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Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices

for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Fourth session, 14-16 September 1998

POLAND: Recent Progress on Trade Procedures Facilitation and on the UN/EDIFACT National Implementation Plan

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Submitted by the delegation of Poland *

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for noting and information.

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With reference to the report of the delegation of Poland in the document TRADE/WP.4/CRP.1 from the CEFACT Plenary of 18 September, 1996, we report on the work of our EC/EDI community in the new economic and technological environment during the two last years. In response to CEFACT document TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.14 from the March 1998 Plenary, we continue work on the adoption of Recommendation 25. The UN/EDIFACT standard has to be the universal standard for electronic data interchange in administration, commerce and transport also in Poland.

1. EDI Center - Poland (CEDIP), the organization for the development, promotion and implementation EC/EDI in all aspects, re-organised their work to be more effective. CEDIP started its own re-engineering work in September 1996. This has resulted in its transformation into the new structure. The new structure, as the co-ordination body in Poland, has a Steering Committee with governmental units, administration, industry, banks, private companies, institutes and universities. CEDIP, in accordance with the migration plan, is the executive body with the POLPRO office and the working groups. The POLPRO office was organized to be inside the CEDIP structure, which has the budget for carrying out its activity. CEDIP is a non profit organization.
2. The most important part of the CEDIP programme for the near future is to develop an EC/EDI and UN/EDIFACT National Implementation Plan for Poland . The project for this plan was made by the Steering Committee of CEDIP and by an Electronic Document Team co-ordinated by the National Bank of Poland. The plan was introduced to the Ministry of Commerce and was sent to the other ministries for information. In that plan, one of the most important points is close co-operation with the working groups of CEFACT.
3. In the EC/EDI National Implementation Plan the following were taken into account: the specific Polish economic situation: an open manner of trading, commerce, production, finance, etc., the strong economic development, a high level of information and communications technology and Poland's need to prepare for membership in the EU.
4. The main points of the plan are:
 - to establish a Polish national organization for the promotion, development, and implementation of EC/EDI-based on the UN/EDIFACT standard and trade facilitation procedures by CEDIP, including other interested organizations.
 - to establish the national committees and the working groups to carry out the plan of these organizations,
 - to develop the Polish normalisation base for all the elements of EC/EDI for national sectors of commerce as were recommended by UN/ECE and ISO,
 - to develop the sub-set messages in the UN/EDIFACT standard for the different sectors of commerce, and especially for the Polish financial sector,
 - to develop the recommendations for the adaptation of trade facilitation procedures indicated by CEFACT,
 - to change legal acts to give digital signatures and electronic documents the same legal status as written signatures and paper document (to eliminate the paper documents),
 - promotion of and training on EC/EDI (publications, conferences, seminars, etc.)

5. The national organization, CEDIP, together with others, not waiting for confirmation of the National Plan, are already undertaking the main points.

One office and seven working groups have been established:

POLPRO office for Trade Procedures Facilitation

- Development of UN/EDIFACT Sub-set messages (EWG)
 - Implementation of EDIFACT Working Group (IEWG),
 - Promotion of EC/EDI Working Group (PECWG),
 - Logistics Working Group (LOWG),
 - Legal Working Group (LWG),
 - LOCODE Working Group (LCWG),
 - CAD/CAM Working Group (CCWG),
6. The experts from POLPRO, EWG, LWG, and PECWG will be recommended to work in the parallel CEFACT working groups ITPWG, LWG, EWG and ECAWG.
 7. The activities for promotion and popularisation of EC/EDI, with the help of PHARE Funds, include the production of the following six publications:
 - A guide for EDI implementation
 - dictionary of EDI terminology
 - hand-book for EDI users
 - automatic identification – bar codes
 - the sub-set messages of UN/EDIFACT
 - base of standards
 8. The main points of promotion are the two national conferences organized every year. One is the national conference organised by CEDIP - in Rydzyna near Poznan- which is promoted by the Ministry of Commerce. At each conference, individuals participated representing the Polish government, specialists from Poland and from abroad. During these conferences presentations are made on EDI systems which were implemented in Poland. Implemented new EC/EDI system solutions, which are on the market, were presented by five private companies. The V National Conference EC/EDI Poland'98 - in Rydzyna will be organised in November 1998. The other national conference is organized by "CONSULTING" - a private firm in Lodz, usually in June, in close cooperation with the scientific community. The Sixth Conference took place this year, with over 100 participants from Poland and from abroad .
 9. There is now a site on the Internet WWW, at: <http://www.ow-simp.home.pl>), for all people interested in the implementation of EC/EDI systems in Poland.
 10. The Polish delegation takes part in the CEFACT plenary sessions. The Polish representatives were nominated by the Ministry of Commerce and CEDIP. The Polish experts will participate in CEFACT working groups.

11. Recently in Poland, very important changes have taken place in relation to the legal situation. The banking act was changed to give permission for the use of electronic documents in banking activities. Now under discussion is the preparation of changes to laws to give the same status to digital signatures as written signatures.
12. The Polish commercial banks, under the auspices of the Polish Banks Association, with assistance from the National Bank of Poland, joined forces on a new shared system. They prepared the implementation in Poland of one home banking system using the UN/EDIFACT standard.
13. The automotive industry in Poland is a pioneer in the practical use of EC/EDI systems with the implementation of UN/EDIFACT messages. The main companies that have implemented EDI messages are FIAT Auto Poland, GM-OPAL – Poland and DAEWOO-FSO.
14. In Poland, the high level of information technology, telecommunications, and data transmission networks are a very good basis for the implementation of EC/EDI systems in all sectors of commerce. The UN/EDIFACT standard has a good chance of being implemented because of close co-operation between Polish industry, banks, and other sectors of the economy with foreign partners which use EC/EDI.
15. All the above-mentioned forms of activity concerning the facilitation of trade with the wide use of electronic commerce and electronic data interchange (EC/EDI) based on close co-operation with CEFACT, have established good conditions for the wide implementation in Poland of UN and EU standards and EC/EDI systems.

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