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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

Working Party on Facilitation of
International Trade Procedures
Meeting of Experts on Data Elements
and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1)
Fifty-fifth session, 19-20 March 1997)

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 15:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, 19 March 1997

1.	Adoption of the agenda	TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/106
2.	Migration to CEFACT	
3.	Technical issues and reports from UN/EDIFACT standing technical groups	TRADE/WP.4/R.840/Rev.3 TRADE/WP.4/R.1023/Rev.3 TRADE/WP.4/R.1241/Corr.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.1243/Corr.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.1244 TRADE/WP.4/R./1245/Rev.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.1246/Rev.1 TRADE/WP.4/R.1247 TRADE/WP.4/R.1249 TRADE/WP.4/R.1265 TRADE/WP.4/R.1266 TRADE/WP.4/R.1267 TRADE/WP.4/CRP.125
4.	UN/EDIFACT policy and promotion	

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5.	Reports from UN/EDIFACT Steering Group and UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs	TRADE/WP.4/CRP.123 TRADE/WP.4/CRP.124
6.	UN/EDIFACT directories and message types submitted as Status 0	TRADE/WP.4/R.1268 TRADE/WP.4/R.1264
7.	International standardization affecting trade interchange	TRADE/WP.4/R.1269 TRADE/WP.4/R.1270
8.	Codes and policy related to codes	
9.	International Trade Transaction Model	TRADE/WP.4/R.1271
10.	Multilingualism in UN/EDIFACT	
11.	Legal/commercial aspects of trade	TRADE/WP.4/R.1272
13.	Other business	
13.	Adoption of the Report of the fifty-fifth session	

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EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. The provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Meeting of Experts on Data Elements and Automatic Data Interchange (GE.1) has been established in accordance with decisions taken by the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures 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 its forty-fourth session and for the sessions of its Meetings of Experts. It is expected that the experts of GE.1 and GE.2 will have a joint session on legal issues in the morning of Wednesday, 19 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
Thursday	20 March 1997	GE.1	GE.1
Friday	21 March 1997	CEFACT Steering Group	

3. If approved by the ECE, the first CEFACT meeting will begin at 10:00 on Monday, 19 March 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.1/106) 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 that on an exceptional basis (and reported in TRADE/WP.4/R.103), the officers elected at that session would remain in office through the March 1997 session. In 1996, Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom) was elected as Chairman, Mr. C. Chiaramonti (France) was elected as Vice Chairman of the Meeting of Experts and Mr. Harvey Bates (Australia) was elected as Special representative to the GE.1 Bureau for Article 11 countries.

Item 2 - Migration to CEFACT

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

Item 3 - Technical issues and reports from UN/EDIFACT standing technical groups

7. The ESG submits for approval the UN/EDIFACT Rules for Presentation of Standardized Message and Directories Documentation (TRADE/WP.4/R.1023/Rev.4), which was modified to take into account WP.4's March 1996 decision to abolish Status 1 and 2 for messages, to accommodate the publication of Interactive EDI messages and directories, and to provide cross-referencing.

8. TRADE/WP.4/R.1265 contains the Executive Summary Report prepared by the Chairman of the Syntax Development Group (SDG).

9. As agreed during the September 1996 session, the secretariat has issued TRADE/WP.4/R.1241/Corr.1 (Corrigendum to UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 1, Syntax rules common to all parts of this standard plus directories) and TRADE/WP.4/R.1243/Corr.1 (Corrigendum to UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 3, Syntax Rules specific to interactive EDI). This last document was distributed during the September 1996 session as TRADE/WP.4/CRP.117.

10. As agreed during the September 1996 session , the SDG has finalized Parts 5 and 6 of UN/EDIFACT Syntax 9735 Version 4 and the ECE secretariat has submitted them as an existing standard to the ISO for fast track processing. These final versions are provided for information in documents:

- TRADE/WP.4/R.1245/Rev.1 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 5, Security rules for batch EDI (authenticity, integrity and non-repudiation of origin));
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1246/Rev.1 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 6, secure authentication and acknowledgement message (message type - AUTACK)).

11. UN/EDIFACT Syntax 9735 Version 4, Parts 4, 7 and 9 are submitted by the Syntax Development Group for approval, as requested during the September 1996 session and can be found in:

- TRADE/WP.4/R.1244(UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 4, Syntax and service report message for batch EDI, (message type - CONTRL));
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1247 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 7, Security rules for batch EDI (Confidentiality));
- TRADE/WP.4/R.1249 (UN/EDIFACT Syntax, Part 9, Security key and certificate management message (message type - KEYMAN));

12. Ad hoc Group 1's report on its work since the last session can be found in TRADE/WP.4/R.1266. This document is for information and discussion and may contain recommendations for approval.

13. A Conference Room Paper will be presented by AC.1 on the Benefits of modelling for the design of EDI(TRADE/WP.4/CRP.125).

14. The report of the Message Design Rules Group (MDRG) can be found in TRADE/WP.4/R.1267. This document is for information and discussion and may contain recommendations for approval. As agreed at the September 1996 session, the MDRG has also submitted TRADE/WP.4/R.840/Rev.3 (UN/EDIFACT Message Design Rules)for approval.

Item 4 - UN/EDIFACT policy and promotion

15. The secretariat will provide an oral report on progress being made towards the implementation of Recommendation 25 (Use of UN/EDIFACT) and its approval by ECOSOC as a UN resolution.

Item 5 - Reports from UN/EDIFACT Steering Group and UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs

16. A report on the activities of the UN/EDIFACT Steering Group from the ESG Chairman will be submitted as TRADE/WP.4/CRP.123. This document is for discussion, although it may reference other documents that are for approval.

17. A report on recent developments in the regions from the Regional UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs is provided in document TRADE/WP.4/CRP.124. This document is for information only.

Item 6 - UN/EDIFACT Directories and Message Types Submitted as Status 0

18. The UN/EDIFACT directory D.97A, including the statement from the Directory Audit Team on the quality of the D.97A directory is submitted for approval as TRADE/WP.4/R.1268.

19. As of the time when this revised provisional agenda was prepared, the secretariat had not been made aware of any message types to be submitted for Status 0. TRADE/WP.4/R.1264 (Summary for Messages noted as Status 0 during the September 1996 session)is distributed for information. It had previously been distributed as TRADE/WP.4/CRP.115.

Item 7 - International standardization affecting trade interchange

20. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur's Executive Summary is found in TRADE/WP.4/CRP.1269. This document is for discussion and contains recommendations for approval. The Standards Liaison Rapporteur's Meeting Report is contained in TRADE/WP.4/R.1270 and is for information.

21. The GE.1 Bureau and the EDIFACT Steering Group will present a Conference Room Paper on discussions regarding the review and further development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISO and IEC (TRADE/WP.4/CRP.126).

Item 8 - Codes and policy related to codes

22. No documents were planned for this agenda item as of 12 December 1996.

Item 9 - International Trade Transaction Model

23. As decided during the March 1995 Session of GE.1, this item has been added to the agenda. Document TRADE/WP.4/R.1271 contains the Report from the Steering Group for the International Trade Transaction Model. This document is for discussion.

Item 10 - Multilingualism in Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT)

24. No documents were planned for this agenda item as of 12 December 1996.

Item 11 - Legal and commercial aspects of trade facilitation

25. TRADE/WP.4/R.1272 contains the report from the Legal Rapporteurs. This document is for information and discussion and may contain recommendations for approval.

Item 12 - Other business

26. No documents were planned for this agenda item as of 12 December 1996.

Item 13 - Adoption of the Report of the fifty-fifth session

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