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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices  
for Administration, Commerce and Transport  
Meeting of Experts on Data Elements  
and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1)  
Fifty-seventh session, 18 March 1998

**REPORT OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

1. The Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1) held its fifty-seventh session in Geneva on 18 March 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr. Harvey Bates (Australia).

2. Participants in the meeting included representatives of:

The following countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The European Union (EU)

The following inter-governmental organizations:

Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The following United Nations bodies:

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

And the following non-governmental organizations:

European Electronic Messaging Association (EEMA), International Article Numbering Association (EAN), International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (S.W.I.F.T.)

3. Observers, present at the invitation of the secretariat, included representatives of: the European Board for EDI/EC Standardization (EBES), the Association of Committees on Simplified Procedures for Internal Trade within the European Community and the European Free Trade Association (EUROPRO), the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA), the Shipplanning Message Development Group (SMDG) and the Yugoslav Association for Electronic Data Interchange (YUEDI).

**Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda**

Documents:

- TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/11 Report of the 56th session of GE.1
- TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/1/Rev.1 Revised provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange

4. The revised provisional agenda (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/1/Rev.1) was adopted.

**Item 2 - Reports from UN/EDIFACT Steering Group and UN/EDIFACT rapporteurs**

Documents:

- TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.6 Report on the activities of the UN/EDIFACT Steering Group from the ESG Chairman
- TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.7 Report on recent developments in the regions from the regional UN/EDIFACT rapporteurs
- TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.21 Statement on electronic commerce developments in Australia

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UN/EDIFACT**

5. The Chair introduced TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.7 (Recent developments in UN/EDIFACT: regional reports) which the regional EDIFACT rapporteurs had submitted for information.

6. The Asian EDIFACT Rapporteur added to the information in the report by noting that the last meeting of the Asia EDIFACT Board, held in Sri Lanka in November 1997, had been attended by 150 delegates and that the next meeting would be held in Tehran, from 6 to 8 July 1998, followed by the Asia EDIFACT Board's EDICOM conference on 9 and 10 July.

7. The Western-European Rapporteur reported that the organizations supporting UN/EDIFACT and electronic commerce in his region continued to evolve and that UN/EDIFACT was now the responsibility of the European Board for EDIFACT Standardization (EBES). He further noted that many of the user organizations participating in EBES and its supporting groups in Europe were concerned about being disenfranchised under the new CEFACT structures. In addition, there was a general concern that transparency, openness and globalization be preserved, if not enhanced, in the new structures. In particular, it was not felt to be in the best interest of the process if one or two regions were to dominate the work. The Rapporteur concluded by emphasizing the importance of automating the UN/EDIFACT maintenance process as quickly as possible.

8. The EBES delegation indicated that EBES was contributing to the overall work on electronic commerce in Europe through the European Centre for Standardization's (CEN) Information Society Standardization System (ISSS). In this context he believed that UN/EDIFACT had a great deal to contribute, even in the area of consumer to business communications where UN/EDIFACT's experience in the definition of data to be exchanged remained highly relevant.

9. The delegation of Australia then introduced document TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.21 (Statement on electronic commerce developments in Australia) and noted that within his region there was also concern about the possible disenfranchising of existing support groups under CEFACT's new structure.

**10. GE.1 then noted documents: TRADE/CEFACT/CRP.6 (Recent developments in UN/EDIFACT: regional reports), TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.21 (Statement on electronic commerce developments in Australia).**

11. The Chair concluded by noting that the Western-European and Australian concerns had been discussed the previous day during the CEFACT Plenary and he was sure that these issues would be brought to the attention of the EWG and that the EWG would take them into account in developing their structures and procedures.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDIFACT STEERING GROUP**

12. The Chair of the UN/EDIFACT Steering Group (ESG) introduced his report (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.6).

13. He first informed the meeting that, in response to a request for a joint STEP - UN/ECE message development group within the Joint Rapporteurs Team (JRT), the Steering Group had requested a small group of STEP and UN/ECE experts to meet at the September 1997 JRT session to determine whether the request could be covered within the scope of existing activities or required the establishment of a new group. This group had concluded that STEP's needs could be met within Joint Message Development Group 3 (product and quality data) with technical assistance provided by the T7 (EDI associated objects) JRT group. The proposal would be presented to the ECE/ISO/IEC MoU Coordinating Committee meeting to be held during the April 1998 JRT.

14. With regard to progress on the availability of the directories in a UN/EDIFACT message format (DIRDEF), he reported that a project plan had been approved during the September 1998 JRT meeting in order to have a trial version of the D.98A Directory DIRDEF available concurrently with the ASCII data files. However, unforeseen technical problems had prevented this and the trial D.98A DIRDEF message would not be available until some time in April 1998. Nonetheless, the ESG fully expected to see the first release of a production DIRDEF message for auditing concurrently with the D.98B directory files.

15. The ESG Chair then reported that during their meeting in the week prior to the current session, the ESG had concentrated its efforts on achieving a successful migration from the GE.1/ESG structures to the UN/EDIFACT Working Group (EWG). In summary, with the exception of the Business Information Modelling Group (BIM), all of the JRT groups would become part of the EWG. All other GE.1 groups, with the exception of AC.1, would also become part of the EWG. These groups were the: Directory Production Team, the Directory Audit Team, the United Nations representatives to the joint UN/ECE-ISO Syntax Development Working Group and the Message Design Rules Group. The work being done by BIM and AC.1 was to be absorbed into either the Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG) or the Business Analysis Working Group (BAWG).

16. The ESG, at its September 1997 meeting, had agreed that it was appropriate for an EWG working group to be established for multilingualism, given that responsibility for supporting multilingualism in UN/EDIFACT via improvements in the source language had been included in the EWG mandate. A coordinator was consequently appointed and requested to develop terms of reference for the group, canvas membership and prepare a work plan for consideration. These details had not been provided in time for consideration at the March meeting of the ESG; however, it was still hoped that the group would be established during the April 1998 JRT.

17. The ESG had also discussed the election of the EWG Chair and Vice-Chair, given that it was their responsibility to organize the April 1998 JRT meeting. As a result, they had developed a suggested procedure for this first election. He emphasized that this was only a suggestion and that it would be circulated to the appropriate JRT e-mail list servers and presented to the JRT participants for review and approval prior to the mid-week elections.

18. To encourage parties to nominate candidates for Chair and Vice-Chair of the EWG, the ESG had also developed guidance on the probable responsibilities and commitments of these officers, based on the experience of ESG members. He noted that this was only general guidance as it was up to the EWG to determine exactly how it would function and the responsibilities that it would assign to its officers. The ESG would circulate this document to the appropriate JRT e-mail servers for information.

19. The ESG had created a matrix of all its ongoing and outstanding work, with comments on and cross-references to the relevant background documents. Both this matrix and the documents referenced would be handed over to the EWG Chair and Vice-Chair upon their election.

20. All three of the above documents had been annexed to the ESG Chair's report.

21. **GE.1 then approved the Report on the activities of the UN/EDIFACT Steering Group from the ESG Chairman (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.3) and its annexes as the basis for the transfer of the ESG's responsibilities to the EWG.**

### **Item 3 - Migration to CEFACT**

Documents:

- TRADE/CEFACT/1998/2 UN/EDIFACT Working Group Mandate

22. The Chair introduced the UN/EDIFACT Working Group(EWG) Mandate (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/2), noting that it had been approved earlier in the week by the CEFACT Plenary with the addition of the phrase "cooperate and establish liaisons with other groups and organizations as required" under delegated responsibilities in order to bring it into line with the mandates of other permanent working groups. He further called the attention of the meeting to the fact that once the EWG was in place and functioning, the migration of GE.1 activities to the new CEFACT structures would be completed. **GE.1 then noted TRADE/CEFACT/1998/2.**

23. The Chair of the CEFACT Steering Group also announced that the CSG had appointed two "champions" to assist the JRT in its migration to the new EWG structure, Mr. A. DeLijster (Netherlands) and Mr. D. Dobbing (Australia).

**Item 4 - Technical issues and reports from UN/EDIFACT standing technical groups**

## Documents:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| - TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/3       | Joint UN/ISO Syntax Development Group:<br>Executive Summary       |
| - TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/4       | Message and Code Handbook   |
| - TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/9       | Ad hoc Group 1 (AC.1), Chairman's report                          |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1241/Corr.2       | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 1: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1242/Corr.1       | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 2: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1243/Corr.2       | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 3: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1244/Rev.1/Corr.1 | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 4: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1245/Rev.1/Corr.1 | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 4: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1246/Rev.1/Corr.1 | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 6: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1248/Corr.1       | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 8: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1249/Corr.1       | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 9: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1251/Rev.2/Corr.1 | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 7: Corrigendum                            |
| - TRADE/WP.4/R.1284/Rev.2        | UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 10, Security Rules<br>for Interactive EDI |

**Joint UN/ISO Syntax Working Group (JSWG)**

24. The JSWG Chair introduced TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/3 (Joint UN/ISO Syntax Development Group: Executive Summary) which summarizes the major points dealt with in their first meeting, as well as a status report on the progress of the various parts of version 4 of the syntax through the ISO fast track process.

**Year 2000 and Segment Collision**

25. In response to ISO ballot comments on the year 2000 issues, JSWG had unanimously recommended that element 0017 DATE used in the UNB and UNG segments be amended to permit the transfer of the CCYYMMDD (Century, Year, Month, Day) format. In addition, ballot comments had been made on a syntax solution to segment collision, which the JRT had also requested the JSWG to develop. Therefore, a solution had been developed by the JSWG sub-working group dealing with batch EDI (SWG1) and had also been unanimously approved by the plenary session of JSWG.

26. In order to ensure that both of these recommendations were included in Version 4 of the Syntax, the JSWG had submitted to ISO, with the approval of the CEFACT Steering Group, a technical corrigendum to Part 1 of Version 4 which is under ISO ballot final ballot. This corrigendum had already been submitted into the ISO process for approval or rejection and now a parallel approval or rejection process was required on the part of CEFACT (no modifications are allowed at this point in the ISO process, so only approval or rejection of each of the two changes is possible). Since this was the final meeting of GE.1, and the JSWG would be under the UN/EDIFACT Working Group (EWG) in the future, the EWG was considered to be the most appropriate forum for CEFACT approval. **GE.1 then approved that the Chair bring this corrigendum to the attention of the JRT/EWG during their April 1998 meeting for review and approval or rejection.**

27. ISO confirmed that the publication of Part 1 is pending the approval of the corrigendum to it. Once the corrigendum is approved, Part 1 will be published, inclusive of the corrigendum.

28. The EBES delegation pleaded that procedural issues not be allowed to delay approval of Version 4 of the syntax as an ISO standard since it contains important security solutions for users, in particular for UN/EDIFACT transmission over the Internet.

29. The Chair then requested that GE.1 withdraw Part 10 of Version 4 of the Syntax (TRADE/WP.4/R.1284/Rev.2), since there had not been adequate time to incorporate into this document the changes required as a result of comments coming out of the ISO ballots on the other security parts of the syntax. If withdrawn, the next revision of Part 10 would become a normal draft document under ISO procedures. **GE.1 decided to withdraw part 10, as requested, and asked that the secretariat clearly indicate this withdrawal on the Internet WWW site where the document is available for downloading.**

30. The next meeting of JSWG and its sub-working groups will be held in Concord, United States of America, from 9 to 13 November 1998. In addition, SWG3 (the JSWG Security sub-working group) will be holding a meeting at the Miami JRT, as will members of the JRT/T3 group (I-EDI), who it is hoped will form the nucleus of JSWG/SWG2 (the sub-group for interactive EDI).

31. Referring to a resolution taken by ISO/IEC TC 154, the JSWG Chair requested that it be minuted that he was not resigning as Chair at the end of the year.

32. **Finally, GE.1 noted this report (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/3) and that the ESG would raise the issues covered in this report, as well as confirmation of the United Nations members of the JSWG with the new EDIFACT working group chair.** GE.1 then thanked the JSWG Chair and the members of his team for the work done over many years to develop and finalize version 4 of the syntax.

33. The secretariat noted that the corrigenda for documents TRADE/WP.4/R.1241 through R.1246 and R.1248, R.1249 and R.1251 had been requested at the last session. **GE.1 approved these corrigenda.**

#### **MESSAGE AND CODES HANDBOOK**

34. The delegation of the United Kingdom introduced document TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/4 (the UN/EDIFACT Message and Code Handbook: MACH) with its best practices for designers. The objective of this document is to bridge the gap between the Message Design Rules (MDRs) and the production of a message according to the Rules for Presentation of Standardised Message and Directories Documentation (TRADE/WP.4/R.1023 and its subsequent revisions). The guidance contained within the MACH is based upon many years' experience of UN/EDIFACT message design and assessment and its use is expected to improve the quality of UN/EDIFACT message design and maintenance requests.

35. The delegation thanked the MACH drafting group and, in particular, Mr. M. Deturche (France) for their invaluable contributions.

36. GE.1 welcomed this document (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/4), noted it and suggested that it be published along with the UN/EDIFACT directories which already include the Message Design Rules.

#### **AD HOC GROUP 1 (AC.1) REPORT**

37. In the absence of the Chair of the Research, Strategic Advice and Implementation Planning Group (AC.1), the Vice-Chair of the newly formed Techniques and Methodologies Working Group introduced the Group's report (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/9).

38. The Group's last meeting, in Paris, in November 1997, served to identify those parts of its work programme to be transferred to the CEFACT Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG). This was accomplished by going through the details of a draft business plan (as contributed by X12/SITG). The Group also prepared draft TMWG terms of reference as input for the first TMWG meeting.

39. The Group also continued its work on the catalogue Model to clean up some inconsistencies as well as outlining in more detail the examples of two possible scenarios. A new revision (number 11) should be available from the Group in the near future. AC.1 disbanded itself on 12 November 1997.

40. **GE.1 noted the AC.1 report (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/9).**

**Item 5 - UN/EDIFACT policy and promotion**

41. The secretariat reported that two brochures had been printed since the last session and were available, upon request, from the secretariat. The first was an overview of CEFACT and all its activities in a large, folder-style format with an inside pocket that allowed it to be tailored to specific audiences by the inclusion of additional material. The second brochure was in a smaller 3-fold format and entirely devoted to information on UN/EDIFACT. The development and printing of the UN/EDIFACT brochure had been donated by FedEx.

42. The secretariat further reported that it had assisted the Istanbul Textile and Apparel Exporters Association, under the Turkish Under-secretariat for Foreign Trade, in organizing a seminar on UN/EDIFACT in Turkey at the end of February 1998.

43. The delegation of Austria called attention to the importance of using the Internet World Wide Web(WWW) to promote the work of UN/EDIFACT and the work of CEFACT. EUROPRO would be prepared to contribute to this work, particularly in support of a multilingual approach so that the effectiveness of existing WWW material could be broadened by expanding the potential audience.

**Item 6 - UN/EDIFACT Directories and message types submitted as Messages in Development (MiDs)**

Documents:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| - TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/5 | UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory D.98A                          |
| - TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/7 | Summary of Messages in Development (MiDs)                    |
| - TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.8  | Audit Statement for the D.98A UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory  |
| - TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.9  | Executive Summary of the Remote Audit of the D.98A Directory |

**D.98A UN/EDIFACT STANDARD DIRECTORY**

44. The Directory Audit Team (DAT) Chair introduced the audit statement for the D.98A UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.8) and reported that, in the opinion of the Team, the Directory was prepared according to procedures and was endorsed by the Team for publication.

45. **GE.1 approved the audit statement for the D.98A UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.8) and the D.98A UN/EDIFACT Standard Directory (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/5) and requested that the Directory be recommended to the CEFACT Steering Group for publication.**

**REPORT ON THE REMOTE AUDIT OF THE D.98A DIRECTORY**

46. The Chair of DAT introduced document TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.9, which reported on the remote audit of the D.98A directory which had been carried out electronically. Despite some disadvantages the overall process had been satisfactory and it could be improved with better planning.

