



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION**

**RECOGNIZING** that trade facilitation reduces transaction costs, enhances predictability and increases competitiveness in national and international economies, through the simplification, harmonization and standardization of regulatory and procedural practices;

**BELIEVING** that simplified, harmonised and standardised business and regulatory procedures can achieve more effective official controls with improved trade facilitation;

**RECOGNIZING** that international business needs uniform, clear and simple rules and procedures to facilitate cross-border trade and develop global business strategies;

**NOTING** that international non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations actively participate and support these efforts;

**RECOGNIZING** that the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves in the United Nations as the focal point for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services;

**RECOGNIZING** that a key aim of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), amongst others, is to provide the means for collaboration among the air transport enterprises engaged in international air transport service, and to co-operate with other international organizations;

**NOTING** the existing working relationship between the UNECE and IATA and their common strategic objectives in the area of efficient international trade procedures;

**RECALLING** the multilateral Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (hereafter “WTO”) in Bali in December 2013, Indonesia, and the subsequent adoption by WTO members in November 2014 of a Protocol of Amendment to insert the new Agreement into Annex 1A of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the WTO;

The **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the International Air Transport Association** hereby agree to the following:

**I.** To jointly promote the concept of trade facilitation and the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business;

**II.** To work together where practical and appropriate to ensure harmonization of global trade facilitation standards that are of mutual interest;

**III.** To jointly conduct, where necessary and required, and subject to available resources, appropriate outreach activities to raise awareness of such recommendation and standards and to support countries in their implementation;

**IV.** To consult on and co-operate in these activities with other international institutions, including but not limited to the World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, UNCTAD, ITC, OECD and the International Chamber of Commerce;

**V.** To strengthen effective and systematic consultation, co-operation, and the exchange of information;

**VI.** To review the provisions and operation of this Memorandum in the light of experience gained and to consider modifications and developments, as appropriate.

**VII.** This Memorandum does not create any legally binding obligations between the parties, nor does it prevent the parties from pursuing the goals set forth herein on their own or with other third parties.

Done in Geneva on

For the United Nations Economic Commission  
for Europe (UNECE), Geneva, Switzerland

For the International Air Transport  
Association (IATA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Christian Friis Bach

Executive Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Antony Tyler

Director General  
and Chief Executive Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_