

PROGRAMME (updated 01/10/09)

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER (MORNING)

8:15 – 9:15 Registration

9:15 – 9:30 **Welcoming remarks** by Raed Safadi, Deputy Director of OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate

9:30 – 10:00 **Keynote address** by Ami Levin, Chair of the WTO TBT Committee

Session I: Tools for creating leaner yet effective conformity assessment systems

10:00 – 11:15 Plenary session with open floor discussion.

Recent OECD research appears to show that voluntary accreditation mechanisms and international standards for conformity assessment have reached a point which in some cases allows simplification of regulatory conformity assessment with identifiable and positive benefits to trade and without threatening standards of consumer protection. How far can such simplification safely go today, and what are the remaining public interest constraints? What do recent developments mean for tools which facilitate the recognition of results of conformity assessment, such as SDOC, unilateral government recognition of foreign conformity assessment certificates, or MRAS? What do we know about the economic and trade effects of using these tools?

Chair: Raymond Schonfeld, Single Market Ventures, Belgium

Speakers: Fabrizio Sacchetti, Policy Officer, Unit I 2, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Mario O. Wittner, Director-General, Instituto Argentino de Normalización y Certificación (IRAM), Argentina

11:15 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 13:00 parallel break-out groups devoted to issue or sector analysis

Group 1: Tested/certified once, accepted everywhere: Assessing progress and effects of arrangements promoting the international recognition of conformity assessment bodies

Accreditation of conformity assessment bodies gives confidence in the quality and reliability of the inspection, testing or certification services provided. It is also a tool for reducing the costs for businesses to engage in international trade. A system of international recognition between accreditation bodies is being promoted by the International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) along with regionally operating groups for accreditation cooperation. This system enables e.g. accredited test laboratories to achieve a form of international recognition which reduces or eliminates the need for products to be retested each time they enter a new market. Is the regulatory acceptance of multilateral recognition arrangements growing? Can we identify concrete examples of success, e.g. where multilateral recognition arrangements in the accreditation field have made assessment more efficient and trade easier? To what extent are developing countries benefiting from these arrangements?

Chair: Laurie Knight, Senior Policy Analyst, Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade and Investment Branch of Ministry of Economic Development, New Zealand

Speakers: Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, SWEDAC, Sweden, and Chair of Arrangement Committee of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

Björn Schildberg, Senior Advisor, Division of Globalisation, Trade and Investment, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Group 2: Strengthening compliance in the TBT field through cross-border collaboration

All CA systems, from SDOC to mandatory certification by designated CA bodies, require market surveillance. Consumers and producers expect that governments have effective mechanisms in place to check whether products put on the market meet national safety, quality and performance requirements; in fact, this is one of the TBT areas where governments are coming under pressure from consumers as well as producers to do more. How can international collaboration contribute to effective market surveillance? What are recent initiatives taken and are good-practice principles of cross-border collaboration discernable for generalised use globally?

Chair: Olivier Peyrat, Director General, Association Française de Normalisation (AFNOR), France, and Chair of ISO/CASCO

Speakers: Dirk Meijer, Chairman of International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organisation (ICPHSO), United States

Julia Doherty, Senior Director of Non-tariff Measures, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, United States

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

5 OCTOBER (AFTERNOON)

Session II. The place of standardisation on the emerging global climate change and green growth policy agenda

14:30 – 15:45 Plenary session with open floor discussion

What contributions can standards make to national or internationally coordinated policies for combating global climate change? How can standards be used effectively, and without disrupting trade, to advance goals of greenhouse gas emissions reduction? What is the state of play of international standards, and what can be learned from the development and use of international standards in other areas?

Chair: Kevin McKinley, Deputy Secretary-General, ISO Secretariat

Speakers: Fernando Goulart, Directorate of Quality, Instituto Nacional de Metrologia, Normalização e Qualidade Industrial (INMETRO), Brazil

Paul Waide, Director of Environment and Energy, Navigant Consulting Inc., London, UK

15:45 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:30 **parallel break-out groups devoted to sector/issue-specific analysis**

Group 1: Controlling CO₂ emissions of automobiles

What are recent developments in industry standards and national regulations for emissions reduction and/or fuel efficiency increase? Are markets for clean passenger cars becoming global? What market access and trade issues are clean-technology automobiles facing because of TBT? Are emission standards creating new barriers to international trade? At the international level, what is the status and prospects of harmonisation of emission standards and associated conformity procedures? What lessons can be drawn from the work of UN/ECE/WP29 on the global harmonisation of automotive regulation?

