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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Eighth meeting
Geneva, 13 October 2006

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

Note by the secretariat

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, at its first session (Geneva, 27-28 September 2006), adopted its programme of work for 2006-2008 and beyond, as attached.

The Executive Committee is invited to approve it.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2006-2008 AND BEYOND

Thematic Area A: Strengthening the Competitiveness of Member States' Economies by Promoting the Knowledge-Based Economy and Innovation

Focus area: Creating a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness

Main activities and outputs:

2007

- (a) Comparative review of the effective organizational models of innovation development and competitiveness, and of the channels through which the results of technological development and innovation diffuse in the modern economy and their role in national economic development and competitiveness;
- (b) Expert meeting with the participation of the private sector and other organizations/institutions to discuss the results of the review;
- (c) Based on the results of the expert meeting a synopsis of good practices in facilitating the generation and diffusion of innovation will be prepared;
- (d) The synopsis and its dissemination to be discussed at the annual session of CECI;
- (e) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination and follow-up of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States.

2008

- (a) Taking into account results of 2007 activities, comparative review of government policies facilitating technological development and innovation;
- (b) Expert group meeting on innovation and competitiveness policies in the UNECE region: good practices and challenges;
- (c) Synopsis of policy options for creating a supportive environment for innovative development (to be discussed at the annual session of CECI);
- (d) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States, to be followed by a non-mandatory monitoring of their implementation.

1. Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, subsequent technical assistance and capacity building on these issues could be initiated in requesting transition economies.
2. Prospective partner organizations: EC, OECD, UNCTAD.

Thematic Area B: Facilitating the Development of Entrepreneurship and the Emergence of New Enterprises

Focus Area: Promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and SME development

Main activities and outputs:

2007

- (a) Expert meeting with participation of private sector on policy options for the creation of an economic environment that stimulates entrepreneurship and enterprise development and reduces all types of barriers to entrepreneurs;
- (b) Identification and development of approaches for solving problems in legal frameworks which hinder entrepreneurship and enterprises development;
- (c) Broad dissemination by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions of the findings.

2008

- (a) Synopsis of good practices in promoting an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and SME development (to be discussed at the annual session of CECI);
 - (b) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States.
3. Based on specific requests by member States an additional activity over the biennium will be to promote creation of networks focused on entrepreneurs development.
 4. The scope of follow-up technical cooperation activities to be delivered will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.
 5. Prospective partner organizations: EBRD, World Bank, UNCTAD, ESCAP, business associations, donor governments and agencies, ITC.

Thematic Area C: Facilitating Effective Regulatory Policies and Corporate Governance, Including Those in the Financial Sector

Focus Area: Promoting an enabling environment for efficient financial intermediation in support of innovative development

Main activities and outputs:

2007

- (a) Comparative review of financial intermediation supporting the knowledge-driven development and of national practices facilitating access of innovating entrepreneurs to domestic and foreign finance;
- (b) Expert meeting on experience gained in efficient financial intermediation in support of innovation and knowledge-driven development;
- (c) Based on the results of the review and the expert meeting, synopsis of good practices in financial intermediation in support of innovation and knowledge-driven development (to be discussed (including its dissemination) at the annual session of CECI);
- (d) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States.

2008

- (a) Comparative review of the effects of government policies and regulation on financial intermediation supporting the knowledge-driven development;
- (b) Expert group meeting on Financing innovative enterprise in transition economies and the role of governments;
- (c) Policy recommendations on improving the regulatory environment for the financing of innovation-related activities (to be discussed at the annual session of CECI);
- (d) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States.

6. If required by countries, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, technical assistance and capacity-building on these issues could be initiated in 2009.

7. Prospective partner organizations: EC, OECD, EBRD, World Bank, DESA.

Focus Area: Corporate governance

8. At the 2007 session, CECI may decide to organize as from 2008 activities in the field of corporate governance and corporate responsibility including an expert meeting in order to identify best practices and policy options.
9. Prospective partner organizations: to be identified.

