



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND THE  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)  
AND THE  
UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)**

**RECOGNIZING** that mutually beneficial economic cooperation amongst countries is crucial to ensuring economic growth, job creation, prosperity and peace on a worldwide scale;

**RECOGNIZING** that the sustainability of production activities and, hence, wealth generation, depends heavily on the capacity and capabilities of new enterprises and local producers in countries in transition to meet the challenges of globalization;

**RECOGNIZING** that some vulnerable societies, communities and social groups are in need of access to new economic opportunities and support, which would enable them to participate fully in economic development;

**RECOGNIZING** that trade facilitation reduces transaction costs in national and international economies and strengthens trade relations through the simplification, rationalization and whenever possible elimination of procedures;

**RECOGNIZING** that Customs administrations play a key role in international trade, and that the manner in which they implement their responsibilities can have a substantial impact on the ease, cost and speed of movement of goods across international borders;

**RECOGNIZING** that international business needs uniform, clear and simple processes and procedures to facilitate cross-border trade and develop global business strategies in line with multilateral trade liberalization under the aegis of the World Trade Organization;

**RECOGNIZING** that the **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** is the representative body that speaks on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world;

**RECOGNIZING** that the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), which operates under the auspices of UNECE, are a focal point within the United Nations system for the development, maintenance and promotion of trade facilitation standards, recommendations and best practices and related expertise;

**RECOGNIZING** that the UNECE contributes to and supports the efforts of countries in transition to re-structure industry, promote the development of a new enterprise sector and SMEs, and encourage entrepreneurship, including among vulnerable groups, such as women, youth and the rural poor.

**FURTHER RECOGNIZING** that international non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations actively participate and support these efforts;

**NOTING** the existing working relationship between the ICC and UNECE and their common strategic objectives in the area of efficient international trade procedures, protection of intellectual property rights, industrial restructuring, enterprise development and entrepreneurship;

**FURTHER NOTING** the official observer status already existing between both Organizations;

**BELIEVING** that modern business stands to benefit from improved trade facilitation, security measures at the border, development of e-commerce and e-business.

The **International Chamber of Commerce** and the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** have agreed as follows:

- I. to establish effective consultation, co-operation, and the exchange of information between them;
- II. to coordinate the work of UNECE and ICC. The Legal Working Group of UN/CEFACT, Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development, Working Party on International Commercial and Legal Practices and the relevant bodies of ICC will exchange appropriate information and promote together their products in such fields as enterprise development and SMEs, development of e-commerce, trading partner agreements, online dispute resolution, self-regulatory instruments in e-commerce. UNECE and ICC will continue to promote each others' products and tools, such as trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards;
- III. to promote co-operation among top officials from Governments, the business community, national committees of ICC and national trade and transport facilitation committees working with UNECE in support of trade facilitation, industrial restructuring and enterprise development, and the promotion of standards and best practice, business incubators and Internet enterprise development in transition economies;
- IV. to consult on objectives and policies in our contacts with other international institutions, including but not limited to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the European Bank on Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

- V. to hold regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of views; to review the provisions and operation of this Memorandum in the light of experience; and to consider modifications and developments to cover specific projects, as appropriate.

Done in ..... on .....

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

**Brigita Schmögnerová,  
Executive Secretary**

**Maria Livanos Cattai,  
Secretary General**