UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
RESTRICTED

TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/106
30 December 1996

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

Working Party on Facilitation of International
Trade Procedures
Meeting of Experts on Procedures
and Documentation
(Fifty-fifth session, 18-19 March 1997)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting
at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 March 1997

1.	Adoption of the agenda	TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/106
2.	Migration to CEFACT	TRADE/R.650
3.	Analysis of the International Trade Transaction (ITT)	TRADE/WP.4/R.1271 TRADE/WP.4/R.1273 TRADE/WP.4/R.1279
4.	Implementation of ECE/FAL Recommendations	
	(a) Recommendation No.4 "National Trade Facilitation Organizations"	TRADE/WP.4/R.898/Rev.8
	(b) Recommendation No.10 "Ships' codes"	TRADE/WP.4/R.1274
	(c) Recommendation No.12 "Measures to facilitate transport documents procedures"	
	(d) Recommendation No. 16 "UN/LOCODE - Code for Ports and other locations"	TRADE/WP.4/R.1275

	(e) Recommendation No.18 "Facilitation measures related to international trade procedures"	
	(f) Recommendation No.21 "Codes for Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials"	TRADE/WP.4/R.1276
5.	Revision of the Kyoto Convention	TRADE/WP.4/R.1277
6.	Trade documents names and functions	
7.	Aligned forms and the Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDED)	TRADE/WP.4/R.1278
8.	Legal/commercial aspects of trade facilitation	TRADE/WP.4/R.1272
9.	Any other business	
10.	Adoption of the Report of the fifty-fifth session	

* * *

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Meeting of Experts on Procedures and Documentation (GE.2) has been established in accordance with decisions taken by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) at its forty-fourth session in September 1996.

2. The provisional timetable presented below has been agreed upon by the Bureau of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures for the sessions of WP.4 Meetings of Experts and, if approved by the ECE, for the first session of the Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT). The Report of the First CEFACT Session will be approved during the first half of the afternoon session on Wednesday, 19 March 1997. It is expected that the experts of GE.1 and GE.2 will have a joint session on legal issues in the morning of Thursday, 20 March 1997. The reports of the sessions of GE.1 and GE.2, as well of their joint session, will be approved during the first half of the afternoon session on Friday, 21 March 1997.

		a.m.	p.m.
Monday	17 March 1997	CEFACT	CEFACT
Tuesday	18 March 1997	CEFACT	GE.2
Wednesday	19 March 1997	GE.2	GE.1/CEFACT
Thursday	20 March 1997	GE.1/GE.2	GE.1
Friday	21 March 1997	CEFACT Steering Group	CEFACT Steering Group/GE.1/GE.2

3. If approved by the ECE, the first CEFACT meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 17 March 1997 to nominate officers and discuss the migration to CEFACT as well as outstanding WP.4 work items. During the meeting on 17 March the WP.4 Bureau will report on the CDT and ECE decisions with regard to CEFACT and the plans for migration of existing work. In the context of trade facilitation work, the word "delegations" refers not only to countries but also to international organizations regularly represented at meetings.

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

4. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedures, the first item on the provisional agenda (document TRADE/WP.4/GE.2/106) is the adoption of the agenda.

5. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedures and established practice, the Meeting is expected to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the year 1997. However, at the March 1996 session, because of the proposed transition to CEFACT, it was agreed on an exceptional basis (and reported in TRADE/WP.4/R.103) that the officers elected at that session would remain in office through the March 1997 session. In 1996, Mr. E. Goffin (Belgium) was elected as Chairman, Mrs. C. Wallen-Rahlen (Sweden) and Mr. A. Filippov (Russian Federation) were elected as Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of Experts.

Item 2 - Migration to CEFACT

6. The Meeting of Experts will discuss the migration of those work items under its responsibility to the new CEFACT structures.

7. Document TRADE/R.650 contains the consolidated final proposal from the Working Party on the establishment of CEFACT.

Item 3 - Analysis of the International Trade Transaction (ITT)

8. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1271 contains the report by the Steering group of the Maintenance Agency for the International Trade Transaction (ITT) modelling activities since the 54th session of GE.2. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1273, Concordance between commercial documents and UN/EDIFACT messages, is an input for discussion by the delegation of Romania.

9. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1279, a proposal for the creation of a Permanent CEFACT Working Group on International Trade Transaction (ITT) containing a mandate, the terms of reference and the draft programme of work of the group, is for discussion and approval in line with the migration of this work item to the new CEFACT structure.

Item 4 - Implementation of ECE/FAL Recommendations

10. The Meeting of Experts considers during its sessions the questions of the implementation of specific measures falling under the respective programme items of work.

(a) Recommendation No. 4 "National Trade Facilitation Organizations"

11. To encourage a discussion on the development of national and regional committees on facilitation of international trade procedures and the revision of Recommendation No.4, the secretariat has amended the list of existing committees and focal points (document TRADE/WP.4/R.898/Rev.8).

(b) Recommendation No.10 "Ships' codes"

12. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1274, prepared by the secretariat, contains a draft revision of this Recommendation. This document is for approval.

(c) Recommendation No.12 "Measures to facilitate transport documents procedures"

13. At the previous session, the Meeting had no written contributions on the subject, but recognized that the topic was extremely important in respect of the implementation of non-negotiable documentation in the area of maritime transport and decided to keep this item on the agenda.

(d) Recommendation No. 16 "UN/LOCODE - Code for Ports and other locations

14. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1275 is a proposal by ICS for the creation of an ad hoc CEFACT Working Group on the maintenance of this Recommendation in line with the migration of this work item to the new CEFACT structures.

(e) Recommendation No.18 "Facilitation measures related to international trade procedures"

15. Delegations will report on the activities in respect of Recommendation No.18.

(f) Recommendation No.21 "Codes for Types of Cargo, Packages and Packaging Materials"

16. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1276 contains the amended WP.4 Recommendation No.21 in accordance with the proposal made by the delegation of Germany (document TRADE/WP.4/R.1263).

Item 5 - Revision of the Kyoto Convention

17. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1277 is a position paper on the subject, prepared by the secretariat, defining the role of WP.4 in the revision of this Convention.

Item 6 - Trade documents names and functions

18. At the previous session, it was agreed to revert to this subject after the finalization of the WP.4 re-engineering process.

Item 7 - Aligned forms and the Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDED)

19. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1278, an improved form of the Single Administrative Document for Customs Declaration, is an input by the delegation of Romania.

Item 8 - Legal and commercial aspects of trade facilitation

20. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1272 contains the report from the Legal Rapporteurs. This document is for information and discussion.

Item 9 - Other business

21. At the time of writing, the secretariat has no points to propose under this item.

Item 10 - Adoption of the Report of the fifty-fifth session

22. In accordance with established practice, the Meeting of Experts will adopt the Report of its fifty-fifth session in the form of a summary, prepared by the secretariat, of decisions taken during the session, to be presented to the Working Party/CEFACT for approval.