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**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Seventh session, 26-29 March 2001

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Position paper concerning the work of electronic business XML  
(eXML) in the UN/CEFACT environment.**

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Submitted by the Delegation of Germany \*

This report is submitted to the Centre for discussion.

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The delegation of Germany makes the following recommendations taking into account that the (EWG) passed a number of resolutions addressing the cooperation of ebXML and (EWG).

## **I. Background**

*EWG Resolutions, Paris, March 2000:*

*“... resolves to request UN/CEFACT to change the name of EWG to “eBusiness working group” to reflect the results of the implementation of UML and the development of Common Business Objects as its deliverables. This shall also indicate the high impact and close relation of ebXML results to the future work of EWG.”(Res .4)*

*“... resolves that the EWG Management Team should issue guidelines for the preparation of EWG Terms of Reference in the context of new technologies, so that individual SWGs within the EWG can include the work on new technologies in their terms of reference.”(Res. 8)*

*“... resolves that EWG management should communicate to ebXML management (UN/CEFACT and OASIS) a requirement to clarify the roles of ebXML Business Process and Core Components work groups, TMWG, BPAWG and EWG Development Sub Working Groups, with a view to avoiding overlap of responsibilities and deliverables.”(Res. 16)*

These resolutions lead to EWG Management team action #26:

“Change of name for EWG, Guidelines for EWG TOR in support of new technologies, clarification of respective roles of ebXML and EWG (Resolutions 4, 8 and 16)”

Various discussions and resolutions from the EWG, at Taipei, September 2000 indicated the urgent need to address these topics within UN/CEFACT so that EWG business expertise could be reused for ebXML where appropriate.

## II. Recommendation

In the knowledge that

- EWG business experts within the existing UN/CEFACT framework have built up considerable expertise dealing with the harmonization and standardization of business semantics for nearly 20 years

and with the wish to avoid any action that might either divide this expertise into different factions or place them outside of UN/CEFACT and EWG, the delegation of Germany strongly recommends that:

- The scope of EWG should be widened to encompass activities covering both EDIFACT and future EDI standards like ebXML such that the ebXML semantic activities occur with the closest possible cooperation with existing or new EWG development groups.
- As a matter of urgency, the EWG be restructured to cover this enlarged scope

The delegation of Germany believes that if these recommendations are accepted it would ensure that there would be neutral and reusable results for electronic business for both “traditional” and future EDI, and for any transitions between these two that organisations might choose to make.

Equally, by ensuring that the United Nations flag continues to fly over harmonisation activities, the benefits of past activities are certain to be passed onto future generations of involved people and advancing technologies.

Therefore, we believe that UN/CEFACT should encourage the EWG to provide a new proposal regarding scope and organization to the CSG so that it can be formally approved at the next meeting as soon as possible.

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