Chair: Anup P. Bandivadekar, Senior Researcher and Head of Global Passenger Vehicle Team, International Council on Clean Transportation, Washington, DC, USA

Speakers: Atanu Ganguli, Director, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, India

Juan Ramos-Garcia, Chief of Vehicle Regulations and Transport Innovations Section, UNECE Transport Division/ World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations of the UNECE (WP29), Geneva

Group 2: Private standards and trade: The case of environmental claims and certification schemes

In the non-regulatory area, private standards and certification schemes are becoming more widespread, and their growth is not limited to the agro-food sector and such issues as the management of food safety or hygiene. In markets for non-agricultural products, notably consumer products, private environmental standards taking the form of carbon neutrality schemes, water efficiency labels, specifications and test standards for biodegradable plastics etc are taking on greater importance as public awareness of the ecological impact of production and consumption grows. What is driving the development of these environmental schemes? How do they affect competition among suppliers and producers, international supply chains and trade, including from a developing-country perspective? For companies/suppliers servicing multiple markets and facing multiple requirements, how can compliance be minimised and managed efficiently?

Chair: U. Müge Dolun, Industrial Development Officer, Compliance Infrastructure Unit, Trade Capacity Building Branch, UNIDO, Vienna

Speakers: Uwe Bergmann, Head, CSR and Sustainability Steering, Henkel

Catherine Gomy, Director, Quality and Sustainable Development, Association of E. Leclerc distribution centres (ACD Lec)

Mr. Charuek Hengrasmee, President, Electrical and Electronics Institute, Thailand

17:30 – 18:00 **Plenary summaries concluding first day of discussions**

Chairpersons of morning and afternoon sessions issue short reports.

18:15 – 19:15 **Reception**

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER (MORNING)

Session III. Best practices that promote effective and trade-friendly TBT regimes

9:00 – 10:30 **1st Panel discussion, followed by open-floor discussion – Implementing good regulatory practice (GRP): How does one go about to identify and reform redundant or ineffective technical regulations?**

Drawing on instances where governments have reviewed and updated the stock of national regulations, usually as part of their broader regulatory reform programmes, panellists will explain the processes, tools and stakeholders involved.

Chair: Evdokia Moise, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Panelists: Bastian Kern, Division Standardisation, Conformity Assessment, Metrology, Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Germany

Callie Stewart, Deputy Director, Technical Barriers to Trade, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

Elsabe Steyn, Director, Enterprise and Industry Development Division, Department of Trade and Industry, South Africa

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 **2nd Panel discussion, followed by open-floor discussion – Are regional trade agreements breaking down TBT?**

This panel discussion will identify ways in which RTAs are used to enhance TBT disciplines at the regional and possibly multilateral level and share lessons learned from actual experiences with bilateral or regional regulatory co-operation. How Do RTAs influence the drafting and implementation of technical regulations or the establishment of quality infrastructure? Do they promote harmonisation or reciprocal recognition of standards? Are developing countries with TBT-related supply constraints taking advantage of scale economies that RTAs may offer? How similar are TBT provisions of RTAs and do opportunities exist for cross-RTA collaboration in this field, notably when RTAs overlap?

Chair: Arthur Lopian, Deputy Head, Unit G 3, DG Trade G3 European Commission, Brussels

Panelists: Mehmet Cömert, Deputy Director General of the DG of Standardization in Foreign Trade of the Prime Ministry Undersecretariat for Foreign Trade, Turkey

Dianne Lalla-Rodrigues, Director, Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards, Antigua, W.I.

Yoshiko Naiki, Associate Professor, Osaka University Graduate School of International Public Policy, Japan

Evah Oduor, Director of Standards Development and International Trade, Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), Kenya

12:30 – 13:00 **Workshop conclusions and closing** by Frank van Tongeren, Head of Policies, Trade and Agriculture Division, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate