



UN/CEFACT Quarterly Report

December 2006

Volume 2, Number 3

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Useful Links:

www.unece.org/cefact

www.cen.eu/uncefactforum/

India benefits from UN/CEFACT Forum

Over 250 experts from Africa, Asia, Europe and North America attended the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum held in New Delhi, India, from 2 to 6 October 2006.

Mr. R.R. Shah, Member Secretary, Indian Planning Commission, stressed in his inaugural address that "Expert knowledge and tools are needed to adapt global standards and technologies to specific national and regional requirements. The United Nations together with the Government of India should cooperate to transfer this know-how and develop the required expertise in India to support implementation".

Mr. G.K. Pillai, Commerce Secretary, Government of India, indicated in his welcome address that India aims to reduce the transaction costs of exports and imports using UN/CEFACT standards.

In his opening address, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the Indian Minister of State for Commerce, presented the important advances that India has made in the implementation of global standards, in particular UN/EDIFACT¹. This progress has brought major benefits both to Indian trade and the Indian Government. "Our priority is now to bring these benefits to the wider trade community, including small and medium-sized enterprises, by introducing new and integrated technologies such as UNeDocs²", Ramesh noted.

A workshop held in parallel with the Forum recommended that the Indian Government and different stakeholders in eTrade establish a pool of national experts to prepare for a UNeDocs implementation. This activity could be the start for the development of an Indian Single Window for exports and imports. Further, such an initiative in India could be an important contribution to the emerging Regional Single Window in Asia Pacific.

In the closing Plenary, the Chair of the Forum Management Group thanked the Government of India for the exceptional organization and support it had provided.

¹ United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport

² United Nations electronic trade Documents



Highlights from the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum in New Delhi 2-6 October 2006

UN/CEFACT Forum Management 2006-2008

A new Forum Management Group (FMG) was elected at the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum in New Delhi, pending confirmation by the Plenary through the intersessional approval process.

On behalf of UN/CEFACT, Stuart Feder (Plenary Chair) welcomed the incoming FMG Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Mike Doran and Mr. Anders Grangard, respectively, and expressed the appreciation of all of its participants and the secretariat to the outgoing FMG Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Dick Raman and Ms. Sue Probert, respectively, for their dedicated contributions during their terms of office.

The FMG Team now includes:

FMG Chair: Mike Doran
Mike.Doran@cern.ch

FMG Vice-Chair: Anders Grangard
anders.grangard@gs1.org

Applied Technologies Group (ATG) Chair:
Mark Crawford mark.crawford@sap.com

ATG Vice-Chair: Gait Boxman
gait.boxman@tie.nl

ATG Vice-Chair: Jostein Frømyr
Jostein.Fromyr@edisys.no

Information Content Management Group (ICG)
Chair: Mike Conroy michael.conroy@wanadoo.fr

ICG Vice-Chair: David Dobbing
ddobbing@attglobal.net

Legal Group (LG) Chair: Usva Kuusiholma
usva.kuusiholma@websoft.fi

LG Vice-Chair: Bart W. Schermer
bart.schermer@ecp.nl

International Trade and Business Processes
Group (TBG) Chair: Jean-Luc Champion
jean_luc_champion@yahoo.com

TBG Vice-Chair: Pat Toufar
cepatoufar@sbcglobal.net

Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG)
Chair: Günther Stuhec
gunther.stuhec@sap.com

TMG Vice-Chair: Christian Huemer
huemer@big.tuwien.ac.at

To complete the picture, Mr. Gordon Cragge (gordon.cragge@sitpro.org.uk) was elected in November 2006 as Chair of TBG 15. Consistent with the 12th Plenary's decision to continue for another two years an additional seat on the FMG associated with this post, Mr. Cragge's election to the FMG is also pending Plenary intersessional approval.

Forum Summary

The newly elected FMG prioritized work items at the Forum level. Important tasks that need to be accomplished in the next six to nine months include the following:

- Completion of the update to the Open Development Process with validation and implementation sections and additional guidance for submissions and comments from organizations not active in UN/CEFACT
- Delivery of a cohesive UN/CEFACT website presence;
- Support to virtual collaboration, electronic meetings and engagement of external stakeholders;
- Completion of the Forum Project Portfolio information, including dependencies, timelines and deliverables.

