricultural Quality Standards

93. The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) will work on promotional material (e.g. booklet on UNECE Standards) for the use of the secretariat and delegations to promote knowledge and application of UNECE Standards.

Target Audience:	Governments and trade
Target Date for Completion:	2004
Team Responsibility:	Working Party 7

Work Item 4.3.2 – Information Brochure on UNECE's Trade-Related Work

94. UNECE will develop an informative brochure outlining the specific Recommendations, norms and standards and tools it has developed.

Target Audience:	Governments, permanent missions, business community, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	June 2003
Team Responsibility:	Trade Facilitation, Policy and Information Dissemination Teams (CTIED)

Work Item 4.3.3 - Maintenance and Further Development of UNECE Trade-Related Web sites

95. The Internet is a major instrument for building trade facilitation awareness and for supporting implementation. Over the last two years, the Trade Development and Timber Division has developed several Web portals providing trade facilitation information and tools to specific user groups. The sites are much appreciated by the user community. They account for about one third of the UNECE web access and contain more than 10,000 web pages of information. During the next two years the sites will be significantly re-focused to ensure better access to trade facilitation and standards information.

Target Audience:	Governments, permanent missions. business community, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Electronic Business Team (CTIED)

Work Item 4.3.4 - Information Dissemination Programme

96. UNECE will embark on a proactive information dissemination programme (including regular briefings, press releases, liaison) over the period 2003-2005.

Target Audience:	Governments, permanent missions, delegations, trade missions, business community, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Information and Promotion Team (CTIED)

4.4 Promoting UN/CEFACT's Work

Work Item 4.4.1 – UN/CEFACT Promotion and Communications Group

97. At its Plenary meeting in May 2002, UN/CEFACT decided to establish a Promotion and Communication Group (PCG) to develop policy guidelines for promotional and communication activities, as well as promotional material focusing on the benefits of trade facilitation and UN/CEFACT's work. The Group may develop publications and guidelines on specific issues, as well as take initiatives for seminars and events. It will report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary. The secretariat will support the Group through the preparing policy guidelines and promotional material, and generally promoting UN/CEFACT work, in association with the Group.

Target Audience:	Governments, permanent missions, delegations, business community, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Trade Facilitation and Policy Team (UN/CEFACT)

4.5 Trade Promotion

Work Item 4.5.1 - Development and Maintenance of the Trade Directory

98. The Trade Directory for the UNECE region is a reference guide that was developed to assist in bridging existing information gaps and stimulate trade and investment within the region. It offers a "one-stop-shop" for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking for institutional information in support of their export or investment activities, and increased transparency in regulations and trading requirements at both national and international level. The Directory consists of two sections: the first on international organizations supporting trade and the second on the national organizations supporting trade in each UNECE member State. It will be made available on the Internet and regularly updated.

Target Audience:	Governments, permanent missions, delegations, business community, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing, with a first version to be available on the Internet by May 2003
Team Responsibility:	Information and Promotion Team (CTIED)

5. Publications

99. The Trade Development and Timber Division prepares a large range of publications in support of its work, both non-recurrent and recurrent. These publications are sources of highly relevant information and also serve as reference guides to facilitate the implementation of standards, norms and recommendations in member States. A list of publications scheduled for 2003 – 2005 is given below:

100. Non-Recurrent Publications:

- Proceedings of annual CTIED Forums, 1 issue in 2003
- Guidelines on Standardization and Related Regulatory Policies, 1 issue in 2003
- Single Window Trade Facilitation Recommendation, 1 issue in 2004
- Guide and Formal Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking, 1 issue in 2005
- Revised Recommendation 12 on measures to facilitate maritime transport documents, 1 issue in 2005
- Recommendation regarding Driver Visa Requirements for International Truck Drivers (Internet only publication), 1 issue in 2005
- Legal Aspects of Trade Facilitation, 1 issue in 2005
- Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations (Revised Edition in 2005)
- UNECE Experience using the World Bank Trade Facilitation Audit Methodology, 1 issue in 2004
- Up-dated Trade Facilitation, UN/EDIFACT and e-business training material, 2003
- Guide on Regulatory Issues, 1 issue in 2004
- Revised UNECE Standard for Porcine Carcasses and Cuts (paper only version), 1 issue in 2004
- Revised UNECE Standard for Bovine Carcasses and Cuts (paper only version), 1 issue in 2005
- Colour charts for dry and dried produce (paper only publication), 1 issue in 2005
- Reports on Sustainable Development issues in the Russian Forest Sector (XB), 1 issue each year
- Brochure on UNECE Trade Development, Products and Services, 2003
- Information brochure on the work of the CTIED, 2003
- Information brochure about Agricultural Quality Standards, 2003
- Trade Policy Briefings, 3 issues each year
- Recommendations to Improve Trade Financing and Procedures, 2003

