



Ninth UN/ECE Working Party Session

18–20 May 1999, Geneva

The Ninth Session of the UN/ECE Working Party on *Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies*, which was organized together with a Workshop on *The implementation and use of international standards* at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, was attended by over seventy representatives from thirty-five countries, including delegates from CEN, CENELEC, EFTA, EOTC, EU, IEC, ISO, UNCTAD, WTO and the BIML.

Among other points on the agenda, the following topics were discussed:

- coordination of standardization activities - ECE Standardization List;
- progress report on standardization reforms in transition economies;
- review of developments in standardization activities, regulatory cooperation and conformity assessment at international, regional and national levels and problems experienced by economies in transition towards a market economy;
- a draft guide on standardization of measurement procedures which will be sent to interested international (ISO, IEC, OIML) and regional (CEN, CENELEC, COOMET, EA, EUROMET) organizations for comments; and
- a draft international agreement among UN/ECE Member States on technical and harmonization issues.

During the Workshop organized in conjunction with the Session, thirteen presentations were given by representatives of international and regional standardization organizations, regional and national regulatory bodies and from industry, giving an insight into the situation and problems of national implementation of international standards in the field of electrical safety, measuring instruments and medical devices.

The presentation given by the BIML representative included a review of the situation and degree of implementation of OIML Recommendations in Member States and within the framework of the OIML Certificate System.

As a conclusion to the Workshop, the Working Party suggested that the international standardization organizations should be encouraged to report via regular surveys (as is already the case for the OIML) or other mechanisms regarding national implementation of standards, and also report on the impact of those standards on international trade.

Such organizations should continue to accelerate their efforts aimed at decreasing the lead-time required to draw up standards. ■

Contact information

Mr. S. Kouzmine
Secretary of the Working Party on Technical
Harmonization and Standardization Policies
UN/ECE Trade Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 917 27 71
Fax: +41 22 917 04 79
E-mail: serguei.kouzmine@unece