The FMG will further improve coordination and synergy among the Permanent Groups. As part of this process, the Programme of Work will be aligned with the UN/CEFACT Integrated



Strategy that was approved at the 12th Plenary in May 2006.

The Bureau and the FMG will make efforts to increase extra budgetary resources. This work will be strengthened by a due diligence process in project proposal management and by adopting a Code of Conduct.

The FMG has started revising the Mandates and Terms of Reference of the five Permanent Groups (PGs). They all terminate in 2007, and under United Nations rules, PGs are to be extended for two years at a time. In order to obtain extensions each PG will now have to provide justification for continued work, showing its Programme of Work, what deliverables it has achieved, and what future objectives and deliverables it plans to accomplish in the future. UN/CEFACT will report back to the UNECE Committee on Trade as well as to the UNECE Executive Committee each year.

The following Forum Meetings have been tentatively agreed to:

- Spring: 26-30 March 2007, Dublin, Ireland
- Autumn: 17-21 September 2007, Stockholm, Sweden

UNeDocs to provide a migration path from paper to electronic trade documents

Interview with Mr. Michael Dill, Chairman of the Digital Paper Working Group (TBG2) during the UN/CEFACT workshop³ on United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) in New Delhi.

What was the purpose of the workshop and what did Indian experts learn?

³ www.unece.org/trade/workshop/unedocs_india06/welcome.htm

TBG2 Chair: Participants from India had the opportunity to learn, based on a real business case, how to use the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents (Recommendation No. 1) and master data documents for cross-border process efficiency. They discussed issues such as the reduction of the number of required documents and data redundancy, especially in support of Single Window initiatives. They had the opportunity to network and share experiences with the UN/CEFACT Forum experts on regional cross-border initiatives.

One expert was particularly impressed by UNeDocs modeling of the relationships between Customs and the trade and transport contacts and, as someone experienced, expressed the view that "the successful modeling of these relationships are key to solving many of the critical issues of the international supply chain".

What is UNeDocs, and how does it support a roadmap from paper to paperless trade?

Thirty-five years after the introduction of electronic business, the majority of international trade documents are still paper. UNeDocs started from the idea that we cannot reduce paper trade without providing a migration path from paper to electronic business based on UN/CEFACT Recommendation 1 for the UN Layout Key.

UNeDocs consists of a set of data models based on UN/CEFACT Core Components, EDIFACT Guidelines, Box Completion Guidelines and United Nations Layout Keys for Cross-Border Trade documents. These consolidated data models provide a neutral structure for defining the data contents for trade documents in paper, EDI or XML formats

How can UNeDocs benefit small and medium-sized enterprises?

UNeDocs allows small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to join the game even with a simple PC. Trading partners can exchange standardized trade documents both in human



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and computer readable format, without large investments in software and hardware. For instance, a case study done with Dagangnet Malaysia shows that a UNEDocs-based "ASEAN⁴ Certificate of origin" document can be created, integrated and exchanged using the UN Toolkit⁵, with a very minimal software set-up costing less than US \$800. A similar study using Microsoft Infopath and Adobe technologies⁶ proves that UNEDocs can be implemented using "small office software".

What are the next steps that TBG2 will take to progress the UNEDocs project?

United Nations Layout Keys, electronic documents, Core Documents, EDI Guidelines and XML schemas all need a defined common basis to achieve and maintain seamless exchange between paper and electronic trade documents. The UNEDocs Master Data Model will provide that common basis for all actors involved in the international trade transaction.

As UNEDocs is a cross-domain project, the UNEDocs Master Data Model requires cooperation with other Forum Working Groups. The UNEDocs project team is currently coordinating this work with the UN/CEFACT Forum Management Group.

For over 15 months, UNEDocs has been in step 4 ("Refining the first working draft") of the Open Development Process (ODP). During this period, the Master Data Model has gone through several iterations. The team first built a Data Model using the Unified Modeling Language classes. The Data Model was updated based on the Core Components Technical Specifications (CCTS). Finally, the Data Model was migrated to the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library D06A. To facilitate further steps towards the UNEDocs Master Data Model being put forward for consideration as a UN/CEFACT Standard, a

gap analysis will now be undertaken. The Recommendations from that analysis are expected by early 2007.