101. Recurrent Publications

- Trade Data Interchange Directory (TDID – also known as the UN/EDIFACT Directories), Internet publication, 2 issues each year
- Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED) (Internet publication) 1 in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Trade and Electronic Business (Internet publication), 1each year
- United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE)(Internet publication), 2 each year
- UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Fruit (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Seed Potatoes (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Poultry Meat (to be issued only if the new revision is approved), 1 in 2003
- Annual report on CTIED trade activities, 1 in 2003
- Compendium of Best Practices for International Trade and Business, CD Rom publication, 1 issue in 2005
- Trade Development Directory, Internet publication, 1 issue each year

SUBPROGRAMME: INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

102. The Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme is focused on helping Governments establish an enabling environment, as well as norms, standards and cost-effective strategies, for industrial restructuring and enterprise development. Specifically, in 2003 through 2005, the Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division will help establish a network of government officials, expert groups and advisory bodies to assist in this task. The suprogramme also provides for the training and education of policy makers, as well as the creation of international benchmarks to measure the implementation of standards.

6. Enforcement and implementation of commercial laws through good governance and transparency of institutions and support

103. The Working Party helps Governments with the implementation of their guidelines. This requires the organization of programmes, projects and training in countries concerned as well as raising resources from donors to pay for this assistance and support. The Working Party supervises the advisory groups it has established to assist Governments with the implementation of their guidelines on public-private partnerships for sustainable development; protection and implementation of intellectual property rights for investment; and the promotion of Land for Development and viable property markets. The advisory groups consist of experts from both the public and the private sectors. They provide practical support for transition economies and are funded from extra-budgetary in-kind and financial contributions. The business community works closely with these groups. To encourage more cooperation with the business community and to help implement the guidelines of the UN (July 2000) to enhance relations with the business community in implementing UN goals, the Working Party has assisted in preparing "Guidelines on Partnerships with the Business Community", using its experience with establishing these new types of partnership.

104. In response to major new security concerns, the threats posed by international terrorism and the renewed interest in ways and means of promoting the 'rule of law', the Working Party has considered ways of using its expertise to contribute practically to conflict prevention in the UNECE region.

Work Item 6.1 - Promotion of public-private partnerships for sustainable development

105. There is a need to improve infrastructure services in all the transition economies. Private finance in the form of public-private partnerships (PPPs) is an important additional source of funds, which Governments can use for this purpose. PPPs are complex to develop. They require skills found more in the private than in the public sector. Since 1996, the UNECE Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Group has helped to raise awareness and understanding on both the potential and challenges in PPP projects. It has published two Guides, a negotiation Platform for Governments on how to deal with foreign investors, undertaken several consultative visits with Governments and participated in the training of civil servants. Governments in several countries have established PPP units to manage and bring forward projects. Such is the success of these units that they are being increasingly seen as an institutional requirement for instigating successful PPP projects.

106. The PPP Alliance, combining the BOT Group and the representatives from PPP units, has been established to promote the further creation and development of PPP units throughout the region and to foster a better understanding of PPPs and their objectives. The Alliance will help to implement the goals of PPPs as set out in the final plan of action of the Johannesburg summit, which attach strong importance to the role of PPPs as a tool for sustainable development. The Alliance also supports a programme of capacity building and project development for the Stability Pact for southeast Europe under the auspices of the Investment Compact.

107. The Alliance consists of three working groups specialised in providing assistance in the following areas of PPP development: legal and regulatory; training; and economics and financial.

108. In 2003 there will be held the Second Annual Meeting of the PPP Alliance: "How can Governments help to implement the goals of sustainable development for PPPs", October 2003; and the "Regional Conference on the Stability Pact: Improving the Legal and Regulatory Framework for PPPs", to he held in southeast Europe, pending availability of funding.

Target Audience: Governments, private sector, employees' associations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: WP.5 PPP Alliance

Work Item 6.2 - Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment (IP Group)

109. Weakly enforced intellectual property rights hold back economic development by removing from entrepreneurs the incentives to develop new ideas and transform them into successful commercial projects. The Intellectual Property (IP) Group has a dual mandate: to improve the existing regimes for intellectual property rights; and to make intellectual property rights more accessible to domestic enterprises and entrepreneurs. The Group does this through consultative meetings, the training of enforcement officials; and the training of SMEs on the procedures and practices required to make their intellectual property valuable. These programmes are done as part of Support Projects for each country, which requests cooperation with the Advisory Group. There are currently eight support projects under way for the following countries: Estonia; Latvia; Lithuania; Russian Federation; Ukraine; Poland; Kyrgyzstan; and Serbia and Montenegro. Recently, the Group has begun helping to train enterprises on methodologies for valuing their IP assets. The Group has a number of subgroups including one on education, training and sustainable enforcement which has prepared an analysis of existing training programmes and materials produced by organisations such as the WCO, IFPI, EPO as well as the Phare and Tacis programmes. This work is undertaken in cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), WTO, the European Union, ICC and WCO. The IP Group has a programme manager.

110. In 2003, the activities to be undertaken will include two training seminars in Belgrade, one from 3 to 5 February for Judges, Prosecutors, Police and Customs and the other from 27 to 28 March on the Evaluation of Intellectual Property Rights.

Target Audience: Governments, private sector, employees' associations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: WP.5 IP Advisory Group

Work Item 6.3 - Land for Development: Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG)

111. A secure system of land and property rights contributes to economic development. All of the world's successful economies have strong property systems and institutions. In many transition economies the land and property markets are still weak. Property ownership has been privatised but the lack of buying, selling and leasing property and homes means that these assets are undervalued in most transition economies. They are rarely used as collateral for loans and for financing new businesses as in western economies. There is a need to strengthen property institutions, laws and professions in order to help people turn their assets into capital. The key objective of the Real Estate Advisory Group (REAG) is to improve land policies for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. REAG established its Land for Development programme to promote awareness among policy makers about the unexploited potential inherent in land and property.

112. The first REAG summit in Rome on this topic examined several critical issues for extending property rights to alleviate poverty in transition economies such as the expansion of mortgage financing, the improvement of social housing and the elaboration of common and transparent standards to value land. The Summit agreed to establish a high level Eminent Experts Group under the leadership of Hernando De Soto, to prepare an action programme for Governments to improve their policy and to help ensure that land is better used for development purposes. Over 30 countries participated in Rome at the event, including representatives of the European Commission, World Bank, EBRD and FAO, and NGOs, such as the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the RICS foundation. The European Group of Valuers' Associations (TEGOVA) and the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI) were also present. The Group benefits from both financial and in-kind support from the private sector, including Tecnoborsa, an Italian not-for-profit organization.

113. In 2003, the establishment of a high level Expert Group to prepare a report identifying the priorities for promoting property and land rights for the low income, poor and disadvantaged groups is envisaged. A second summit is to be held in October 2003 in Rome.

Target Audience: Governments, private sector, employees' associations
Target Date for Completion: Ongoing
Team Responsibility: WP.5 IP Advisory Group

7. Industrial Restructuring and Sustainable Industrial Development

114. Working Party 8 assists member States, and transition economies in particular, in addressing the problems of restructuring uncompetitive enterprises and industries, on the one hand, and promoting the principles of sustainable development in industry and its sectors, on the other

Work Item 7.1 - Industrial Restructuring

115. 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 member countries share their views and discuss lessons drawn from their experience of industrial restructuring. The discussion of its modalities and social implications might assist countries in developing joint

approaches and raising the 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.

116. Under this subprogramme, a series of events will be organized in 2003-2005. A Regional Conference on the "Role of New Technologies in Industrial Restructuring" will be organized in April 2003. In conjunction with this Conference, a Workshop will be held on "Policy and Regulatory Options for Promoting Industrial Restructuring". A Forum on Social Aspects and Financing of Industrial Restructuring is scheduled for November 2003. As a result of these events the Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring will endeavour to produce recommendations to Governments of transition economies.

