



UNECE
UN/CEFACT

Trade Information Portals

Sharing Implementation Experiences and Best Practices



Wednesday, 7 October 2020

13:00-15:00 Geneva time

Virtual

<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=55084>

Background

Getting timely, accurate and dependable information related to importation, exportation and transit when planning a cross-border operation is essential. This allows traders to understand the necessary procedures, prepare their work and most importantly allocate the necessary funds.

The importance of Information Portals to provide such information is recognized internationally within the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement's first article. But this principle is not new to the WTO; the principle of predictability is at the basis of the 1947 General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), predecessor to the WTO. It was clearly recognized that traders require predictability in order to effectively trade across borders.

However, this principle realizes in many countries in different ways. Most of the countries are developing the Trade Information Portal.

UN/CEFACT Single Window Domain experts elaborated the project of the recommendation on Trade Information Portals. This recommendation describes what information should be shared, how it should be shared, what legal responsibility for the information shared and etc.

Objective

This conference proposes to examine some actual implementations and country experiences in order to share best practices. It will be an opportunity to be inspired by current practices and identify the future evolutions. This will also provide the opportunity to shape the work within the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) on a future recommendation on Information Portals.

Agenda

13:00 – 13:10 – Opening Address and overview

- Ms. Maria Ceccarelli, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, UNECE
- Mr. Aleksei Bondarenko, UN/CEFACT Vice-Chair

Session 1: Trade Information Portal as an instrument of trade facilitation

Moderator: Mr. Jalal Benhayoun, UN/CEFACT Single Window Domain Coordinator

13:10 – 13:25 – Future UNECE Recommendation 38 on Trade Information Portal – Update on the work of the UN/CEFACT Project Team

- Mr. Lance Thompson, Secretary of UN/CEFACT, UNECE

13:25 – 14:15 – Trade Information Portal relevance for trade facilitation

- Mr. Pierre Bonthonneau, Advisor, TF Team, International Trade Center
- Mr. Kjartan Sorensen, Regional coordinator, Business Facilitation Programme, UNCTAD
- Mr. William Gain, Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist, World Bank

Session 2: Good practices and Solutions

Moderator: Mr. Aleksei Bondarenko, UN/CEFACT Vice-Chair

14:15 – 15:15 – Trade Information Portal country experiences

- Morocco: Mr. Jalal Benhayoun, General Manager, Portnet
- Tajikistan: Mr. Najibulloi Zaydullo, National Consultant, Ministry Economic Development and Trade
- Kenya: Ms. Jane Musyoki, Kentrade
- Laos: Ms. Latthana Douangboupha

15:15 – 15:30 – Question and Answers

Concluding session

15:30 – 15:45 – Summary and recommendations for UN/CEFACT

- Mr. Aleksei Bondarenko, UN/CEFACT Vice-Chair

What is UN/CEFACT?

UN/CEFACT, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to **exchange products and relevant services effectively**. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through **the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows**, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce.

UN/CEFACT has a global mandate. Participation in the UN/CEFACT Forum is open to all. There are some 300 experts representing every region in the world.

Within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves 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. In this context UN/CEFACT was established, as a subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE.

For more information:
<http://www.unece.org/cefact>
See also: <http://tfig.unece.org/>

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This conference takes place during the 35th UN/CEFACT Virtual Forum.

Participation is free of charge, but all participants will be asked to register before joining the webinar.

Detailed agendas and link to the webinar available at:
<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54794>