



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRADE/2003/19
3 March 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Seventh session, 13 and 16 May 2003
Item 18 of the provisional agenda

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM
ON TRADE FACILITATION**

**SHARING THE GAINS OF GLOBALIZATION
IN THE NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT**

14-15 MAY 2003*

United Nations Office at Geneva, Hall XX

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Provisional schedule for the UNECE Trade Facilitation week, 12-16 May 2003						
Day 1 Monday, 12 May		Day 2 Tuesday, 13 May		Day 3 Wednesday, 14 May	Day 4 Thursday, 15 May	Day 5 Friday, 16 May
a.m.	Plenary Session of the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) <i>Hall to be announced</i>	UNCEFACT plenary session <i>Hall t.b.a..</i>	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) <i>Hall t.b.a</i>	International Forum: • <i>How to achieve benefits for all?</i> <i>Hall XX</i>	International Forum: • <i>The contribution of the business community</i> <i>Hall XX.</i>	CTIED Policy Segment on strategies to enhance trade facilitation in UNECE Member States. Review of Forum Chairman's Conclusions and follow-up <i>Hall t.b.a.</i>
p.m.	UN/CEFACT plenary session <i>Hall to be announced</i>	Joint Session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) and UN/CEFACT <i>Hall to be announced</i>		International Forum • <i>Trade facilitation policy and new security initiatives</i> <i>Hall XX.</i>	Open Regionalism in trade facilitation • <i>experience of the UN regional commissions</i> <i>Hall XX</i> Conclusions <i>Hall XX</i>	Workshop on technical issues in trade facilitation <i>Hall t.b.a.</i> CTIED session report-approval <i>Hall to be announced</i>

The International Forum on Trade Facilitation (IFTF)					
Time	Wednesday, 14 May		Time	Thursday, 15 May	
8:30	<i>Registration / Coffee</i>		8:30	<i>Coffee</i>	
9:30	<i>Opening Session</i>		8:30	<i>Seminar on the UNeDocs project: Towards a Global Standard for Electronic Trade Documents</i>	
10:15	Session I: How to achieve benefits for all from trade facilitation?		9:30	Session III: (organized in collaboration with ICC) Mechanisms of Cooperation: The role of the business community	
13:15	<i>Lunch</i> Workshop on IPR and trade facilitation: "Identifying the Roadblocks"		13:15	<i>Lunch</i> Presentation on the Perceptions and Priorities of selected developing countries on the inclusion of trade facilitation in the WTO negotiations, DFID, UK	
15:00	Session II: Trade facilitation policy and new security initiatives		15:00	CTIED Round Table on Open Regionalism	
18:00			18:00	The experience of UNECE and the other UN regional commissions and interregional cooperation.	Technical Workshop: Technical issues in trade facilitation

			The Way Forward and Conclusions
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OVERVIEW OF THE FORUM

BACKGROUND

Trade facilitation, i.e. the simplification, harmonization, automation and speeding up of the international flows of goods and trade information, has the potential of bolstering economic growth. In an increasingly globalized economy, it contributes directly to promoting supply chain linkages and reducing non-tariff barriers to trade. Above all, by saving precious resources, it has a strong potential for development. Nevertheless, the benefits of multilateral trade facilitation have not been evenly distributed. The United Nations, in its Millennium Development Goals has committed all Member States and the UN organizations to work towards alleviating poverty, promoting sustainable trade and development, and spreading the beneficial impact of globalization and multilateral cooperation on a more equitable basis. In order for all countries to reap the benefits of increased efficiency through optimal trade procedures, targeted policy and practical measures should be adopted.