Thematic Area D: Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Domestic and Foreign Investment, as well as Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)

Focus Area: Facilitating the effective regulatory protection of intellectual property rights and strengthening their role in innovative development

Main activities and outputs:

2006

- (a) Capacity-building activities based on specific requests of member States.

2007

- (a) Exchange of experience gained on IPR protection and commercialization possibly through regional thematic interactive seminars;
- (b) Exchange of views (“consultations”) on specific requesting countries’ legal framework, policies and business practices in the field of intellectual property protection, and in order to - among other things - assess the effectiveness of national systems;
- (c) Based on existing reports, analytical comparative report on the commercialization of IP assets, on transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets and on the establishment of well functioning markets for such products;
- (d) Meeting on IPR protection and transforming R&D outputs into intangible assets in economies in transition;
- (e) Collection of good practices and good policies of intellectual property commercialisation and protection in the UNECE member countries with the aim to identify specific areas of action;
- (f) Capacity building activities based on specific requests of member States.

2008

- (a) Based on 2007 work Guidebook on commercialization strategies for IP products in the UNECE member countries;
 - (b) Ongoing exchange of experience gained on IPR protection and commercialization possibly through interactive seminars in member States or regional events;
 - (c) Specific targeted seminars on request in identified areas of need for the UNECE countries with economies in transition;
 - (d) Capacity-building activities based on specific requests of member States.
10. Demand driven training and capacity building activities will be organized in 2007 and 2008 subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.
11. Prospective partner organizations: WIPO, European Patent Office, OECD, WCO, private sector, etc.

Focus Area: Promoting best practice in efficient public-private partnerships

Main activities and outputs:

2007

12. Comparative review of practical experience of public-private partnerships accumulated so far in the market and transition economies, including related regulatory policies, aimed at identifying good practices in promoting PPPs for domestic and foreign investment.

This work will include:

- (a) An identification of major sectors and areas, in which this type of cooperation is desirable;
- (b) An analysis of the modalities of operation and major problems encountered by public-private partnerships;
- (c) An assessment of their role in enterprise development;
- (d) An assessment of how PPP facilitate project's financing.

2008

- (a) Practical guidebook on good governance in public-private partnerships;
- (b) Comparative review on the legal background of PPPs with the goal to identify whether new legislation needs to be adopted to make them more efficient;

- (c) Expert group meeting on the legal background of PPPs;
 - (d) Based on results of 2007 activities, on the review and on the expert group meeting, a synopsis of policy recommendations on improving legal background for efficient PPPs (to be discussed at the annual session of CECI) will be established;
 - (e) Following the annual session of CECI, broad dissemination of the findings by secretariat, Members, private sector and other organizations/institutions in the interested UNECE member States;
 - (f) Analytical report and expert meeting on practical experience of PPPs (to be decided later based on the results of 2007 activities).
13. If requested by countries, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resource, technical assistance and capacity-building on these issues could be initiated in 2009.
14. Prospective partner organizations: EC, EBRD, DESA.

Thematic Area E: Other Relevant Aspects of International Economic Cooperation and Integration

Focus Area: Fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region

2007

- (a) Applied analysis of possibilities offered by the existing integration structures to foster the implementation of cross-cutting activities undertaken in all areas within the mandate of the CECI as well as within other UNECE subprogrammes (such as the promotion of regulatory convergence/harmonization);
- (b) Exchange of experience gained in promoting the economic cooperation among countries belonging and not belonging to major integration groupings in the region.

2008

- (a) Policy discussion meeting at Committee level on Fostering wider and deeper international economic integration in the UNECE region;
 - (b) Exchange of experience gained by SMEs aimed at improving their capacity to accede the globalising market including global and regional added value chains, integration in the supply chain, role and potential of outsourcing.
15. Prospective partner organizations: EC, Eurasian Economic Community.
