

**GENERAL**  
**TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.17**  
**17 March 1999**

**CEFACT**

**DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1999**

**SOURCE: THE SECRETARIAT**  
**STATUS: DECISIONS**  
**ACTION: FOR APPROVAL BY THE PLENARY,**  
**WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH, 1999**

**COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

**Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and  
Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport**  
**Fifth session, 16-17 March 1999**

**DECISIONS OF THE FIFTH SESSION**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1999**

**Agenda Item 1 - Adoption of the provisional agenda**

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/1/Rev.1 Provisional agenda for the fifth CEFACT session

**Decision:**

**1.1. The Plenary approved the provisional agenda.**

**Agenda Item 2: Report of the September 1998 UN/CEFACT session**

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1998/27 Report of the September 1998 UN/CEFACT session  
TRADE/CEFACT/1998/27/Corr.1

**Decision:**

**2.1. The Plenary approved the report of the fourth session of  
UN/CEFACT.**

**Agenda Item 3 - Election of Officers**

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.15 List of nominations to the CSG

**Decisions:**

**3.1. The Plenary elected as vice-chairs of the UN/CEFACT:**

Ms. Teresa Sorrenti, USA and Mr. Ray Walker, UK, representing ECE countries;  
Mr. Kenji Itoh, Japan, representing article 11 countries; and  
Mr. Santiago Mila, IAPH, representing IAPH

**3.2. The Plenary elected the following candidates for the CEFACT Steering Group (CSG):**

Mr. Alex DE LIJSTER, nominated by The Netherlands  
Mr. David DOBBING, nominated by Australia  
Mr. Harry FEATHERSTONE, nominated by the USA  
Mr. Pierre GEORGET, nominated by France  
Mr. Peter GULDENTOPS, nominated by SWIFT  
Mr. Dariush HAGHIGHI TALAB, nominated by AFACT  
Mr. Tahseen Ahmad KHAN, nominated by AFACT  
Ms. Paivi LEHTONEN, nominated by Finland  
Mr. Klaus NAUJOK, nominated by Canada  
Mr. Emile PEETERS, nominated by Belgium  
Mz. Adriana SIRZEA, nominated by Romania  
Mr. Rob VAN KUIK, nominated by WCO  
Mz. Christina WALLEN-RALHEN, nominated by Sweden  
Mr. Peter WILSON, nominated by the UK  
Mr. Chris WOLF, nominated by Germany

**3.1. The Plenary elected Mr. Ray Walker as Chair of the CSG**

Agenda item 4 - UN/CEFACT Steering Group (CSG) Reports

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/16	Report of the CSG Chair to the UN/CEFACT Plenary
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/17	Report of the CSG Chair on the September 1998 meeting
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.4	Report of the CSG Chair to the January 1999 meeting

**Decisions:**

**4.1 The Plenary noted the proposal for a new standards development process, as outlined in the CSG Chair's report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary under par. 28.**

- 4.2 The Plenary approved the CSG Chair's recommendation to the effect that no change should be made in this session to the UN/CEFACT procedures outlined in the document TRADE/R.650 and that the matter should be reviewed by the Plenary in the March 2000 UN/CEFACT Plenary, as outlined in the CSG Chair's report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary under par. 31.
- 4.3 The Plenary approved the proposal to develop a detailed procedure to cover intercessional approval of documents, as outlined in the CSG Chair's report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary under par. 32.
- 4.4 The Plenary approved the CSG recommendation to delegate the authority for maintenance of the code lists associated with UN/CEFACT Recommendations to the Code Working Group, as outlined in the CSG Chair's report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary under par. 33.
- 4.5 The Plenary approved the concept of Information Reports which will be made available to the Plenary for information, but will not be for decision or review at the Plenary.
- 4.6 The Plenary noted the CSG's report to the Plenary as a whole and approved the recommendations listed above.

Agenda item 5 - Progress reports from mandated groups

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/2	New message design rules (TRADE/WP.4/R.840/Rev.5)- implementation timetable and strategy
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/3	UN/EDIFACT message design rules for EDI
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/7	SIMAC final report
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.2	Review of definitions of "writing", "signature" and "document" employed in multinational conventions and agreements relating to international trade
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.5	Electronic Commerce Agreement
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.7	Recommendation to UNCITRAL
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.8	Glossary of SIMAC
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.10	Report of UN/EDIFACT working group to the Plenary
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.12	SIMAC future vision statement
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.13	XML issue statement

**Decisions:**

- 5.1. The Plenary noted the final report and the Glossary of Terms from the Ad hoc Working Group on Simpl-EDI and Web based EDI (SIMAC).
- 5.2. The Plenary instructed the CSG to take the appropriate steps to establish strong working links with the internet community.
- 5.3. The Plenary noted the report from the UN/EDIFACT Working Group, the UN/EDIFACT Message Design Rules for EDI and the Implementation Timetable and Strategy for the Message Design Rules.
- 5.4. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the Techniques and methodologies Working Group.
- 5.5. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the Business Processes Analysis Working Group.
- 5.6. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the Code Working Group.
- 5.7. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the International Trade procedures working group.
- 5.8. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the Legal Working Group, the Review of definitions of "writing", "signature" and "document" employed in multinational conventions and agreements relating to international trade, and the draft Electronic Commerce Agreement.
- 5.9. The Plenary unanimously approved the recommendation to UNCITRAL regarding definitions of "writing", "signature" and "document"

Agenda item 6 - Promotion of UN/CEFACT objectivesDocuments:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.6

Report from the UN/CEFACT Promotion Advisory  
Ad Hoc Working Group**Decisions:**

- 6.1. The Plenary noted the report from the Ad hoc Promotion Working Group
- 6.2. The Plenary authorized the Secretary to place information on the Web in the source language in which it is submitted prior to any translation and also if no translation take place, subject to the documents being identified as working documents for

information and presented as submitted.

- 6.3. The Plenary noted the firm commitment by the Economic Commission for Africa to work towards effective promotion of trade facilitation in general and UN/CEFACT in particular.

Agenda item 7 - Reports from UN/CEFACT Rapporteurs and related matters

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.3                      Report of the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Asia

**Decision:**

- 7.1. The Plenary noted the report by the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur from Asia.
- 7.2. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the Standard Liaison Rapporteur.
- 7.3. The Plenary approved the new mandate for Legal Liaison Rapporteurs, as outlined in Annex B of the CSG Chair's report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary.
- 7.4. The Plenary approved the appointment of Mr. Renaud Sorieul as UNCITRAL Legal Liaison Rapporteur and Mr. David Marsh, UK as UN/CEFACT Legal Liaison Rapporteur.
- 7.5. The Plenary officially recognized the valuable contribution over many years to the work of UN/CEFACT and its predecessor WP4, of the retiring Legal Rapporteur Mz Anne Troye

Agenda item 8 - Strategy and programme of work

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.1                      Revision of the Strategic View of UN/CEFACT's work (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/19)

**Decision:** The Plenary approved the report, Revision of the Strategic View of UN/CEFACT's Work, while noting that in point 12 of the report, UNCTAD and UNCITRAL should be included in the examples of organizations with which UN/CEFACT will be working closely.

Agenda item 9: Approval of recommendations

Documents:

ECE/CEFACT/227                                      Rec#16 - UN Codes for Ports and other locations

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/11	Draft revision of Rec.#4 - National trade facilitation bodies
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/12	Draft Rec#12 - Measures to facilitate maritime transport documents procedures
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/Corr.1	Final draft Rec.#12 - Corrigendum
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/15	Draft Rec#15 - Simpler shipping marks
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/Corr.1	Draft Rec#15 - Corrigendum
TRADE/CEFACT/1999/14	Draft Rec. on Preshipment inspection

Note: Agenda item to be dealt with on March 17, 1999

Agenda item 10: Reports from regional bodies and initiatives, and regional advisors

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/18	Support of Trade Facilitation Measures and UN/CEFACT Implementation in Selected Eastern European Countries
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Note: Agenda item to be dealt with on March 17, 1999

Agenda item 11: Cooperation with other international organisations

Documents:

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/15	Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO and UNECE concerning standardisation in the field of electronic business
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**Decisions:**

- 11.1. The Plenary noted the Memorandum of Understanding between UN/ECE, ISO and IEC regarding standardization in the field of electronic business.**
- 11.2. The Plenary noted the verbal report from the World Customs organization regarding the status of the revision of the Kyoto Convention**

Agenda item 12: Other business

Note: Agenda item to be dealt with on March 17, 1999

Agenda item 13: Adoption of the report - approx. 20 min.

Note: Agenda item to be dealt with on March 17, 1999