Target Audience:	Governments, private sector, employees' associations, especially from transition economies
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring**,** Working Party 8

Work Item 7.2 - Sustainable Industrial Development – Chemical Industry Sustainable Economic and Ecological Development (CHEMISEED)

117. The CHEMISEED subprogramme covers all aspects of security, safety and sustainable development in the chemical sector, including the problems of polluted sites and their cleanup. In particular, the principal objective of this subprogramme is to assist countries in transition to recycle chemically polluted sites.

118. The programme proposal made by the Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED at its third meeting in October 2002 can be found in the report of that meeting (TRADE/WP.8/AC.1/2002/4) presented to the fourth session of WP. 8.

Target Audience:	Governments, private sector, especially from transition economies
Target Date for Completion:	2003
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on CHEMISEED**,** WP.8

Work Item 7.3 - Quality Management Systems

119. The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems assists Governments and enterprises, in particular SMEs, in implementating of quality management systems in order to increase the competitiveness of enterprises in their countries. To this end, the Team of Specialists examines best practices of national policies for promoting quality assurance systems, and organizes the exchange of information and experiences among 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; and raises quality awareness and promotes the creation of quality development centres.

120. The Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems will organize an Expert Meeting on "How to Become a Supplier of Large National and Transnational Corporations" on 20 and 21 March 2003 in Geneva. An interactive CDROM for the ecological assessment of enterprises in accordance with the

ISO 14000 standard requirement will be adapted for use by transition economies. A comparative analysis of excellent quality models and practices for SMEs will be made taking into account the European Excellent Quality Model by Stichting European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). A Total Quality Management Centre in the Russian Federation will be established under the auspices of UNECE and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). A Commonwealth of Independent States Quality Centre will be established under the auspices of UNECE. A Support Centre for the Public Movement for Quality in Ukraine will also be established. A study tour on the learning experiences of winners and finalists of the European Quality Award competition for implementing quality management systems will be organized. The Teams of Specialists has decided to prepare a Model of Integrated Management System (MIMS), and this project is likely to be implemented jointly with WP.6.

Target Audience:	Governments, private sector, especially from transition economies
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems, WP.8

8. Development of Entrepreneurship

121. Working Party 8 assists member States, and transition economies in particular, in creating the environment conducive to the emergence and development of new market economy enterprises. 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.

Work Item 8.1 - SME Development (Implemented by the UNECE Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs)

122. The main goal of the UNECE Strategy for SME Development is to promote the development of SMEs in transition through sustainable and dynamic SME development[1]. The objective is to promote the conditions that are necessary for the growth of the SME sector, that is, a favourable policy and regulatory environment; strong, sustainable institutions providing financial and non-financial services to meet the demand of small- and medium-sized enterprises; improved access of low-income and disadvantaged entrepreneurs (including women, rural poor, young families, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities) to financial resources and business services.

123. During 2003-2005, UNECE will continue collecting statistical data on SMEs and analyse the SME situation in individual transition countries. The Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs will organize forums on best practice in national policies and programmes of promotion of entrepreneurship and SMEs in transition economies, and expert meetings on benchmarking of various aspects of SME operational environment. He will continue to assist Governments, business community and SMEs in understanding the scope and the business potential of linkages between large companies, including transnational corporations and SMEs.

[1] The full text of the UNECE Strategy for SME Development can be found at the following Internet address: http://www.unece.org/operact/enterp/documents/strat.pdf.

Target Audience:	Governments, private sector, SME associations especially from transition economies, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Regional Adviser on Entrepreneurship and SMEs, WP.8

Work Item 8.2 - Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation

124. The objective of this subprogramme is to identify policy instruments which have proved to be 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. The subprogramme focuses on supporting the youth entrepreneurship as a means of assisting transition economies in offsetting the adverse impact of economic/industrial decline on vulnerable groups of population.

125. The secretariat will draw on the recommendations of the August 2002 Regional Forum on Youth to promote further discussion of problems relating to youth entrepreneurship and offer advice to Governments aimed at its facilitation. The opportunities for effective public private partnership in this area will be fully examined. The secretariat will explore the feasibility of organizing a workshop on youth entrepreneurship in Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) countries: in the Republic of Moldova in the first half of 2003 (in cooperation with BSEC and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation) and the first subregional forum on Youth Entrepreneurship for the countries of southeast Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Kiev.

Target Audience:	Governments, youth associations, especially from transition economies, international organizations
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship in Poverty Alleviation, WP.8/

Work Item 8.3 - Women's Entrepreneurship

126. The subprogramme aims at coordinating the effort of the member States in promoting women's participation in enterprise development and improving women-entrepreneurs' access to finance, information and international networks. The Team of Specialists will assist member States in promoting women's entrepreneurship through (a) assessing the situation of women-entrepreneurs in individual countries, (b) discussing national policies and identifying best practices and (c) establishing guidelines and policy recommendations.

127. The Second Forum of Women Entrepreneurs will be held in Geneva on 17–18 March 2003. The secretariat will prepare a publication on women's entrepreneurship in eastern Europe and CIS countries based on selected materials prepared for the First UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs and meetings of the Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship. The possibility of organizing subregional forums of women entrepreneurs on selected issues will be explored (forum for central Asia).

Target Audience:	Governments, women associations, especially from transition economies
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on Women's Entrepreneurship, WP.8

9. Emerging Knowledge-Based Economy

128. Under this subprogramme, Working Party 8 provides information and contributes to raising awareness of member States, and transition countries in particular, regarding the emerging 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, the programme facilitates the identification of lacunae in the material infrastructure, information systems and regulatory framework for innovation and implementation of new technologies.

Work Item 9.1 - Digital Economy Development

129. Under this subprogramme, the impact of the emerging digital economy on the societies of member countries, related opportunities and challenges to economic development and social progress are examined. The subprogramme 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 the secretariat of the International Telecommunication Union have agreed to cooperate further through a Memorandum of Understanding on the Information Economy Development, with special reference to e-policy and e-regulations.

130. The Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development will contribute to the organization of a number of events dealing with the regulatory framework for Internet enterprise development and electronic Government. The secretariat will continue the implementation of the UNECE/EU Project on E-Work Development in Central and Eastern Europe (e-work development aims at promoting new methods of work through ICT tools such as telework and mobile work). In order to assess the potential for digital economy development in transition economies, the Team will prepare information economy country reports. This series will continue, country by country, on an annual basis, as resources become available. The secretariat is planning to prepare the following publications: "Cyberspace Regulatory Framework Development" (2003), "Online Dispute Resolution" - Proceedings of the June 2002 UNECE Forum on "Online Dispute Resolution: State of the Art and Main Issues" (2003), a report on e-Payment Systems development in transition economies in cooperation with the German Institute of ITAS (2003) and "E-Policy Development in Transition Economies" (2003).

Target Audience:	Governments, private sector, especially from transition economies
Target Date for Completion:	Ongoing
Team Responsibility:	Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development, WP.8

10. Publications

131. The 2003-2005 Industry and Enterprise Development Subprogramme includes a number of recurrent and non-recurrent publications. These publications will provide information on best practices in the relevant areas and serve as reference materials.

132. Recurrent Publications

- Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition (2 issues: 1 issue in 2004; 1 in 2005)
- Knowledge-based Economy Report (2 issues: 1 issue in 2004; 1 in 2005)

133. Non-recurrent Publications

- Cyberspace Regulatory Framework Development, 1 issue in 2003
- Online Dispute Resolution, 1 issue in 2003
- Development of the Service Sector as a Consequence of Industrial Restructuring, 1 issue in 2003
- Best Practices on Internet Start-ups in Transition Economies, 1 issue in 2003
- Internet Economy in Transition Economies, 1 issue in 2003
- Guide on Investment Issues in Transition Economies, 1 issue in 2003
- Information brochures on the activities and accomplishments of the working groups in this area such as the Build, Operate Transfer Working Group, Real Estate Advisory Group and Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Group, 2 issues in 2003
- Strategies for Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship: a Framework for Evaluating International Good Practice in the Context of Southeast Europe, 1 issue in 2003
- Best Practices in Good Corporate Governance, 1 issue in 2004-2005
- Electronic Information Communication Developments, 1 issue in 2004-2005
- Enterprise Development in Transition Economies (CD-ROM publication), 1 issue in 2004-2005
- Real Estate Markets in Transition Economies (CD-ROM publication), 1 issue in 2004-2005
- Selected issues relating to industrial restructuring and enterprise development, including women and youth entrepreneurship (2 issues: 1 in 2004, 1 in 2005)
- Information Brochure on Knowledge-based Economy Development (2 issues: 1 in 2004, 1 in 2005).

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