Consequently, I am recommending to the team that the UNEDocs Master Data Model remain at step 4 until the end of 2006. The project team will then address the Recommendations resulting from the gap analysis. This will enable us to move the project to ODP step 5 ("Public review") in early 2007.

Recommendations from the New Delhi workshop can be found at: www.unece.org/trade/workshop/unedocs_india06/UNEDocs_Recommendations.pdf

UMM⁷ to structure processes that cross organizational boundaries

By Christian Huemer, Vice-Chair, TMG

According to Michael Hammer and James Champy, a business process is defined as "an organized group of related activities that together create customer value⁸". It is the central statement in business process re-engineering. In the 1990s, modelling business processes became a key aspect in structuring companies as well as government administrators. Business process modelling defines who does what, when and where to fulfil customer needs, and in turn specifies how organizational units interact, thus improving the efficiency of a company or an organization.

The growing globalization of trade and advances in information and communication technology have made a broader scope in business process modelling a requirement.

⁴ Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN)

⁵ UN Toolkit: unece.unog.ch/eTrade

⁶ For MS Infopath: www.unece.org/etrades/unedocs/referenceimpl_ms.htm ; for Adobe: www.unece.org/etrades/unedocs/referenceimpl_ac.htm

⁷ UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology

⁸ Hammer, Michael and Champy, James (1993), *Reengineering the Corporation: A Manifesto for Business Revolution*, Harper Business



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The focus must now be on processes that cross organizational boundaries. It must specify how autonomous companies and/or governmental and non-governmental organizations interact and collaborate with each other. The business process modelling approach must capture the agreements and commitments made between business partners, specifying the activities each of the business partners must carry out, and under which conditions, to successfully collaborate.

UN/CEFACT has recently delivered the foundation and base module of the UN/CEFACT Modelling Methodology (UMM), which provides guidelines for developing inter-organizational business processes. It is based on the Unified Modelling Language (UML) and is used to model the flow of information exchanges between business partners by describing interactions between business partners according to their commitments and agreements. UMM will be complemented by the UML profile for core components, which describes the exchanged business documents that are near completion. The UMM will reach its full potential once re-usable business transactions and business documents are available in a registry that supports the creation of new inter-organizational processes from existing building blocks. The formal specification of UMM allows for an easy transformation to service-oriented architectures based on Web services or ebXML in order to better support inter-organizational business processes by electronic means.

For further reading see: UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) User Guide
www.unece.org/cefact/umm/umm_index.htm

Plenary Advisory List

In the light of the UNECE Reform and the creation of the UNECE Executive Committee, as well as the progress made in UN/CEFACT activities over the past months, UN/CEFACT is facing an increasing number of issues that

may require support from the capitals of member States and their missions in Geneva.

This is why the Chairman of UN/CEFACT is inviting interested Heads of Delegation to indicate their willingness to name themselves to a new informal Plenary Advisory List (PAL). The goal of PAL is to provide a clear and readily available source of senior and seasoned expertise, guidance and assistance from the Plenary to the Chairman.

Some of the topics to be taken up through PAL may focus on the next Plenary in May 2007, future meetings of the Executive Committee, the governance of UN/CEFACT, communications, resource planning (including extra-budgetary funding) and a code of conduct.

As PAL is envisaged to be a "live" list, Heads of Delegation can add (or withdraw) their names whenever they wish by contacting Jean Kubler (Jean.Kubler@unece.org) in the secretariat.

News to use

Update of the UN/CEFACT Recommendation 6 on "Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade"

The exchange of paper invoices is associated with considerable costs in the handling, reconciliation and release of payment for goods. In particular, SMEs that do not utilize invoicing processes based on UN/EDIFACT messages are seeking new opportunities to streamline their procedures with the help of information technologies. Electronic invoicing brings substantial savings to both large companies and SMEs. It facilitates migration to paperless trade, improves the quality of invoice data and streamlines business processes.

UN/CEFACT Recommendation 6 on the Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade addresses only the format and data content of



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paper invoices. Hence, TBG15 deemed it necessary to revise the content to accommodate electronic invoicing as well by creating a new Annex to Recommendation 6.

The Annex will encourage traders and administrators to implement electronic invoicing by providing information on its benefits and by defining the business requirements for integrity and authenticity required to meet the needs of the business community and regulatory authorities. The Annex will also indicate issues for future development, and identify some of the challenges electronic invoicing faces today.

TBG15 will circulate the Annex for comments by mid-December, after which the revision can move on to Step 2 (external review within TBG and the rest of the Forum) of the Open Development Process at the beginning of January 2007. TBG15 envisages submission of the Annex to the Plenary in May 2007 for final approval and publication.

UN/CEFACT and UNCITRAL reinforce the regular exchange of information

Members of the UN/CEFACT Legal Group and the Chair met with senior members of the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) secretariat in October 2006 to discuss possible areas and mechanisms for cooperation between UNCITRAL and UN/CEFACT. Specific presentations were made on the UN/CEFACT work addressing legal issues related to the exchange of information between Single Windows, the Unified Business Agreements and Contracts project, and the continuing revision of UN/CEFACT trade facilitation recommendations. The UNCITRAL secretariat listed current priority areas for the Commission, namely, authentication and cross-border recognition of electronic signatures, electronic documents of title, electronic consignment notes, security of transactions, and procurement. It was noted that, in the light of these priorities, UNCITRAL

could contribute to all of the UN/CEFACT activities described above.

The meeting also sought to establish specific mechanisms to ensure a regular exchange of information between UNCITRAL and UN/CEFACT. To that end, members of the Legal Group plan to attend upcoming UNCITRAL expert group meetings on Transport Law, Electronic Commerce Law and Procurement Law. The Legal Group will also be represented at the 2007 UNCITRAL Plenary and participate in the UNCITRAL Congress to be held next July. For its part, the UNCITRAL secretariat will take part in the revision and development of UN/CEFACT trade facilitation recommendations and will participate, to the extent possible given available resources, in Legal Group meetings and teleconferences.

Back-to-back with the meeting with UNCITRAL, the Legal Group held a working session to make further progress on the first draft of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 35 on developing a legal framework for an International Trade Single Window.

Revision of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 11 on Documentary Aspects of the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Ensuring that trade documents and electronic messages transmit accurate and reliable information is crucial for international trade transactions. For consignments which involve the movement of dangerous goods and face added safety and environmental issues, it is doubly important that accurate information is available. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that procedural and documentary requirements are not unnecessarily complex. In fact, simplified requirements afford more safety for those handling the goods, less risk of damage to goods and equipment, fewer delays in the movement of goods and in the preparation and receipt of documents, and reduced costs for paperwork and administration.



UN/CEFACT promotes the simplification of related documentation by recommending that the design and information content of dangerous goods forms be based on an aligned layout, i.e. that a single form be used for all modes of transport and that the use of electronic data interchange be encouraged, where possible. These recommendations are expressed in UN/CEFACT Recommendation 11, adopted in 1978 and revised in 1996 to offer recommendations on the information requirements (the actual data shown on the Dangerous Goods Form) and the actual means of transferring the data, either by paper document or Electronic Data Interchange.

In 2006, the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (TBG15) initiated the third revision of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 11 to reflect the significant harmonization at both international and regional levels that has taken place since 1996. The United Nations Economic and Social Council Committees of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals have made major steps towards harmonizing the overall requirements for all the modes of transport by amending the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Model Regulations (the United Nations Model Regulations). The United Nations Model Regulations present a basic set of provisions that allow for a uniform development of national and international regulations governing various modes of transport, while offering enough flexibility to accommodate any special requirements that might have to be met. The United Nations Model Regulations include the multimodal dangerous goods form offered by the original recommendation.

These and other developments will be reflected in the revised Recommendation 11, which is being prepared by TBG15 in cooperation with the UNECE Committee on Dangerous Goods.

The Forum published the suite of XML documents for electronic tendering/bidding across industries

The Applied Technologies Group published as a Release Candidate Standard the 20 eTendering XML Schema⁹. These schemas provide a robust XML-based eTendering solution for the global construction industry. Additionally, the first version of the UN/CEFACT Common Reusable Schema for tendering has also been completed and given Release Candidate status. This Schema consists of XML expressions of all eTendering Business Information Entities. This Schema consists of XML expressions of all eTendering Business Information Entities (BIEs). These BIEs will be a part of the UN/CEFACT Core Component Library.

