

17 June 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR TRADE FACILITATION AND ELECTRONIC BUSINESS (UN/CEFACT)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNECE AND OASIS

Submitted by the Bureau

This document is for information and is presented under agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda.

TRADE/CEFACT/2005/MISC.2



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Cooperation Agreement

Between

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

On behalf of

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

and

**Organization for the Advancement of Structured
Information Standards (OASIS Open)**

The Parties have reached the following understanding:

1. UNECE-UN/CEFACT and OASIS acknowledge their common interest in close cooperation, and re-affirm their mutual intent to work cooperatively to define and deliver standards and methods to facilitate electronic business and trade. The signatories acknowledge the positive results arising from their past cooperative endeavours, including the creation and adoption of the ebXML set of standards (referenced at ebxml.org, among other places, and recently designated as ISO 15000).
2. UNECE-UN/CEFACT and OASIS will continue to strive to deliver coordinated standards needed to facilitate electronic business and trade facilitation.
 - a. The parties will consult regarding, and work to coordinate, their activities in support of adoption and promotion of the ebXML technologies as originally defined and presently announced, as well as such additional work as the parties may mutually agree to classify as part of ebXML.
 - b. The parties will continue to identify and develop voluntarily coordinated approaches to the fulfilment of e-business and trade facilitation needs, in additional areas that may include, but are not limited to ebXML, semantic methodologies and web services consistent with their respective policies, procedures, rules and regulations.
 - c. The parties will appoint representatives to jointly develop and recommend an OASIS-UNECE-UN/CEFACT project alignment and coordination plan, addressing areas of common technical interest, including:
 - i) Harmonization of core data components, UBL, other business data entity libraries, etc.

- ii) Naming and Design Rules.
- iii) Mechanisms for business process specification.
- iv) Adoption and promotion efforts for the ebXML specifications.
- v) Identity, addressing and e-signature functionalities with potential for interoperability across UNeDocs, Universal Postal Union practices, and other trade facilitation ID and e-signature instances.

3. UNECE-UN/CEFACT and OASIS mutually undertake to remain in communication at executive and technical working group levels for the purposes of voluntarily achieving the purposes noted in this agreement. The parties will continue to encourage co-located meetings of their relevant working teams; will consult in advance on proposed public announcements about ebXML and other projects arising under this agreement,; and will provide for strategic cooperation via mutual liaison roles established in a manner appropriate to each organization's rules and procedures. Each party retains sole control of and responsibility over its work agenda and rules, and disclaims any mandate under this Agreement to demand or require changes in the work agenda or rules of any other party hereto.

4. Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

5. Each Party can rescind this cooperation agreement at any time by sending 30 days' written notice to the other Party.

The United Nations, through its Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is

to facilitate national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonisation of processes, procedures and information flows, and so to contribute to the growth of global commerce.

OASIS is a not-for-profit, international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. Consortium members develop standards for Web services, security, e-business, and also advance standardization efforts in the public sector and for application-specific markets.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the United Nations and OASIS have affixed their signatures below.

For UNECE:

Name: Brigita Schmögnerová

Title: Executive Secretary

Date: 21 June 2005

Signature:

For OASIS:

Name: Patrick Gannon

Title: President and CEO

Date: 21 June 2005

Signature: