



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UN/CEFACT

Matters Arising



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EXCOM Decisions





- Decision on the establishment and terms of reference of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards - ECE/EX/2015/L.6
- Decision on matters relating to United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business - ECE/EX/2015/L.7



At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, with reference to paragraphs 17, 18 and 31(g) of Commission Decision A(65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE and paragraph 24 of the Chairman's conclusions of the Executive Committee meeting on 6 February 2014, **agrees to establish an ECE Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards, to replace the former Trade Committee**

Details in Annex



At its 75th meeting, the Executive Committee, referring to paragraphs 17 and 18 of Commission Decision A(65) on the outcome of the Review of the 2005 reform of ECE, agrees that, **at the end of 2015, it may decide, after evaluation, whether it is desirable for United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) to report to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards.**



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WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement



- Agreement Open for Ratification by WTO Member States as of November 2014
- Will come into force when two thirds of Members (108) have submitted their documents of ratification to the WTO secretariat
- No deadline
- Over 50 developing countries have submitted their list of “Category A” measures to the WTO
- Three WTO members have already Ratified (Hong Kong China, Singapore and USA)



- USD 1 Trillion??
- Estimates prepared for the UNECE by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) indicate that the potential reduction in trade costs between UNECE countries and the Rest of the World from a “full” implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement would be around 13.2%.
- If UNECE countries limit themselves to the mandatory provisions of the agreement, the potential reduction would reach 11.5%.
- These scenarios reveals significant opportunities for countries in this region.



- Also huge potential opportunity for UN/CEFACT to enhance implementation of its TF instruments – the Political Will after 50+ years of work!
- 12 Articles to be implemented – mostly related to Customs / Cross Border plus one Article on National TF Committees
- Key Feature of the TFA is the commitment of WTO Members to support implementation in Developing and LDC Countries



Who Does What?

- Many new players in the field of TF (World Bank, UNCTAD, ITC, WCO, OECD, **UN Regional Commissions**, Development Banks, etc) – crowded market!
- CEFACT has a clear market niche – UN Recommendations and Standards in TF
- WTO Annex D+ and the GFP main Mechanisms for coordination



- CEFACT instruments need to be strongly promoted in this crowded market Both regionally and Globally
- Key role of the secretariat ... but issue of resources



- Main UNECE TF support programmes coming to an end:
 - Greek TF Project – concluded in January 2015
 - TFIG, etc) completed in 2014 – no further development unless extra budgetary funds are found
 - UNDA Projects - completed



- For UNECE, PARTNERSHIP with other key organizations is the Key
- **We also need strong help and support from member States in this outreach endeavour !**



Questions and Comments?