Organizations work towards a common XML Schema Naming and Design Rules Technical Specification (NDR)

The UN/CEFACT NDR Technical Specification provides the way to define and use business information in XML schemas. It is a key specification to enhance the end-to-end exchange of information between the buyer and the seller. Several vertical standards organizations have expressed their interest in working collaboratively with ATG to develop the next version of the XML NDR document. The Joint Automotive Industry, for example, would like to see convergence between the UN/CEFACT XML NDR and those of the Open Applications Group, Inc. (OAGi)¹⁰. The OAGi NDR specification is actually a subset of the CEFACT NDR, but with several minor differences. Other standards bodies are also looking for convergence, and are eager to transition to a single, UN/CEFACT-published set of XML Schema NDRs. In addition to working on this convergence, the next version

⁹ Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schemas provide the means for defining the structure of a document. One purpose is to define the difference between a valid document and an invalid one.

¹⁰ www.oagi.org/



of the NDR will be aligned and published in conjunction with the next version of the Core Components Technical Specifications. Thus these two important specifications will be in perfect alignment, and will allow for the rapid advance of UN/CEFACT XML solutions. The work on the NDRs will be addressed at the ATG meeting starting 15 January 2007 in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Standard Business Document Header (SBDH) will be aligned with the NDR and CCTS

The SBDH provides a method for transmitting application information as part of a UN/CEFACT message. There is a need to update the SBDH to align it with both the CCTS and XML Schema NDR specifications. This work will be done in conjunction with those two specifications, and will allow for a coordinated delivery.

Expressing Core Components in XML

Currently, Core Component artefacts are delivered using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets or proprietary formats of the CCTS-enabled tools. A need exists for expressing individual core component artefacts in a standard format. A simple XML Schema is being developed that will allow for standardized submission of these artefacts in XML format. In parallel, the Techniques and Methodologies Group is developing a standard to express UMM conformant models in XML¹¹.

The Applied Technologies Group starts the Core Data Types (CDT) project

A key aspect of CCTS is the expression of the lowest level of data types, such as amount, binary object, code, date, date time, identifier, name, percent, time and text. The current version of CCTS only defines conceptual Core Component Types without providing the necessary details to ensure consistency in

application. CCTS also states that future versions of the CDTs would be published separately from CCTS. The CDT project will take the work of TMG in this area, align it with the specific requirements of the EDIFACT and XML syntax, and publish the new CDT specification.

In memoriam Mr. Vladimír David (1921-2006)

By Mr Alexander Šafarík-Pštrosz, Chairman of the UNECE Committee on Trade

Mr. Vladimír David, long-time Chairman of the UNECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4, the predecessor of UN/CEFACT), passed away on 1 November 2006. It was under his leadership that the idea of UN/EDIFACT was conceived and then developed into a standard.

Vladimír David was born in Hodonín, a small Moravian village in what was then Czechoslovakia. Following his secondary school studies, he was interned as a forced labourer in Germany during the Second World War. In 1945, he studied at the University of Commerce in Prague and was offered a post in the newly established foreign trade company, CHEMAPOL.

Mr. David's career with CHEMAPOL saw him become Head and later Director of the Organization and Automatization Department, with a final promotion to Deputy General Director responsible for organization and management. He introduced the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents and other trade facilitation tools in CHEMAPOL and other Czechoslovak companies involved in foreign trade. After his retirement from CHEMAPOL, Mr. David became a privatization and strategic partnerships adviser to numerous companies in various industrial sectors. He reduced his activities in 2005, but never truly retired.

¹¹ Business Collaboration Schema Specification project-
www.untmg.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=112



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Mr. David was a "guru" in the area of trade facilitation. In the 1970s, he initiated the national trade facilitation organization, CS FITPRO. He served as Vice-Chairman and later Chairman, and was a well-known figure in the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Foreign Affairs and the Czechoslovak Chamber of Commerce. Although his direct involvement ended in the late 1980s, his affiliation with the CS FITPRO and its successor FITPRO as a Board member continued up to his very last days.

Mr. David left his mark on a number of international organizations, among them the CMEA (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance), CMEA-Finland and UNECE itself. In the UNECE he was Chairman of the Group of Experts on Automatic Data Processing and Coding, the group under WP.4 responsible for developing UN/EDIFACT (1972-1992) and Chairman of WP.4 (1980-1992). He had a great influence on the development of International Trade Transaction Flow Modelling, as well as on a number of long-standing UN/CEFACT instruments such as the United Nations Trade Data Elements Directory or UN/EDIFACT. He was the "father" of UN/CEFACT Recommendation No. 18 on Facilitation Measures Related to International Trade Procedures.

In addition, he was a nice man: gentle, well organized and polite, diplomatic but uncompromising when necessary, not to mention highly educated and with perfect language skills, mainly in English, French, German and Russian. In his private life, he was a well-loved, and loving, spouse, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Future events

Review of draft UN/CEFACT documents

| Requests for Intersessional Approval | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Issued | Closing | Topic |
| 21 Nov | 19 Jan 2007 | Small-Scale Lodging House Information |

| | | |
|--------|-------------|---|
| | | Process BRS. Inter-session approval until 19 January |
| 21 Nov | 19 Jan 2007 | UN/CEFACT Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management BRS. Inter-session approval until 19 January |
| 20 Dec | 15 Feb | Intersessional approval of TBG 15 Chair as an additional member of FMG |

Schedules and objectives of upcoming meetings

15 January 2007: Applied Technologies Group meeting is scheduled starting 15 January 2007 in the Washington, D.C. area. This will meeting will continue the work on updating the NDRs.

5-7 February 2007: Joint Bureau and FMG meeting, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

26-30 March 2007: 10th UN/CEFACT Forum, Dublin, Ireland

14-16 May 2007: 12th UN/CEFACT Plenary, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

17-21 September: 11th UN/CEFACT Forum, Stockholm, Sweden

Recent UNECE Publications

Recent issues:

A Roadmap towards Paperless Trade (ECE/TRADE/371) – March 2006 (in English and French)

TIR¹² Handbook (ECE/TRANS/TIR/6/Rev.1) – June 2005. Available at: www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/tir-hb.html

¹² Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention, 1975) serviced by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee



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Forthcoming issues:

Executive Summary of the 2005 UN/CEFACT Forum on "Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security" (ECE/TRADE/374)

Summary of UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation Recommendations (ECE/TRADE/346)

International Directory on TIR Focal Points 2006¹² (restricted to Customs officials)

Communications with Heads of Delegation

| Messages from the Bureau to the Heads of Delegation List server | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| Date | Sender | Topic |
| 20 Dec | Mika Vepsäläinen | Intersessional approval of November 2006 election of TBG 15 Chair as an additional member of Forum Management Group |
| 20 Dec | Mika Vepsäläinen | Forum Management Group elections in October 2006 approved |
| 21 Nov | Mika Vepsäläinen | Small-Scale Lodging House Information Process BRS for intersessional approval until 19 January |
| 21 Nov | Mika Vepsäläinen | Intersessional approval of UN/CEFACT Project Schedule and Cost Performance Management BRS until 19 January |
| 19 Nov | Jean Kubler | Intersessional approval of the results of Forum elections and the initiative to start a Plenary Advisory List (PAL) |
| 17 Oct | Karen Taylor | Press release following the 9th UN/CEFACT Forum (pdf file) |
| 17 Oct | Jean Kubler | Press release of the New Delhi Forum meeting, 2-6 October 2006 (add web link) |
| 27 Sept | Mika Vepsäläinen | Voting procedure for the Forum in New Delhi |
| 5 Sept | Mika Vepsäläinen | Plenary report approved |
| 14 Aug | Mika Vepsäläinen | Material Safety Data Sheet Business Requirement Specification has been approved |

Recent UNECE press releases¹³

| | |
|---------|--|
| 17 Oct | India to reduce transaction costs for exports/imports significantly by using UN/CEFACT standards |
| 6 Oct | Countries commit to TIR Public-Private Partnership |
| 20 Sept | Azerbaijan adheres to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) |

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¹³ Copies are available at www.unece.org/press/current_press_h.htm