The second International Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2003 will focus on trade and transport facilitation and customs cooperation, within the perspective of the needs of development and the heightened security requirements. More specifically, the Forum will discuss the effect of the new security challenges on global supply chains. The conduct of international trade has undergone fundamental changes, as the security emphasis has shifted from threats to trade to threats from trade. While some major actors in international trade focus on the identification and minimization of risks to the security of international flows of goods (especially in container trade), others are concerned with the new security requirements, which will impose an additional burden on their fragile economies. There is a great risk that transition and developing countries will not be able to share the benefits of globalization, and that they will be marginalized. The implications of these challenges and changes on the weakest participants in the global trading system will be felt more strongly. The United Nations should address these problems by providing a neutral forum for their discussion. It should look into the

development of new international instruments in the area.

The Forum will build upon the broader definition of trade facilitation at the first International Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2002. Trade facilitation is a complex area, which involves government regulations and control, business efficiency, transportation, information and communication technology and the financial services. The work on trade facilitation involves various actors with different agendas, which makes agreement on a joint course of action difficult to achieve. Therefore, it is important that all stakeholders - governmental agencies, the business community, and international and non-governmental organizations - address trade facilitation strategically through adequate policies on the national, regional and international levels, emphasizing assistance for the development of weaker partners.

Inefficient trade procedures and a lack of trade facilitation have a greater negative effect on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and on enterprises in developing countries. The reason for this is that small-value consignments carry a disproportionately high cost burden due to the fixed costs that have to be paid per consignment. Addressing the problems of these "weaker" stakeholders is one of the principal objectives of the Forum. Recent studies within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) estimate that investment in trade facilitation would have a very strong effect, increasing exports from transition and developing economies by tens of billions of dollars. The greatest gains to developing and transition economies would come from improvements in border crossings and customs efficiency. The institutions that have done recent studies on the benefits from trade facilitation will be invited to present their findings at the second International Forum on Trade Facilitation.

The objective is to organize the Forum as a truly interactive event. The discussion will be initiated by a limited number of speakers and will involve panellists and participants from the audience.

Several background concept papers will be prepared on: the effects of trade facilitation on income distribution, the sources of developing country concerns about trade facilitation, etc. They will be made available on the Forum web site (www.unece.org/forums). In addition, the Forum will raise awareness of the necessity for further work and research of new solutions, in collaboration with UNCITRAL, on legal issues in the facilitation and simplification of trade procedures and information flows. The Forum will address the issue of trade facilitation in port procedures.

Parallel to the Forum, workshops on technical issues and intellectual property rights in trade facilitation will be organized, together with the European Patent Office and the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). It is expected that the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID) will present a study on the position and reservations of selected developing countries on the inclusion of trade facilitation in the WTO multilateral trade negotiations. This paper, based on interviews with key officials of a representative set of developing countries, attempts to understand the economic, political and legal reasons for these countries' concerns. It suggests options for dealing with these concerns.

OBJECTIVES

The Forum is expected to define new, practical measures to progress trade facilitation in the new world environment. It will highlight possible ways of constructing an equitable mechanism of facilitating trade, where small and large countries and businesses will share the benefits. It will point to innovative methods for resolving the dilemma between heightened security measures and the necessity for faster movement of goods, services and information. In particular, the Forum will:

- provide a neutral platform for an exchange of views and a policy debate among the various stakeholders in trade facilitation, especially on the issues of sharing the benefits and the balance between advancing security and trade facilitation;
- provide a platform at which all the preparatory materials for the Fifth WTO Ministerial

Meeting in Cancún can be presented and compared;

- offer a meeting place for representatives of Governments, business and international organizations, who can then influence the decision making processes in their countries or institutions;
- enhance the public and private sectors' understanding of the benefits of trade facilitation, which include: (a) improving efficiency; (b) creating jobs; (c) promoting transparency; (d) enhancing government revenue; and (e) boosting competitiveness;
- put an emphasis on promoting mechanisms for capacity building in developing and transition economies to give substance to the Doha Development Agenda of the WTO;
- underline the multidimensional aspects of trade facilitation;
- emphasize the necessity for more work on the legal aspects of trade facilitation;
- highlight the role of trade facilitation in successful e-business;
- identify areas where new instruments, including standards, are needed;
- enhance the mechanisms of cooperation among Governments, international organizations and the private sector, including the possibility of making the best use of a combination of regional and global competencies;
- suggest harmonized methods for measuring progress in the implementation of trade facilitation;
- decide on follow-up action and implementation.