47. The UN/ECE secretariat reported that, while the remote audit had also been satisfactory for them, it was an additional burden on their resources and reduced their ability to plan their other work effectively. Staff had to be on call to answer enquiries and do work on the directories during 6-8 weeks for a remote audit as against one week. Therefore, they requested that the EWG group take this into account when considering how future audits would be organized.

48. The DAT Chair then informed GE.1 of his resignation from that position and thanked the DAT, the Directory Production Team (DPT) and the secretariat for their work. He also noted the considerable improvements that they had been able to achieve in the quality of the directories.

49. The GE.1 Chair expressed GE.1's thanks to the DPT and DAT for having introduced high quality and a high degree of professionalism into the production of the directories.

50. **GE.1 then noted TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/CRP.9.**

**MESSAGES in DEVELOPMENT (MiDs)**

51. **GE.1 noted the following messages, as described in TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/7, as Messages in Development:**

<u>Tag</u>	<u>Message Name</u>
BMISRM	Bulk marine inspection summary report
BUSCRD	Business Credit Report
DOCAMN	Documentary Credit Amendment
DOCISS	Documentary Credit Issuance
LRECLM	Life reinsurance claims
PCPRDR	Property and Casualty Property Damage Report
SSCLDE	Social security claim decision
SSDREQ	Social security data request

52. The ICS delegation noted that the purpose of the DOCISS message was to indicate the terms and conditions of a documentary credit, which were sometimes an impediment to trade and highlighted the importance of ensuring that all messages were consistent with UN/ECE Facilitation Recommendations.

**Agenda Item 7 - International Standardization Affecting Trade Interchange**

Documents:

- TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/8 Standards Liaison Rapporteur's Executive Summary Report
- TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.15 Status Report on the BSR

53. In the absence of the Standards Liaison Rapporteur, the delegation of the United Kingdom presented its report (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/8). At the October 1997 Open-edi (SC30) meeting it had been announced that JTC1 (the parent of SC30) had agreed to make the following changes as part of its re-engineering:

- to close the following committees: SC14 Data Element Principles; SC18 Document Processing and Related Communication; SC21 Open Systems Interconnection, Data Management and Open Distributed Processing; and SC30 Open-edi.
- to create two new committees SC32 Data Management Services and SC33 Distributed Application Services to take on the work, as appropriate, from the closed committees.

54. During this meeting, SC30 had passed a Resolution 97/1, recommending that all international EDI-specific standardization activities be combined in a single committee, not necessarily under JTC1.

55. Establishing the Open-edi Reference Model as an International Standard (IS) was held to be the prime accomplishment of SC30.

56. The ISO delegation suggested that CEFACT ensure that under its new structures, participation and effective liaison be established with the following ISO groups, in addition to ISO/IEC SC32, with TC154 being the most important:

- TC154 Documents and Data Elements in Administration, Commerce and Industry
- TC46 Information and documentation
- TC68 Banking, Securities and Other Financial Services
- TC184 Industrial Automation Systems and Integration

57. The delegation of Brazil reported on the business team approach within JTC1 on electronic commerce and suggested that developments in that area should be followed within the framework of the MoU between ISO, IEC and UN/ECE.

58. The ISO delegation reported that the scope of TC154 had been extended to include the BSR project whose name had been changed from Basic Semantic Repository to Basic Semantic Register. The delegation then presented document TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.15 (Status Report on the BSR). The rules and guidelines for the BSR had been finalized and submitted for ballot within TC154. An important development had been the decision to include standard code sets within the BSR, therefore implementing a JTC1 resolution. Contacts with various organizations

such as XML, CALS and ISO TC68 were summarized, as well as progress on establishing an operating platform in the near future.

59. In addition, significant progress had been made on the BSR project for aligning UN/EDIFACT and STEP data. In April 1998 the first results would be available for review at the following Internet site: <http://www.iso.ch/BSR>. This topic would also be addressed at the JRT in April 1998.

60. GE.1 then noted the Standards Liaison Rapporteur's Executive Summary Report (TRADE/CEFACT/GE.1/1998/8) and the Status Report on the BSR (TRADE/CEFACT/1998/CRP.15).

**Agenda Item 8 - Codes and policy related to codes**

61. There were no documents under this agenda item and the Chair noted that the Codes Working Group established at the September 1997 CEFACT meeting would now be responsible for any work related to codes. The Chair of the Codes Working Group then announced that their first meeting would be on 19 and 20 March 1998, immediately following the GE.1 meeting.

**Item 9 - Multilingualism and terminology in UN/EDIFACT**

62. As the convenor appointed by the ESG for the establishment of a JRT/EWG group to support multilingualism, the delegate of Austria expressed his appreciation for this opportunity and indicated that terms of reference for this group would be supplied in advance of the April 1998 JRT. In addition he requested that the name of the group be changed to "Terminology Group" in order to better reflect its role in improving the source language of the directories.

**Item 10 - Other business**

63. Under this agenda item, the Chairmen took the opportunity to thank the secretariat staff for their outstanding support and the delegations for their active and positive participation in this and past meetings. He noted that the success of the sessions had been largely due to these factors.

64. Mr. C. Chiaramonti, past Vice-Chair of GE.1 and a member of the CEFACT Steering Group, expressed both his sadness at seeing GE.1, with its associated memories, come to an end and great optimism as to the future of UN/EDIFACT and the EDIFACT Working Group in the future and, in particular, in the context of the Internet and Electronic Commerce.

65. Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom) past Chair of GE.1 and Vice Chair of CEFACT, took the opportunity to recall the over 25 year history of GE.1 and the many individuals who had made significant contributions to the success of the group.

**DEADLINES AND MEETING DATES**

66. The secretariat then informed delegates of the following meeting dates and deadlines for document submission:

<u>CEFACT meeting req.</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>		
	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Issuance as an "R" Document</u>	<u>Reproduction as a CRP</u>
Monday, 14 Sept. 1998	1998 June 15	1998 July 13	1998 Aug. 26
Monday, 15 March 1999	1998 Dec. 18	1999 Jan. 16	1999 Feb. 27

CEFACT noted the following meeting dates:

CEFACT Steering Group	-	1998 June 15-18, Geneva
	-	1998 Sept. 17-18, Geneva
	-	1999 Jan. 25-28, to be confirmed
	-	1999 June 21-25, to be confirmed
Joint Rapporteurs Team Meeting/	-	1998 April 27 - May 1, Miami
UN/EDIFACT Working Group (EWG)	-	1998 Sept. 7-11, Brussels
Business Analysis Working Group (BAWG)	-	1998 April 27-30, Miami
Codes Working Group (CDWG)	-	1998 May 1, Miami
	-	1998 Sept. 17-18, Geneva

International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG)	-	1998 July 1-3, Geneva
	-	1998 Sept. 21-23, Geneva
Legal Working (LWG)	-	1998 June 18-19, Geneva
	-	1998 Sept. 7-11, Brussels
	-	1998 Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, to be confirmed
Techniques and Methodologies Working Group (TMWG)	-	1998 March 23-27, Washington D.C.
	-	1998 August 24-28, Brussels
	-	1998 November 30 - December 4, Nice

67. Contact information for submission of comments, as requested in the above minutes can be found below. In all cases, submission of comments via e-mail is preferred.

Comments for consideration by the ESG should be sent to:

Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos  
Trade Facilitation Section  
UN/ECE Trade Division  
Palais des Nations, Room 450  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Fax: 41 22 917 0037  
E-mail: virginia.cram-martos@unece.org

Contact information for comments to be considered by the Plenary officers or other matters related to CEFACT:

Mr. Hans A. Hansell  
Trade Facilitation Section  
UN/ECE Trade Division  
Palais des Nations, Room 442  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Fax: 41 22 917 0036  
E-mail: hans.hansell@unece.org

**Other information**

68. For constantly updated information on trade facilitation and UN/EDIFACT work, as well as documentation for the next meeting, delegates can refer to:

The UN/ECE Internet WWW Trade Facilitation Information Exchange (TRAFIX)  
Address: <http://www.unece.org/trafix/>

**Item 11 - Adoption of the report**

69. The report of GE.1 was adopted on 19 March 1998 on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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