

Updated 8 May 2002

Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

Round Table

On

Implementing Trade Facilitation in Transition Economies

Realizing the benefits for national and regional economies

31 May 2002

Following the International Forum on Trade Facilitation on 29 and 30 May, the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development has organized a Round Table to examine the strategic policy directions needed to support the implementation of trade facilitation in transition economies. The Round Table will discuss possible strategies for enhanced implementation of trade facilitation in transition economies, in the light of current experiences and the increasing role of trade facilitation in development.

Presentations on specific trade facilitation issues will be made by high-level speakers from the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Ukraine, the World Bank Trade and Transport Facilitation for South-Eastern Europe Program, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG) of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-business (UN/CEFACT).

The Round Table will be held on Friday, May 31st from 09:30 am to 12:00 am in Room VII at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Registration will begin at 9:00 AM.

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Provisional Programme

IMPLEMENTING TRADE FACILITATION IN TRANSITION ECONOMIES

Realizing the benefits for national and regional economies

**Palais des Nations, Salle VII
31 May 2002**

Chair: Ms. Sophia Aisagaliyeva (Kazakhstan), Vice Chairman, CTIED

Opening remarks: Dr Carol Cosgrove, Director, Trade Development and Timber Division, UNECE

Presentations

- **Overcoming constraints to trade facilitation implementation**

Speaker: Mr. Karel Uhler, Deputy Director, Czech Customs

- **Developing a strategic approach to trade facilitation**

Speaker: Ms. Elena Yemelianova, Deputy Director, Foreign Trade Policy Department, Ukrainian Ministry of Economy and European Integration

Speaker: Mr Marc Juhel, Lead Transport Specialist, World Bank (Trade and Transport Facilitation for South-Eastern Europe Program (TTFSE)).

- **Trade facilitation within the WTO – a possible approach for transition economies**

Speaker: Mr. Nicolae Ropotean (Romania), Executive National SECI coordinator

- **How can UNECE help transition economies implement trade facilitation**

Speaker: Ms Nina Kirichenko, Deputy Minister of Industry and External Trade of Kyrgyz Republic

The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion of 20 minutes and an open questions and comments from the floor of 30 minutes

Discussion Panel:

- Mr Maciej Lesny, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Poland
- Alex de Lijster, Chairman, International Trade Procedures Working Group

At the end of the round table, participants will be asked to indicate the most useful initiative or activity that they believe the UNECE could undertake to assist in enhancing trade facilitation implementation in transition economies