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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Executive Committee

**Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business****Informal virtual consultation with members of the UN/CEFACT Plenary**

Geneva, 4-5 May 2020

Item 6 of the agenda

**Agreement on request to use silence procedure decision for business-critical work****Request to use silence procedure decision for business-critical work***Summary*

Because of the postponement of the twenty-sixth session of the UN/CEFACT Plenary due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to act certain decisions that were scheduled in order to ensure business continuity. The UNECE Executive Committee to which UN/CEFACT reports encouraged the subsidiary bodies of UNECE to explore innovative formats to conduct business remotely, which may on an exceptional basis and for business-critical issues include decision-making through silence procedure outside the regular sessions of the respective bodies.

This note has been prepared to allow the business-critical decisions described in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12 to be taken during this period.

Document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.13 has been prepared by the Chair; it was translated to French and Russian by the secretariat. It is proposed to participants of the informal virtual consultation for agreement.

**Arrangements for business-critical decisions in order to ensure the continued governance of UN/CEFACT caused by disruptions during the COVID-19 period**

Further to the Special Procedures during the COVID-19 period adopted by the Executive Committee of the UNECE on 6 April 2020, the Executive Committee

1. Takes note that the Plenary of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) held informal consultations on 4-5 May 2020 to discuss business critical decisions that would have been taken at its twenty-sixth session originally scheduled 4-5 May 2020, which was postponed due to mitigating measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Authorizes the Chair of UN/CEFACT to circulate drafts of seven independent business-critical decisions, agreed upon at this informal consultation and contained in document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2020/INF.12 under a silence procedure of at least 72 hours through the country Heads of Delegation of the UN/CEFACT Plenary and in accordance with Rule 44 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the UNECE as contained in E/ECE/778/Rev.5.
3. If the silence is not broken, the decisions shall be considered adopted and will be submitted to the next formal session of EXCOM for noting. Further, the decisions will be reported back to the 26<sup>th</sup> session of UN/CEFACT, as appropriate.