

## **Recommendations of the second Conference on trade facilitation and the Single Window (Moscow, 23-24 April 2013)**

Recognizing the Single Window as an efficient tool for trade facilitation, the participants in the Conference suggested to the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Area (CU/SEA) to develop strategies for trade facilitation.

A first step can be the analysis of the possible impact of implementing a Single Window on the reduction of the number of documents required for carrying out import and export transactions (taking into account the Doing Business methodology of the World Bank), as well as the reduction of foreign trade transactions costs.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and EEC for the technical assistance, organization and holding of the Conference, as well as to the Governments of the Member States of the CU/SEA for supporting the Single Window project.

### **1. For the better organization of work on establishing a Single Window, the Eurasian Economic Commission is invited to:**

- 1.1. Carry out a survey on the level interest of Customs and other regulatory bodies of the CU/SEA Member States in implementing the Single Window principle at the national or supra-national levels;
- 1.2. Establish a working group on trade facilitation and the Single Window;
- 1.3. Develop a conceptual model of a Single Window in the Member States of the CU/SEA and draft a feasibility study;
- 1.4. In the framework of the above-mentioned model indicate the objectives, develop a common terminology and improve the system of regulatory legal acts on various levels, determining at what level (interdepartmental; national or supranational) it is necessary to concentrate efforts in establishing a Single Window system;
- 1.5. Use an integrated approach to organize work on establishing a Single Window, involving public and private stakeholders in a single project Master Plan that would define their role, purpose and budget. The project must envisage a step-by-step approach with a view to:
  - 1.5.1. draft and adopt an action plan for the implementation of Single Window projects, define the objectives and tasks of the different participants;
  - 1.5.2. analyse business processes (with a view to simplify, revise and re-engineer these business processes, harmonize and unify documents/forms);
  - 1.5.3. analyse and amend legislation;
  - 1.5.4. establish international and national (inter-agency) groups to manage the project, as well as technical working groups;
  - 1.5.5. use procedures and methods of project management in Single Window project implementation;
  - 1.5.6. define areas of work on data harmonization in compliance with international standards; harmonization and standardization of trade and transport documents, as well as procedures for electronic data interchange.
- 1.6. Collect, record and analyze information about Single Window projects (including pilot projects), implemented or planned in the Customs Union Member States, in order to develop recommendations for ensuring compliance with the overall conceptual model.

- 1.7. Explore possibilities for establishing a mechanism of public-private partnerships to support the establishment of a Single Window.
- 2. Noting the need to develop further cooperation and consultations between UNECE and EEC on the use of international standards, notably in the development of project documentation for the IISVVT components, request UNECE to:**
  - 2.1. Explore ways to extend the practice of engaging experts of Member States of the CU/SEA to work on drafting and harmonizing UNECE recommendations on the Single Window and other areas of mutual interest;
  - 2.2. Explore the possibility to organize and conduct, jointly with the EEC, a workshop on preparing and managing a Single Window project.
- 3. When considering possibilities of using the IISVVT infrastructure to implement a Single Window mechanism in the CU/SEA Member States, as well as interaction among national Single Window systems:**
  - 3.1. Envisage a mechanism for interaction between national Single Windows, business representatives and other stakeholders;
  - 3.2. and in order to avoid conflict with the provisions of the Customs Code and other legislation of the Customs Union, provide for a possibility to collect required trade information through a Single Window.
- 4. When addressing legal issues for the implementation of Single Window in the CU/SEA Member States, including differences in their national legislations consider:**
  - 4.1. ways of harmonizing legislation such issues as: data protection, identification, authentication and authorization, equivalence between paper and electronic documents, and use of electronic signatures and trusted third party services. These issues can be addressed by the harmonization of legislation or developing international treaties within the framework of the CU/SEA;
  - 4.2. using Model Laws on electronic commerce and electronic signatures, and Guidelines for their implementation developed by UNCITRAL, as well as the United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts, in order to harmonize national legislation;
  - 4.3. When providing access to necessary legal resources, authorities creating national IISVVT segments should use available legal information resources;
  - 4.4. amend the Statutes of the EurAsEC Court to expand its competences to resolving disputes that may arise in the establishment and functioning of a Single Window and in electronic document exchanges.
- 5. In the research and drafting of normative-technical documents and preparing decisions for creating systems for electronic data interchange, standardization and harmonization of electronic documents, consider:**
  - 5.1. Developing mandatory electronic forms of documents (e-documents), in compliance with international standards for electronic data interchange, to be used by EEC in the process of drafting inter-State and interagency regulations, envisaging information exchange;
  - 5.2. Analyzing draft legal acts with special reference to the need to harmonize newly implemented (used) electronic documents;
  - 5.3. Making the development of IISVVT (including the use of international standards and best practices) a priority and further maintaining an up-to-date CU/SEA data model common processes.
- 6. UNECE and EEC should hold the third Conference in the 2015.**