A publication containing the papers produced for the Forum will be prepared.

The Forum aims at bringing together the following groups of participants:

- government policy makers at the level of ministers and deputy-ministers, heads of customs services, ambassadors to the UN and the WTO;
- senior business executives and chiefs of large trade associations;
- heads of international and non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, national trade

facilitation bodies, and trade associations;

- experts specializing in international trade, trade facilitation and globalization.

OUTCOME

The Forum, which will be the major event on trade facilitation in the world in the months before the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancún, will contribute to creating a positive framework for implementing international instruments and proposing an attractive set of solutions regarding trade and transport facilitation. It will suggest ways in which trade facilitation can help improve the efficiency of supply chain logistics in a volatile international trade environment. In particular it will:

- strengthen the global network for trade facilitation within the United Nations as a place for open policy debate on the issue;
- adopt a practical United Nations initiative fostering trade facilitation around the world, focused on the next steps that Governments, the business community and international organizations should take;
- investigate the possibility of developing an international standard for security in trade procedures, which would apply equally to all;
- contribute to building the political will necessary for implementing trade facilitation among various groups of countries;
- make a substantive contribution to the preparations for the discussion of trade facilitation at the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancún, Mexico.

The Forum will encourage greater participation of developing and transition economies in the global trade facilitation debate.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

The Forum is organized at the UN in Geneva, a city that increasingly becomes the global hub for trade diplomacy. The expected benefits from the Forum are:

- for *policy makers* - to participate in a network of decision makers and experts who will influence the definition of the trade facilitation agenda for the future; to obtain information that will allow them to make informed decisions in formulating national strategies and trade policy;
- for *leaders of the business community* – to make their position heard among policy makers and ambassadors to the UN and WTO; to interact with other major players in trade facilitation; and to make their companies better known to the international community;
- for *intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations* - to become involved in a wide, cross-sector network of government and business leaders; to carry out “reality checks”; to progress inter-regional and inter-institutional cooperation in trade facilitation;
- for *academics and experts* - to contribute to and become part of the development of concepts and strategies for future trade facilitation.
- Participants will discuss the opportunities for enhancing world trade and economic growth. They will become acquainted with the latest trade facilitation techniques and regulatory developments, especially with regard to the new security environment in world trade, and contribute to policy debate regarding trade facilitation.

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For more details, please visit the Forum’s web site: www.unece.org/forums or call Mr. Mario Apostolov, UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, tel. +41 22 9171134, fax: +41 22 9170037, e-mail: mario.apostolov@unece.org

DAY ONE: Wednesday, 14 May 2003

8:30 Registration

9:30 Opening Session

Ms. Brigita SCHMÖGNEROVÁ
Executive Secretary, United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Mr. SUPACHAI Panichpakdi
Director-General, World Trade Organization
(WTO)

Mr. Rubens RICUPERO
Secretary-General, United Nations
Conference on Trade and Development
(UNCTAD)

**Session I: How to achieve benefits for all
from trade facilitation?**

Chairperson:

Mr. Mondher ZNAIDI
Minister of Tourism, Trade and Handicrafts
Tunisia

Rapporteur:

Prof. Henri SCHWAMM
Honorary Professor of Economics
University of Geneva

Speakers:

Sharing the gains of globalization

Mr. Pascal LAMY
Trade Commissioner, European Commission

***Trade facilitation in the new security
environment –the perspective of South-eastern
Europe***

Mr. Nikolay VASSILEV
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Economy, Bulgaria

***Trade facilitation in the multilateral trade
negotiations***

Mr. Roderick ABBOTT
Deputy Director-General, World Trade
Organization (WTO)

**Practical measures for future trade
facilitation**

Mr. Alberto Di LISCIA
Assistant Director-General, United Nations
Industrial Development Organization
(UNIDO), and Director of the UNIDO

Geneva Office

***The need for a rules-based foundation:
everyone's contribution matters***

Mr. Matt ROHDE
United States Trade Representative's office

Costs and benefits of trade facilitation

Mr. Anthony KLEITZ
Head, Trade Liberalisation and Review
Division, Organization for Economic
Cooperation and Development (OECD)

**The economic impact of trade facilitation
measures**

Mr. John WILSON
Principal Economist, Development Research
Group, The World Bank

Discussion paper:

Income distribution impact of trade facilitation

Mr. Adrian HEWITT
Senior Research Fellow, Director of the ODI
Fellowship Scheme and Research Adviser to
the All-Party Parliamentary Group on
Overseas Development, United Kingdom

13:15 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

**Workshop on IPR and trade facilitation:
"Identifying the Roadblocks"**

Co-organized by the UN Economic
Commission for Europe, the European Patent
Office and SMG Consulting, Sweden

Chairperson:

Zoran JOLEVSKI, Chef de Cabinet of the
President of the FYR Macedonia

Rapporteur:

Eskil ULLBERG, Senior Consultant, SMG
Consulting

Panellists:

Mr. Schatz, European Patent Office
Mr. Timothy Trainer, UNECE Advisory Group
on IP
Mr. David Marsh, UN/CEFACT

**Session II: Trade facilitation policy and
new security initiatives**

Chairperson:

Mr. Andrey SVINARENKO
Vice Minister of Industry, Science and
Technology, Russian Federation

Rapporteur:

Robert van Kuik
The Netherlands, Member of the Council,
the World Customs Organization (WCO)

***Trade facilitation in the new security
environment***

Mr. Douglas BROWNING
Deputy Commissioner, US Customs

The industry response to the new challenges

Chief Executive Officer of one of the
companies participating in the “Global Trade

Security” Team

The Jordanian experience in trade and security

Name to be announced
Jordan

***The balance between trade facilitation and
heightened security measures in customs***

Mr. Kunio MIKURIYA
Deputy Secretary-General, World Customs
Organization (WCO)

Discussion paper:

Mr. Hans CARL
President, International Multi-Modal
Transport Association (IMMTA)

18:30 COCKTAIL RECEPTION

**at the Restaurant des Délégués, Palais des
Nations, 8th fl. All participants are invited**

8:30 – 9:30 Seminar on UNeDocs: Towards a Global Standard for Electronic Trade Documents

Presentations by:

UN Economic Commission for Europe
Universal Postal Union
Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO), UK
Microsoft
Adobe

**9:30 Session III: Mechanisms of Cooperation:
The role of the business
community**

Chairperson:

Ms. Maria LIVANOS CATTALDI
Secretary-General, International Chamber of
Commerce (ICC)

Rapporteur:

...

Speakers:

***How to achieve maximum trade facilitation in
a regulatory environment***

Mr. Rolf JEKER, Société Générale de
Surveillance SA (SGS)

***New solutions for trade facilitation and e-
business accessible to all***

Mr. Patrick GANNON, President and CEO,
OASIS

***The business contribution to development and
safe trade***

Microsoft, Speaker to be announced

13:15 - 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:00 Presentation

**Study on the perceptions and priorities of selected
developing countries on the inclusion of trade
facilitation in the WTO multilateral trade negotiations
(DFID)**

This paper, based on interviews with key officials of a representative set of developing countries, attempts to understand the economic, political and legal reasons for these countries' concerns on the inclusion of trade facilitation in WTO negotiations. It suggests options for dealing with these concerns.

15:00 Session IV: Open Regionalism

Chairperson:

Amb. Lucius WASESCHA
Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade
Agreements

The UNECE experience in trade facilitation

Ms. Carol COSGROVE-SACKS, Director,
Trade Development and Timber Division,
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

***The role of ESCWA in promoting trade
facilitation***

Mr. Nabil SAFWAT
Chief, Transport Section, Economic and
Social Commission for Western Asia
(ESCWA)

***The role of ECLAC in promoting trade
facilitation***

Speaker to be announced

***The role of ESCAP in promoting trade
facilitation and simplification of port
procedures***

Mr. Barry CABLE
Director, Transport and Tourism Division,
Economic and Social Commission for Asia
and the Pacific (ESCAP)

The role of ECA in promoting trade facilitation

Mr. Cornelius MWALWANDA
Senior Economic Officer, Economic
Commission for Africa (ECA)

***Lessons learned from the first International
Forum on Trade Facilitation, May 2002***

Mr. David WAKEFORD
Chief Executive,
Simpler Trade Procedures Board (SITPRO),
UK

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSIONS

Amb. Lucius WASESCHA
Delegate of the Swiss Government for Trade
Agreements

END OF FORUM: 18:00 on 15 May 2003

REGISTRATION AND ENQUIRIES

The Forum will be held with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Russian. There are no charge fees for registration. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel and hotel accommodation in Geneva.

*As places are limited, completed **registration** forms should be sent as soon as possible and **no later than 30 April 2003** to:*

Mrs. Dominique Rames
Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Tel.: (+41 22) 917 2481
Fax: (+41 22) 917 0037
E-mail: dominique.rames@unece.org

*In case you require an **entry visa** for Switzerland, please send an e-mail to Mrs. Dominique Rames (dominique.rames@unece.org), indicating your name, address and passport number and, if possible, the fax number as well as the postal address of the Swiss Embassy closest to you.*

For further information and hotel reservations, please see the website
www.unece.org/forums

Please consult the web page of the Forum as soon as possible for preferential hotel rates:
www.unece.org/trade/forums/forum02/registration/hotel_info.htm

ACCESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS PREMISES

Security at the Palais des Nations has been significantly increased. Participants must first obtain their personal security badges, which will have been already prepared at the Villa Les Feuillantines, located near the Palais des Nations (see attached map), and only then they can be allowed to enter the United Nations premises.

Therefore participants are requested to complete the Conference Registration Form overleaf and return it to the secretariat not later than **30 April 2003**. An electronic version of the Form is available on request or can be downloaded from the Forum website www.unece.org/forums

The meeting hall will be announced later.

ENQUIRIES about participation should be addressed to the Forum Coordinator:

Mr. Mario Apostolov
Trade Division, Office 437
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10

Tel. (+41 22) 917 11 34
Fax. (+41 22) 917 00 37
E-mail: mario.apostolov@unece.org
<http://www.unece.org/forums>



REGISTRATION FORM

I will be representing: State/Organization/Agency

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Participant	Family Name	First Name
Mr./Ms.		

I will be participating in the following event(s):

(please indicate your status of participation for each event)

1.	International Forum on Trade Facilitation		14 and 15 May 2003
	Head of Delegation	Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your Permanent Mission? NO	Observer Organization
	Delegation Member		NGO (ECOSOC Accredited)
	Observer Country		Other (please specify (University, Private Sector, etc.))
2.	Plenary session of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)		12 and 13 May 2003
	Head of Delegation	Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your Permanent Mission? YES NO	Observer Organization
	Delegation Member		NGO (ECOSOC Accredited)
	Observer Country		Other (please specify (University, Private Sector, etc.))
3.	Annual session of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)		13 and 14 May 2003
	Head of Delegation	Are you based in Geneva as a representative of your Permanent Mission? YES NO	Observer Organization
	Delegation Member		NGO (ECOSOC Accredited)
	Observer Country		Other (please specify (University, Private Sector, etc.))

Participation dates	From:	To:
Organization/Enterprise:		Title in Organization/Enterprise:
Passport or ID Number:		Valid until:
Official Telephone Number: +		Fax: +
E:mail Address:		URL:
Permanent Official Address:		
City:	Postal Code:	Country:

Address in Geneva:
