

**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN  
FOR TRADE DEVELOPMENT**

2003 - 2005

Prepared by the secretariat  
of the Trade Development and Timber Division



**UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK AND GENEVA 2003**

**ECE/TRADE/320**

## **Foreword**

The objective of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in international trade is to facilitate and strengthen the integration of member States, and especially countries in transition, into the European and global economy, and to prevent the establishment of new barriers to trade within the region. Over the past 40 years, UNECE has made a major contribution to facilitating trade within the region, and globally through the development and maintenance of a wide range of trade conventions, standards and recommendations on international trade.

Many of UNECE's trade instruments, such as the United Nations Layout Key for trade documents and the UN/EDIFACT standard for electronic commerce, have been implemented worldwide and have greatly facilitated trade both within the UNECE region and between the region and the rest of the world. Within the current economic environment of enhanced emphasis on trade security, European integration and the upcoming negotiations for the Doha Development Round at the World Trade Organization, this work has taken on increased importance.

The UNECE Strategic Action Plan for Trade Development presents a dynamic and ambitious programme to both continue and expand upon this work over the period 2003 to 2005. The Plan is based on the expressed needs of UNECE member States and the overarching goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and other major United Nations initiatives. It outlines the key activities that will be undertaken in UNECE's traditional areas of standards development and maintenance. In addition, the Plan includes new and strengthened activities in the areas of increasing importance, such as implementing trade facilitation instruments and assisting in trade policy development to address the needs of an expanded European economic space, sustainable development and ICT for development.

The Plan was approved by UNECE's Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development at its annual session in May 2003. It is a living document that will be open to change over the planning period, in order to respond to the changing needs of UNECE member States in the dynamic trade environment in which we operate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Schmögnerová', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the top right of the signature.

Brigita Schmögnerová  
Executive Secretary

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CTIED	Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
ebXML	Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
EUROPRO	Organization of European national trade facilitation committees
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GE.1	Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
GE.2	Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)
GE.5	Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes
GE.6	Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes
GE.11	Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITPWG	UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
OASIS	Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCG	UN/CEFACT Promotion and Communication Group
PRO	National trade facilitation committee
SAD	Single Administrative Document
SECI	Southeast European Cooperative Initiative
SECIPRO	Organization of national trade facilitation committees located in SECI countries
SEE	South East Europe
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SP	Stability Pact

START	WP.6 Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory
Techniques	
TTFSE	Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic
Business	
UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNeDocs	United Nations electronic trade documents
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WP.6	Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization
Policies	
WP.7	Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

## Contents

List of Abbreviations.....	v
Executive Summary .....	ix
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Background .....	1
3. Rationale for the Plan .....	3
4. UNECE's Trade Development Market Niche, Mission and Objectives.....	5
5. Strategic Action Plan for 2003-200.....	9
5.1 Standards Development and Maintenance: Developing and maintaining effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, in response to the needs of the global economy .....	9
5.2 Implementation/Capacity Building: Reducing barriers to trade in goods and services in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through greater implementation of international and UNECE norms, standards, instruments and recommendations, especially in trade facilitation .....	21
5.3 Policy: Facilitating trade policy development through the provision of an open international platform for the exchange of views, particularly for the benefit of countries with economies in transition.....	33
5.4 Promotion: Promoting the value and effectiveness of the trade facilitation instruments and standards in trade and economic development.....	42
5.5 Integration: Integrating UNECE's trade activities with those of other UN and international trade-related bodies.....	48
5.6 Support for Intergovernmental Bodies and Working Groups.....	53
5.7 Publications.....	57





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNECE Strategic Action Plan for Trade Development - Sharing the Gains of Globalization - presents a detailed Strategic Action Plan for trade development to be implemented by the Trade Development and Timber Division over the period January 2003 to December 2005. The Plan focuses on enhancing and facilitating the infrastructures, procedures and policy environment for trade in goods and services, both within UNECE member States and between member States and the rest of the world.

The Plan reflects the expressed needs of UNECE member States and is framed within the overarching United Nations Millennium Development Goals for a global partnership for sustainable development. Essentially, UNECE's role is to ensure that international trade is carried out as efficiently and equitably as possible, with full regard to the public interest and security, and with the active participation of civil society. The Plan continues to focus on the core work of developing the framework of norms and standards for international trade, and embraces the increased focus of UNECE on the need for policy development and implementation of existing trade facilitation norms and standards, especially in transition economies.

The Plan also reflects UNECE's clear market niche in trade development, which is centred on standards development and trade facilitation at the global level, implementation of these measures within UNECE member States, and the facilitation of debate on pressing regional policy issues.

UNECE's trade facilitation and standards work enhances the economic potential of member States by increasing market access, reducing costs, improving the trade infrastructures and competitiveness, and improving the market integration of countries and regions. Following many years of multilateral trade liberalization under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, implementation of these measures is now arguably more important than tariff reduction as a policy tool for trade development. In order to further strengthen these aspects of UNECE member States' economies, the Strategic Action Plan focuses on five key areas of work, namely:

- **Developing and maintaining** effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, in response to the needs of the global economy;

- Reducing barriers to trade in goods and services in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through **greater implementation of international and UNECE norms, standards, instruments and recommendations**, especially in trade facilitation;
- Facilitating **trade policy development** through the provision of an open international platform for the exchange of views, particularly for the benefit of countries with economies in transition. Examples include trade security, European integration and sustainable development;
- **Promoting** the value and effectiveness of trade facilitation instruments and standards in trade and economic development;
- **Integrating** UNECE's trade activities with those of other United Nations (UN) and international trade-related bodies.

The main focus of the work will continue to be on the development, maintenance and implementation of trade facilitation instruments and standards. This includes development of several new Recommendations in areas such as benchmarking, establishment of a single window (for the efficient exchange of information between trade and government), legal aspects of trade facilitation and electronic business, and new standards for agricultural produce. Maintenance work will focus on existing UNECE instruments, including trade facilitation and standardization measures, UN/EDIFACT, and standards for agricultural produce.

Implementation of existing measures receives enhanced attention through several capacity-building initiatives such as the proposal for the development of an interregional partnership (with other regional commissions and relevant UN agencies) for promoting trade as an engine of growth, further development of UNeDocs, collaboration with World Trade Organization (WTO) in the Doha Development Agenda, seminars on quality control for perishable produce, and implementation of the UNECE recommendation "International Model for Technical Harmonization". The Plan supports the development and implementation of new information and communication technologies (ICT) in trade, especially through

electronic business standards and procedures, and through follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society.

Policy work will focus on the integration and implementation of trade facilitation and standards measures at the policy level in member States. Particular emphasis will be given to strengthening transition economies in their policies and institutions to implement the sustainable development of trade. A range of discussion papers will be prepared on pressing topical issues in trade facilitation and standards. The Plan also covers the preparation of policies to support UN-wide initiatives such as sustainable development, harmonization of standardization policies, and contributions to the policy arena on European integration and the common European economic space.

In the promotion area, the Plan details a range of activities, including the 2003 International Forum on Trade Facilitation, the strengthening of the UNECE Trade Multiplier Point programme, and the development of additional promotional and information material, both electronically and in hard copy.

The Plan also provides details of UNECE's plans to strengthen cooperation with the other UN regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the WTO, which are focussed on supporting an open and accessible forum for intergovernmental policy deliberations regarding trade in goods and services.

The current publication presents a comprehensive and integrated Strategic Action Plan for trade development over the period 2003-05. We believe that implementation of this Plan will bring significant benefits to UNECE member States, both from an economic development and integration perspective.



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The UNECE Strategic Action Plan for Trade Development 2003 to 2005 – Sharing the Gains of Globalization – presents the detailed Strategic Action Plan for trade development to be implemented by the Trade Development and Timber Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)<sup>1</sup> over the period January 2003 to December 2005. The Plan focuses on enhancing and facilitating the infrastructures, procedures and policy environment for trade in goods and services. This will be achieved through the delivery of internationally accepted trade facilitation instruments, tools and standards, the implementation of these instruments in UNECE member States, and the development of innovative policy initiatives in the trade area.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

Implementing international standards and trade facilitation measures dramatically improves the trade infrastructure, competitiveness and market integration of countries and entire regions. Following many years of multilateral trade liberalization under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, implementation of trade facilitation measures is now generally regarded as being more effective than tariff reduction for developing international trade.

UNECE plays a major role in developing and maintaining many of the norms and standards that facilitate the efficient functioning of international trade infrastructures. For instance, its UN Layout Key<sup>2</sup> is the international standard for most trade documents, and is the foundation for the Single Administrative Document (SAD) for trade

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<sup>1</sup> UNECE's 55 member States comprise Western, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Israel, the United States and Canada.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents, Guidelines for Application, 2002 (ECE/TRADE/270).

used within the European Union. UN/EDIFACT<sup>3</sup> is the international standard for electronic data interchange (EDI); and, in collaboration with the business community, UNECE is currently drawing up ebXML, the next generation of ebusiness standards. UNECE also develops internationally harmonized trade standards for agricultural produce, as well as doing extensive work on technical harmonization and standardization policies.

UNECE provides a forum for trade policy discussions related to trade facilitation and standards, where countries in transition can participate on an equal footing with more developed countries from Europe and North America. This is particularly useful for countries that have newly acceded to WTO or are in the process of doing so.

UNECE's trade facilitation and standards work enhances the economic potential of member States by increasing market access and reducing the costs of trade. Member States have explicitly requested that this work should continue<sup>4</sup>. The importance of this work is also emphasized in recent policy directives of the UN for sharing the benefits of globalization, including the Millennium Declaration and Goals<sup>5</sup> and the

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<sup>3</sup>UNECE has developed, and maintains, the only international standard for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), which is known as UN Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport or UN/EDIFACT. UN/EDIFACT is widely used in international trade and has been adopted by the European Union as well as by many individual countries such as Brazil, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. It is also the preferred EDI standard within the United States Government.

<sup>4</sup>Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, Terms of Reference, Policy Objectives and Strategic Goals, 28 March 2001 (TRADE/2001/2).

<sup>5</sup>UN Millennium Development Goals, [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals), October 2002.

Monterrey Consensus<sup>6</sup>. The UNECE Trade Development programme will continue to focus on these areas and will provide an open forum where all countries can participate in policy discussions and the development of new norms, standards and initiatives.

### **3. RATIONALE FOR THE PLAN**

The Plan reflects the expressed needs of UNECE member States, as detailed in the UNECE revised Medium-Term Plan (to “facilitate and develop the infrastructure for international trade”)<sup>7</sup> the Terms of Reference, Policy Objectives and Strategic Goals of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)<sup>8</sup>, as well as the Plan of Action as contained in the UNECE 1997 Annual Report<sup>9</sup>, and the terms of reference of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee.

The Plan is framed within the Millennium Development Goals for a global partnership for sustainable development (Millennium Development Goals 7 and 8), and the Monterrey Consensus, which states that “globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable”. The Plan also takes

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<sup>6</sup>Monterrey Consensus: Draft Outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, March 2002 (A/CONF/198/3).

<sup>7</sup> Subprogramme 6 – Trade development – Objective: “The objective is to facilitate and develop the infrastructure for international trade in terms of trade-related norms, standards, tools and policy recommendations; to reduce the main internal and external obstacles to trade and economic cooperation in the UNECE region; and to further the integration of countries with economies in transition into the global economy.”

<sup>8</sup> Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, Terms of Reference, Policy Objectives and Strategic Goals, 28 March 2001 (TRADE/2001/2).

direction from the report by the Secretary-General on “Strengthening the United Nations”, in which he says that a proper framework of rules, norms and standards for international trade needs to be developed and implemented in order to help the international community respond effectively to the challenges posed by globalization.

UNECE works to ensure that international trade is carried out as efficiently and equitably as possible, with full regard to the public interest and security, and with the active participation of civil society. The Strategic Action Plan continues to focus on developing a framework of rules, norms and standards for international trade, while embracing the need for policy development and implementation of existing trade facilitation norms and standards, especially in transition economies.

UNECE cooperates with the other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the WTO to support an open and accessible forum for intergovernmental policy deliberations on trade in goods and services. At the regional level, studies, seminars, workshops, advisory services contribute to improving economic integration in Europe. Activities are also planned to strengthen transition economies in their policies and institutions to ensure the sustainable development of trade. The business community and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the subprogramme.

The Strategic Action Plan, by supporting policy dialogue at the regional level on trade and development issues, contributes to building the Monterrey consensus, as identified at the International Conference on Financing for Development. It also supports the development and implementation of new information and communication technologies (ICT)

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<sup>9</sup> UNECE Plan of Action, Annex IV, UNECE Annual Report for the period from April 1996 to April 1997 (E/ECE/1355).



in trade, especially through electronic business standards and procedures, and through follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society. The Plan also contributes to the Doha Development Agenda through its emphasis on measures to integrate low-income transition economies into the regional and multilateral trading system.

#### **4. UNECE'S TRADE DEVELOPMENT MARKET NICHE, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES**

UNECE's market niche in Trade Development is clearly centred on:

- Standards development and trade facilitation - at a global level
- Implementation of these measures - in member States
- Facilitation of debate and policy development - at the global and UNECE regional level

UNECE's decade-long experience in each of the above areas has placed it as a world leader in international trade facilitation, receiving strong backing from member States, international organizations and the private sector. UNECE seeks to be a driving force in creating and sustaining standards, tools and policies for international trade facilitation and regional trade development.

Within the framework of the Millennium Goals of "sustainable development" and "sharing the benefits of globalization", UNECE's Trade Development mission is to facilitate the development of global infrastructures for trade in goods and services, both within the UNECE region and between the region and the rest of the world.

UNECE devotes particular attention to developing the trade infrastructure in member States and will undertake specific programmes to further the integration of economies in transition into the global economy

through the implementation of policy recommendations and international norms and standards.

In order to achieve this mission, UNECE's trade development programme will focus on **five key areas of work** over the 2003 to 2005 period, namely:

1. **Developing and maintaining** effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, in response to the needs of the global economy;
2. Reducing barriers to trade in goods and services in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through **greater implementation of international and UNECE norms, standards, instruments and recommendations**, especially in trade facilitation;
3. Facilitating **trade policy development** through the provision of an international platform for the exchange of views, particularly for the benefit of countries with economies in transition. Examples include trade security, European integration and sustainable development;
4. **Promoting** the value and effectiveness of trade facilitation instruments and standards in trade and economic development;
5. **Integrating** UNECE's trade activities with those of other UN and international trade-related bodies.

The specific activities to be undertaken in each of the above areas over the planning period 2003-05 are detailed in Section V below. It should be noted that UNECE's Trade Development work is organized across a

matrix of six teams, which work in an inter-disciplinary manner. These teams are:

- Trade Facilitation and Policy Team
- Electronic Business Team
- Trade Policy Team
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Team
- Technical Cooperation and Projects Team
- Information and Promotion Team

There are also a number of intergovernmental bodies and working parties that direct and support the work of the Trade Development programme (see Annex A for a more detailed description of UNECE's trade-related intergovernmental bodies and working parties), namely:

- Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)
- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)
- Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)
- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

In order to assist the reader in locating where a specific activity is being undertaken, the name of the relevant team or Working Party undertaking each activity is indicated.



## **5. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR 2003 –2005**

### **5.1 STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**Developing and maintaining effective international trade-related instruments, norms, standards and recommendations, in response to the needs of the global economy**

Developing and maintaining trade-related instruments, norms and standards is one of the core activities of UNECE. In order to further this work, UNECE will undertake the following activities:

#### **5.1.1 Development of Trade Facilitation Standards and Recommendations under UN/CEFACT**

##### ***5.1.1.1 Development of a Guide and formal Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking***

Trade Facilitation Benchmarking relates to the measurement of specific trade facilitation procedures and activities, usually against an agreed standard. Benchmarking allows countries to measure their performance developments over time and against other countries and is an important tool in identifying areas needing attention and improvement.

Through the work of the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group, UNECE will develop a “Guide to Trade Facilitation Benchmarking” and will follow this up with a formal Recommendation. Work already undertaken by organizations such as the World Bank, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will be utilized in developing both the Guide and the Recommendation.

*Target Audience:* Governments and international trade organizations

*Target Date for Completion:* May 2005 (completion of the Guide is targeted for June 2004)

#### ***5.1.1.2 Enhancement of Trade Facilitation and Security***

Security is playing an increasingly important role in international trade. However, there is a danger in the current environment that unilateral and uncoordinated measures on trade security could emerge. Such measures could impede trade flows and could become a new non-technical barrier to trade, particularly for developing economies and small and medium enterprises.

UNECE will consider the development of a common initiative between UNECE, WCO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), ICC, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and other relevant agencies, to ensure a comprehensive and facilitative approach to trade security across the entire trade transaction chain.

The intended outcome of this initiative would be a comprehensive review and harmonisation of the many existing trade facilitation measures in the security area throughout the entire trade transaction process, and a consolidation of the efforts of all organizations in ensuring a mutually beneficial and self-reinforcing partnership between trade facilitation and security. It is intended that this work would complement the existing work being undertaken by the WCO and others in the security area.

The initiative could, if necessary, also result in a joint declaration or recommendation on security and trade facilitation, addressing the needs and concerns of all parties. The declaration could promote a set of core principles that would guide the development of security-related initiatives

by Governments and or trade-related organizations. Another option would be a guide to existing work in the area.

*Target Audience:* international trade organizations and trade

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.1.1.3 Development of a Recommendation on the establishment of a Single Window***

The “Single Window” environment aims to expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and bring meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. Essentially, a “Single Window” is a system that allows traders to lodge information with a single body to fulfil all import- or export-related regulatory requirements.

Through the work of the UN/CEFACT International Trade Procedures Working Group (ITPWG), UNECE will develop a formal Recommendation for establishing and operating a Single Window for Trade Information and Procedures. The Recommendation will consist of a short formal section containing the core elements of the Recommendation, followed by four annexes with a more elaborate description of the Single Window and operational examples from trade and business.

*Target Audience:* Governments and Trade in all countries, but with a special focus on transition and developing countries

*Target Date for Completion:* May 2004

#### ***5.1.1.4 Development of a Recommendation regarding Driving Visa Requirements for International Truck Drivers***

Obtaining visas for operators/crews involved in the transport of goods in international trade can be time-consuming and costly. This is particularly problematic in the central and eastern European region. The Trade Facilitation and Policy Team, in cooperation with the ITPWG, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and the Transport Division of UNECE will work towards developing a formal recommendation designed to address this issue.

*Target Audience:* Governments in central and eastern European region, transport and forwarding operators

*Target Date for Completion:* December 2005

#### ***5.1.1.5 Legal Aspects of Trade Facilitation***

The UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the Legal Group of UN/CEFACT, will work on preparing Recommendations to address problems and develop best practices and standards regarding the legal aspects of trade facilitation around the world.

*Target audience:* Governments (especially developing and least developed transition economies), the business community (especially SMEs)

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing



### ***5.1.1.6 Revision of Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures***

UN/CEFACT Recommendation 12, Measures to Facilitate Maritime Transport Document Procedures, was first approved in March 1979 and sought a change in official and commercial practice to:

- (a) minimize the use of negotiable transport documents and encourage the use of alternative sea waybills or other non-negotiable transport documents;
- (b) encourage the use of single original transport documents;
- (c) encourage the use of blank back and standard transport documents.

However, this Recommendation has to be updated to take account of changes in electronic commerce and document handling. UNECE, through the International Trade Procedures Working Group, will prepare this update and will encourage the use of electronic documents.

*Target Audience:* Traders, shippers, transport industry

*Target Date for Completion:* May 2004

## **5.1.2 Development and Maintenance of e-business Standards under UN/CEFACT**

### ***5.1.2.1 Development of ebXML Standard***

UN/CEFACT is currently developing the next generation of e-business standards, ebXML (Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language). This is a modular suite of specifications that will enable enterprises of any size and in any geographical location to conduct business over the Internet.

ebXML is intended to provide an open XML-based infrastructure enabling the global use of electronic business information in an interoperable, secure and consistent manner by all parties.

Development of the ebXML specifications is an ongoing effort sponsored by the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and UN/CEFACT. Technical committees for the ebXML Registry, Messaging, Collaborative Partner, and Implementation are hosted by OASIS, and Business Process and Core Component work continues at UN/CEFACT.

*Target Audience:* Business and Governments worldwide  
*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.1.2.2 Maintenance of UN/EDIFACT***

UN/EDIFACT comprises a set of internationally agreed standards, directories and guidelines for electronic data interchange (EDI), and in particular interchange related to trade in goods and services between independent, computerized information systems. The UN/EDIFACT directory currently comprises a set of over 200 messages that are used in such diverse sectors as transport, administration, finance, health care and architecture. UN/EDIFACT messages enable enterprises worldwide to exchange vital business information and to coordinate and optimise their supply chain processes. Today, UN/EDIFACT remains the sole internationally accepted standard for the electronic interchange of business information.

After a rapid development phase, the UN/EDIFACT directories have now matured and reached maintenance mode. The directories are maintained in an open, international process. Business, government and EDI experts join in regional meetings in America, Europe and Asia. These meetings prepare for the global meeting of the UN/EDIFACT Working

Group, where approximately 200 experts revise and extend the standard twice a year. The directories are produced and published by UNECE and may be downloaded free of charge by the international business community from the UNECE web site.

*Target Audience:* Business and Governments worldwide

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.1.2.3 Maintenance and extension of UN/LOCODE (UN Codes for locations)***

UN/LOCODE defines in a precise and unambiguous way locations used in international trade. It is a five-character code system that is used throughout international trade to designate locations whenever there is a need for a coded representation for the names of ports, airports, inland clearance depots, inland freight terminals and other transport related locations, such as places of receipt and delivery, which are used for goods movements associated with trade (for example, locations where Customs clearance of goods can take place), or otherwise proposed by Governments. UNECE maintains this code set and database on an ongoing basis. UN/LOCODE integrates other important location lists such as IATA Airport codes, the Lloyds Register for ports or codes of the Universal Postal Union.

Maintenance and extension of the UN/LOCODE system will include:

- Update and extension of the list of locations as required by UN/LOCODE users
- Development of a relational database system to support efficient maintenance and publication process
- Development of an Internet-based registration and dissemination system for UN/LOCODE

*Target Audience:* Business and Governments worldwide  
*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### **5.1.3 Development of agricultural quality standards under the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)**

#### **5.1.3.1 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables**

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will develop new standards for Pineapples and Shallots and will revise the standards for the following products: Apples, Citrus Fruit, Kiwifruit, Peaches and Nectarines, Pears, Plums and Strawberries (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

*Target Audience:* Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumers

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2005

#### **5.1.3.2 Inner Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will develop objective criteria for inner quality/ maturity of fruit in the standards to achieve:

- Better quality for the consumer;
- Deletion of external quality criteria, which are difficult to reach by certain production methods (e.g. organic) or production regions and might be perceived as technical barriers to trade.

*Target Audience:* Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumers

*Target Date for Completion:* 2004

### ***5.1.3.3 Harmonization of Produce Coding for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will harmonize the main parameters used in international trade (commodity, variety and grade/class) for use in electronic business and electronic export certification.

*Target Audience:* Traders and inspection services

*Target Date for Completion:* 2004

### ***5.1.3.4 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2) will revise the standards for Almonds, Pistachios and Prunes (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

*Target Audience:* Governments, trade, quality inspection services, producers, consumer

*Target Date for Completion:* **2003 - 2005**

### ***5.1.3.5 Development of a Sampling Plan and a Method to Determine the Moisture Content for Dried Fruit (GE.2)***

Harmonized sampling plans for quality testing and harmonized methods for determining the moisture content of dried fruit are essential for an internationally comparable implementation of quality standards.

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2) will develop a sampling plan and a method to determine the moisture content of dried fruit.

*Target Audience:* Inspection services

*Target Date for Completion:* 2005

#### ***5.1.3.6 Development and Maintenance of UNECE Standards for Meat***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11) will develop new standards for Chicken, Veal, Turkey, Goat, and Llama, will publish paper and electronic versions of the Standards for Ovine and Beef and will revise the standard for Pork (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

*Target Audience:* Trade, processing plants

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2005

#### ***5.1.3.7 Development and Maintenance of the UNECE Standard for Seed Potatoes***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes (GE.6) will further develop the standard on seed potatoes, including work on the introduction, field tolerances, list of pests to be checked on the mother tuber, destination tolerances, quality assurance, further development of annex IX, "Sampling Tubers for Virus Testing", superficial necrosis caused by virus and inclusion of test methods/ referencing methods.

Additional topics discussed will include evaluating the impact of genetically modified organisms (GMO) on the standard, the concerns of seed buyers and research on national certification schemes (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

*Target Audience:* Growers, trade, inspection services

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.1.3.8 Development and maintenance of the UNECE Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Early and Ware Potatoes (GE.5) will revise the tolerances for sizing and the definition of long varieties in the standards. The group will also compare the UNECE Conditions for Sale and RUCIP 2000 (industry rules for the trade in potatoes) and compile a report of national provisions for traceability (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

Target Audience: Governments Growers, trade, inspection services

Target Date for Completion: 2003-2005

### ***5.1.3.9 Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards***

The Working Party will review the recommendations made by its specialized sections and define the directions for their future work. It will review the general texts, which form the framework of the standardization activities (Geneva Protocol, Working Procedures and Standard Layout) to adapt them to its present work structure. It will monitor the implementation of standards and coordinate implementation activities (workshops, seminars, training courses) (more tasks may be added according to clients' needs).

#### **5.1.4 Development of recommendations under the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)**

##### ***5.1.4.1 Development and Maintenance of Recommendations on Standardization and Regulatory Policies***

The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will revise and prepare new recommendations to Governments concerning the establishment of business-friendly standardization and regulatory environments that also ensure the necessary protection of the health of the population and the environment. Such recommendations and their implementation are expected to contribute to eliminating technical barriers to trade.

*Target Audience:* Government regulatory authorities

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2004

##### ***5.1.4.2 Drawing up of Proposals on Conformity Assessment and Metrology Matters***

The Working Party will draw up proposals aimed at harmonizing conformity assessment procedures in the region with a view to finding agreed objective criteria for metrology and conformity assessment procedures so as to achieve mutual confidence between partners. It will also study ways of extending the use in trade of agreements on mutual recognition of tests and certificates.

*Target Audience:* Certifiers, accreditators, companies

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2005



## **5.2 IMPLEMENTATION/CAPACITY BUILDING:**

**Reducing barriers to trade in goods and services in all countries, and UNECE member States in particular, through greater implementation of international and UNECE norms, standards, instruments and recommendations, especially in trade facilitation**

Despite considerable advances over the past decade, greater implementation of existing trade facilitation recommendations, norms and standards has emerged as one of the pressing needs of many countries, especially transition and developing countries. In order to address this need, UNECE will undertake the following initiatives:

### **5.2.1 Implementation/Capacity Building in Trade Facilitation and e-business**

#### ***5.2.1.1 Capacity Building in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business in the Mediterranean***

The objective of this project is to increase the competitiveness of companies in the Mediterranean region in regional and global markets. It aims to simplify and harmonize trade procedures throughout the transaction chain; implement automated processes and information technology for administration and commerce; and facilitate the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in electronic business. It focuses on trade among the non-EU Mediterranean countries that are members of UNECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia or the Economic Commission for Africa.

Under the project, UNECE is developing e-learning tools for trade facilitation based on Recommendation 18 (in support of the Mediterranean

project). These tools will also be available for training in other areas and projects.

Further, studies are being undertaken in each target country on the status and needs of trade facilitation and electronic business infrastructure, based on interviews with public officials and representatives of private business sectors or user associations. These studies utilize the Trade and Transport Facilitation toolkit of the World Bank's Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP).

The implementation of the project will result in:

- Broader application of the United Nations standards for trade facilitation and electronic business in Mediterranean countries that are not members of the European Union;
- Establishment of a network of expertise between national institutions, the United Nations regional commissions and UNCTAD for trade facilitation and electronic business, which will also promote better understanding of the work done in this area by other international organizations;
- Strengthened cooperation between the countries of the region with regard to trade facilitation and electronic business;
- Enhanced capacity for small and medium-sized enterprises in the region to join international supply chains and participate in trade facilitation and electronic business.

*Target Audience:* Non-European Union Mediterranean countries, members of UNECE, ESCWA or ECA. Policy makers in Governments and trade in transition and developing economies

*Target Date for Completion:* 2004

### **5.2.1.2 *UNeDocs***

The facilitation of international documentary procedures is a core competency of UNECE. Already in the 1970s UNECE developed the UN Layout Key (UNLK), a standard for paper documents, which harmonizes the layout and content of trade documents and simplifies their use. Today all modern international trade documents such as the Single Administrative Document, the TIR carnet or the International Air Traffic Association (IATA) Airway Bill, are based on the UNLK. Most advanced trading countries have built over the years national trade document systems that are aligned to the UN Layout Key.

In recent years the need for a new focus on the UN Layout Key has become apparent. Indeed, the increased use of advanced logistical concepts in global trade requires that developing countries and transition economies align their trade documentation to international standards if they wish to participate in global trade. In addition it has become necessary to integrate paper trade documents into the electronic information interchange systems that are now available to trade, such as UN/EDIFACT, XML and the Internet.

To this end UNECE launched the United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project. The purpose of the project is to develop and implement solutions for efficient trade document systems based on international trade standards and on technologies that are accessible to traders from SMEs and developing countries. The project combines existing UNECE standards for paper documents with eBusiness standards such as the United Nations Trade Data Element Directory (ISO 7372) and UN/EDIFACT to define the electronic equivalents for paper documents. The project thus provides a migration path from paper-based trading environments to the advanced electronic systems. The electronic documents integrate UNECE trade recommendations and are thus an instrument to promote and implement trade standards on a global level.

Specifically, UNEDocs aims to:

- Provide a new e-business interpretation of the UNLK
- Provide tools and technical assistance to support the alignment of national trade documentation to international standards
- Provide training on document-related trade facilitation instruments
- Develop and publish electronic equivalents for paper trade documents
- Provide support in the implementation of electronic window concepts
- Encourage the development of national policies in support of the use and implementation of electronic documents, such as legislation for electronic signatures, security and confidentiality, and harmonization of cross-border trade requirements.

*Target Audience:* Cross-sector, including administrations;  
focus on transition economies and  
developing countries

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.2.1.3 Assessment of Capacity Building Requirements of Trade Facilitation Organizations (PRO Organizations) in Transition Economies***

UNECE will carry out a study of established trade facilitation organizations (PRO organizations) in transition economies to determine their current operational status, activity level, resources, and funding arrangements. The main purpose of the study will be to identify the lessons

learned from current operations and determine future capacity building requirements.

*Target Audience:* Organizations and policy makers in Governments in both transition and developing economies

*Target Date for Completion:* June 2004

#### ***5.2.1.4 Tools for Trade***

UNECE will develop instruments that support the implementation of trade facilitation, including web publication of standards, standards as downloadable databases and XML integration of code lists.

*Target Audience:* Transition and developing economies, but not exclusively

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing; demand and technology driven

#### ***5.2.1.5 Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Sustainable Development of the Russian Timber Sector***

The Trade Development and Timber Division is currently implementing the project “Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the Russian Timber Sector”. The project, initiated at the request of the Russian Federation, seeks to strengthen the trade performance of the Russian forest sector by contributing specific trade facilitation expertise from the Division.

The focus is on:

- Sustainable development
- Direct cooperation at the enterprise level

- Regional cooperation at the level of the North-Western regions of the Russian Federation
- Trade, timber and environment issues
- Cross-sectoral work.

The project partners are from the public and private sectors in the Russian Federation and in Europe. They include a wide range of private enterprises, local and regional governments, and major forest sector institutions.

The principal activities are as follows:

- Sustainable management practices for the timber enterprises
- Improved trade procedures in the timber industry
- Innovative trade finance techniques
- Capacity building for improved foreign investment
- Sustainable use of biomass
- Timber port operations

These activities are based on the core competencies of the Trade Development and Timber Division and the priority needs of the Russian forest sector. Experts from the Timber Branch, the Policy and Governmental Cooperation Branch, and the Global Trade Solutions Branch work closely together in the project for the benefit of the Russian timber enterprises.

The project activity “Improved Trade logistics for the Sustainable Use of Biomass” is a good example of the practical results achieved so far. The development of sustainable use of biomass from the Russian forest industries as a substitute for fossil fuel has become a leading activity in the field.

<i>Target Audience:</i>	Russian Forest Sector
<i>Target Date for Completion:</i>	Ongoing

### ***5.2.1.6 Participation in WTO Seminars and Workshops Within the Doha Development Agenda***

The task of assisting developing and transition economies in implementing standards and trade facilitation measures is considerable. The WTO has embarked on a programme of capacity-building seminars and training workshops to assist these countries in understanding and planning for trade facilitation implementation. The Trade Development branches will, subject to the availability of travel funding, assist the WTO in these initiatives, especially in relation to transition economies.

*Target Audience:* Transition and developing economies

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### ***5.2.1.7 Development of an Interregional Partnership for Promoting Trade as an Engine of Growth Through Knowledge Management and Taking Advantage of Information and Communication Technology***

UNECE will work with the other regional commissions, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies, to develop a common project proposal for capacity building in trade facilitation and e-business for sustainable development that would include the following components in an incremental approach, and would make the best use of the existing infrastructure:

- Trade facilitation policy and implementation issues
- Technical assistance to Governments
- Capacity-building for SMEs in electronic business
- Support to countries, sub-regions and regions in formulating negotiating objectives and strategies on trade facilitation

*Target Audience:* Developing and transition economies throughout the world

*Target Date for Completion:* Project implementation 2004-05

#### ***5.2.1.8 Support of Trade Facilitation Measures and UN/EDIFACT Implementation in Selected Eastern European Countries***

Through the joint UNECE – Czech Republic project, “Support of trade facilitation measures and UN/EDIFACT implementation in selected Eastern European Countries,” cooperation has been established with several CIS countries that have contributed to the implementation of UNECE's Recommendations. As an example, the work of the national trade facilitation body in Ukraine recently resulted in the adoption by the Parliament of a law on the “Strategy for Ukraine as a transit country.” To speed up the movement of documents and ensure equivalency between paper and electronic documents, the trade facilitation body has also prepared laws on electronic documents and electronic signature. The former has already been adopted by the Parliament. Activities under the project also included a mission to Uzbekistan to explore the feasibility of establishing a national trade facilitation body.

*Target Audience:* Governments and trade in selected Eastern European countries

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2004

#### ***5.2.1.9 Support for Trade and Transport Facilitation in SECI and the Stability Pact***

Through the office of the Regional Adviser for Trade Facilitation, the Trade Development and Timber Division works closely with and actively supports initiatives undertaken by SECI, and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (SP), and other organizations / institutions involved in SECI / SP related activities in trade and transport facilitation.



Specific activities include:

- Finalization of a review concerning the existing visa regimes for businesspeople and professional drivers in the SECI countries, by compilation of a comparative study based on the currently available country finding reports and subsequently, drawing up best practice recommendations (in cooperation with the project expert group and the SECI Coordinator's office), with a view to the eventual preparation of a respective draft UN/CEFACT recommendation.
- Finalization and implementation of a joint UNECE / United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) / SECI project on professional law enforcement personnel exchange and training, in analogy to the EU Customs 2000/2002 programmes, in the South-east European region.
- Support for modernization and sustainable development of the customs services of the SECI countries, in the framework of Working Table II of the Stability Pact, SECIPRO and the programme for Trade and Transport Facilitation in Southeast Europe (TTFSE), in order to re-enforce a holistic approach to customs reform in line with the principles of the EU Customs Blueprints, and with a view to facilitating the creation of the emerging Free Trade Area that comprises eight countries of southeast Europe and is based on a network of bilateral free trade agreements.
- Support and monitoring of the Bulgarian Customs Reform Program and coordination of this program with SECI, SP and TTFSE.
- Support of the Trade Facilitation Component under TTFSE and coordination with SECIPRO.
- Support to the capacity-building process of the PRO organizations in Southeast Europe by building operative links

between SECIPRO and EUROPRO, with a view to facilitating direct cooperation, information exchange and know-how transfer to these PRO organizations.

- Development and implementation of a project aiming at sustainable creation / further development of the Customs Post-clearance Audit Function in the SEE countries. This project will be developed in the framework of the Valuation Fraud Task Force established under the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Trans-border Crime, Bucharest.
- Support to the development of new PRO organizations with special emphasis on the South Caucasus region, by building operative links with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and facilitating know-how transfer from SECIPRO and EUROPRO, in cooperation with the World Bank.
- Trade facilitation and customs related support to projects concerning the Trans European Network Corridors in southeast Europe, in the framework of respective SECI / SP initiatives and projects.

*Target Audience:* Governments and trade in South-east Europe

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-05

#### ***5.2.1.10 Capacity Development for Women in Trade***

UNECE will cooperate with ActInvest to prepare and deliver a programme of capacity-building workshops to enhance the participation of women in international trade in transition economies.

*Target Audience:* Women in trade in transition economies

*Target Date for Completion:* Project implementation 2003-04

## **5.2.2 Implementation/Capacity Building in Perishable Produce Standards and Quality**

### **5.2.2.1 *Seminars on Quality Control and Quality Development for Perishable Produce***

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) will coordinate with the different specialized sections the development of regional seminars for quality control and quality development in 2003 and 2004.

*Target Audience:* Governments and SMEs

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2004

### **5.2.2.2 *Food quality/safety seminar***

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1) will provide technical assistance and training programmes, including the preparation of an interregional seminar on food quality and safety in cooperation with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Codex Alimentarius, OECD, WTO and EAN International.

*Target Audience:* Governments and SMEs

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003

### **5.2.3 Implementation/Capacity Building in Standardization and Quality**

#### ***5.2.3.1 Implementation/Capacity-Building in Standardization and Harmonization issues***

This project is aimed at a better understanding and wider implementation of principles of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in the region, in particular in countries acceding to the WTO. It is intended to strengthen cooperation between the national standards-setting bodies in the UNECE region. A number of workshops will be organized at the invitation of interested Governments.

*Target Audience:* Regulatory and trade authorities in transition economies

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-04

#### ***5.2.3.2 Implementation of the UNECE Recommendation “International Model for Technical Harmonization”***

The Team of Specialists on Standardization and Regulatory Techniques (“START” Team) will develop proposals for the practical implementation of the “International Model” in sectors where there is an interest from Governments in regulatory convergence. The Team works closely with business associations and companies as well as Governments.

*Target Audience:* Regulators and companies

*Target Date for Completion:* 2005

### ***5.2.3.3 Seminars on Quality and Environmental Management***

Working Party 6 will organize seminars on quality and environmental management standards in the transition economies to raise awareness of such systems and provide guidance on how to implement them. These seminars should help to enhance the capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises in the region to compete successfully on both national and international levels.

*Target Audience:* Regulators and companies

*Target Date for Completion:* 2003-2004

## **5.3 POLICY**

**Facilitating trade policy development through the provision of an open international platform for the exchange of views, particularly for the benefit of countries with economies in transition**

Developing and contributing to trade and economic policy is a major activity of UNECE's Trade Development and Timber Division. This work includes initiatives on information and communication technologies for development, contributions to sustainable development, work related to EU enlargement, and important policy developments in standardization and trade facilitation. The major activities that will be carried out in the planning period are outlined below.

### **5.3.1 ICT For Development**

#### ***5.3.1.1 Contributions to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development***

The Trade Development and Timber Division acts as the secretariat for the UNECE ICT Task Force. The Division provides support to special UN ICT initiatives, including the United Nations ICT Task Force, and provides input to the 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

*Target Audience:* All UNECE public/private sector  
*Target Date for Completion:* WSIS, December 2003 and ongoing for ICT Task Force

### **5.3.2 Sustainable Development**

#### ***5.3.2.1 Contributions to Sustainable Development***

Trade and Sustainable Development is an important element of UNECE's Trade Development Strategic Action Plan for 2004-2005. In this area, UNECE will work closely with UNCTAD and the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. The Strategic Action Plan will primarily support the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) plan of implementation in the areas of certification, conformity assessment and technical harmonization as well as logistics and facilitation of trade in sustainable biomass.

UNECE's work in trade facilitation helps to promote sustainable economic and social development by encouraging more efficient use of resources at any given level of trade transactions, primarily in the areas of transport and paper use. This work also enhances the sustainable

participation of SMEs in trade by reducing procedural and cost barriers. Therefore, the work contributes to the WSSD goals of enhancing the capacities of developing countries to benefit from liberalized trade opportunities and narrowing the digital divide.

In environmental/hazardous goods control, trade facilitation makes possible improved tracking and handling as well as reduced border-crossing delays, thus contributing to the WSSD goal of preventing damage resulting from the trans-boundary movement of such goods.

In support of sustainable consumption and production patterns, the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards will be reviewing its standards to see if and how they may need to be adapted for organically grown products (see section 5.1.3). In addition, the implementation of such standards in the agricultural export sectors of less developed transition economies will help these countries open markets in the rest of Europe, thus contributing to economically sustainable development and the WSSD goal of enhancing access to existing markets and developing new markets for value-added agricultural products.

UNECE's Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6) will be exploring the applicability of its work in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly in the area of timber certification. Specific work includes the implementation of the Working Party's recommended International Model for Technical Harmonization based on good regulatory practice and its recommendations, guidelines and regularly organized exchanges of information on certification and conformity assessment practices (see section 5.2.3).

The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) also contributes actively to policy dialogue on how to develop the trade sectors of transition economies and increase these countries' integration into regional and global trade networks, taking into account

environmentally sensitive products, the growth of environmental services, and the growing demand by consumers for socially responsible enterprises.

In the areas of technical cooperation, this subprogramme also has a project to support the financing and facilitating of trade in biomass (work item 2.1.5), which directly supports the WSSD implementation goal of improving access to fuelwood sources and supplies and commercializing biomass operations, as well as implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

*Target Audience:* Governments and trade

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### **5.3.3 Economic integration in a wider Europe**

#### ***5.3.3.1 EU Enlargement: Economic Integration in a Wider Europe***

As the UNECE Focal Point for EU matters and EU liaison, the Trade Development and Timber Division will consider the implications for the UNECE region of economic integration. Brief studies will provide analyses of the potential impact of the greater integration of States not acceding to the EU, into the European and global economy and the opportunity for using UNECE instruments to facilitate this process, particularly in the field of trade and transport.

The UNECE has supported European economic cooperation for more than 50 years. UNECE instruments have proved important in facilitating trade, transit and customs matters as well as in promoting common legal instruments for transport and cross-border cooperation. Among those countries not acceding to the EU, the active use of these instruments and UNECE experience and expertise could greatly facilitate their further integration into the European and global economy. UNECE instruments provide the basis for EU activities and legislation in a number



of areas. In order to strengthen trade, business and investment in the UNECE region, there will be a need for countries not acceding to the EU to adopt and implement legislation that is compatible with and converges on international legislation, norms and standards, including those of the EU. The EU provides technical and financial assistance for this purpose. The UNECE will make available its instruments to support the process of convergence.

Over the planning period, UNECE will promote closer cooperation in economic and trade links in the wider Europe through a variety of activities and programmes. Most importantly, UNECE will work towards the implementation and coordination of norms and standards supporting trade in the region by helping to build a common framework for technical harmonization and standardization and building bridges for prosperity and peace.

A workshop on *Trade, Business and Investment in a Wider Europe* was held in April 2003, and the proceedings will be published at the end of the year. It focused on the benefits of EU enlargement for the UNECE region and the implications of the EU policy regarding its “new neighbours”.

A workshop will be organised in cooperation with the Greek Government on “*Regulatory Convergence in a Wider Europe*”. It will examine the changes in the standards and regulatory environment occasioned by EU enlargement and the development of closer economic integration between the EU and neighbouring countries. The workshop will be organized in cooperation with the European Commission.

The UNECE will also organize a workshop early in 2004 to consider the changing security environment in the region and its economic implications. The workshop will be jointly organized with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It will bring together many

regional organizations to stimulate further discussion of the economic dimension of security following EU enlargement.

The Committee in 2004 will review the results of these workshops and consider how UNECE can contribute to ensuring that no new economic divisions occur in the region following EU enlargement. The Committee will hold a major *Forum on Trade, Industry and Enterprise in a Wider Europe* at its annual session in May 2004. In particular, the Committee Forum will focus on how UNECE trade facilitation and trade-related standards will contribute to promoting prosperity in the region following EU enlargement.

UNECE will intensify its cooperation in the regions of southeast Europe, eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia that are still in transition. It will offer its norms and standards to facilitate and promote the integration of these regions into the European and global economy, including through intra-regional and regional cooperation in a multilateral environment.

UNECE is already working closely with SECI and the Stability Pact in this region and has received requests from several Governments to intensify trade-related activities. A number of countries have urgent needs for assistance, particularly in the areas of cross-border trade infrastructures, border-crossing procedures, technical harmonization and quality standards, inspection and accreditation agencies, and customs control services at major crossing points. The Regional Advisor on Trade Facilitation will address these issues.

UNECE support to the development of trade in a wider Europe will also focus on enhancing the implementation and use of electronic documents and ICT. This work will include seminars focused on capacity building, especially in the area of e-business as a means to improve integration into international supply chains. For example, UNECE, with

support from the Governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, is developing a feasibility study to implement electronic trade documents in the customs service of Serbia and Montenegro. UNECE will also work to achieve a broader application of UN standards for trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean region through the project on “Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean”, detailed under work item 2.1.1 above.

UNECE activity in technical standardization and harmonization issues in the Commonwealth of Independent States aims to provide the countries with recommendations and/or policy options to facilitate their market reforms and integration into the world economy.

The UNECE Working Party on Technical Standardization and Harmonization Policies will continue to play a large role in promoting the improvement of the Commonwealth of Independent States interstate standards on the basis of their harmonization with international and regional standards and other international documents concerning standardization and metrology. The Working Party has regular contacts with the CIS Interstate Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (including presentation and discussion of major Working Party documents and projects at its sessions). The Council has recognized the importance of the UNECE recommendations, and uses the “International Model for Technical Harmonization” (Recommendation “L”) as a guide for harmonization in the Commonwealth of Independent States (see work item 2.3.2).

*Target Audience:* All UNECE public/private sector  
*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### **5.3.4 Trade Facilitation Policy**

#### ***5.3.4.1 Development of Trade Facilitation Policy and Undertaking Relevant Research***

UNECE's Trade Development and Timber Division prepares policy papers on key trade topics for discussion at high-level meetings throughout the planning period. For example, papers on trade security and the income distribution impact of Trade Facilitation were prepared for the May 2003 International Forum on trade facilitation. Possible other areas for research and policy development include:

- Strategies and approaches for implementing trade facilitation in transition economies
- Facilitating trade in services
- Implementing trade facilitation within the WTO
- 20 years of trade facilitation PRO organizations – current practices, lessons learned and future requirements
- Measuring trade facilitation implementation
- Trade facilitation strategies for landlocked countries
- Public/private sector models for implementing trade facilitation
- Options for funding trade facilitation implementation
- Regional versus global approaches to trade facilitation implementation
- Benefits and costs of trade facilitation
- Trade facilitation and development
- Trade facilitation case studies in transition and developing economies – lessons learned and recommendations for the future

As this is a large agenda, UNECE will necessarily be highly selective in its approach to these topics.

*Target Audience:* Various  
*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

#### **5.3.4.2 *Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Policy Working Group within UN/CEFACT***

At its Plenary meeting in May 2002, UN/CEFACT decided to establish a Policy Group to develop proposals, concepts and ideas on future strategies and directions for trade facilitation and e-business, directed towards Governments and the private sector in all regions. The Group may develop recommendations on specific policy issues, such as the inclusion and implementation of trade facilitation and e-business tools and measures in overall trade and ICT policy. It will report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary. The secretariat will support the work of the Policy Group.

*Target Audience:* Governments and trade  
*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### **5.3.5 Standardization Policy**

#### **5.3.5.1 *Standardization Policy: Eliminating Technical Barriers to Trade***

Differences in standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment rules create major obstacles to trade. With the liberalization of international trade, it is becoming increasingly important to reduce or eliminate technical barriers to trade. Therefore, further work towards harmonization and convergence in this area is needed.

UNECE contributes to the implementation of relevant WTO rules and provisions by offering advice on the possible forms and mechanisms of

their practical implementation. This work will continue over the planning period.

*Target Audience:* Governments

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

## **5.4 PROMOTION**

### **Promoting the value and effectiveness of trade facilitation instruments and standards in trade and economic development**

There is a pressing need for greater awareness and understanding of the benefits, implications and available resources for trade facilitation and e-business implementation. Clearly, more must be done to sensitise policy makers to the core issues involved, as well as to the strategies and approaches for implementation. UNECE plans to undertake the following projects to address this need:

#### **5.4.1 Forums**

##### ***5.4.1.1 International Forum on Trade Facilitation 2003***

UNECE hosted the Second International Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2003 on the theme “Sharing the Gains of Globalization in the New Security Environment”. The Forum held parallel sessions on specific topics and received a high level of participation from the private sector. It focused on practical issues involving the implementation of trade facilitation, and provided extended opportunities for policy debate and formulation.

*Target Audience:* Governments, business organizations, trade practitioners, trade-related international organizations, and trade negotiators

*Target Date for Completion:* May 2003

## **5.4.2 Multiplier Point Network**

### ***5.4.2.1 Development and Maintenance of the Multiplier Point Network***

The Trade Development and Timber Division has set up a network of Multiplier Points in 25 transition economies. These Multiplier Points disseminate trade information for UNECE and the wider United Nations system and bring this information to the many potential beneficiaries in member States, including business, trade associations, Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and other groups.

The organizations in the network promote, distribute and translate into national languages reports, recommendations, standards, documents, publications, guidelines and other information to promote effective implementation of UNECE's work. Target audiences are the business community, including start-up entrepreneurs, and local, regional and national authorities in charge of developing an enabling environment for business and trade. The programme contributes significantly to local capacity building. Since April 2001, 51 organizations from 25 central and eastern European countries as well as the Commonwealth of Independent States have joined and now participate in the activities of the network.

During 2003-2005, the Multiplier Points network will continue to contribute to UNECE visibility in the region and promote United Nations publications and documentation related to the creation of a favourable environment for business and trade. The network's major activities will include incorporating new countries and organizations, and its extension throughout western Europe and North America; focusing the attention of participating organizations on United Nations debates on major social and economic issues; maintaining and developing a web site in the three UNECE working languages (English, French and Russian); increasing the exchange of information, ideas, knowledge and know-how; increasing the dissemination of UNECE recommendations, standards, directives,

documents and other sources of information throughout the network; and continuing to strengthen cooperation and coordination among the experts of the network.

*Target audience:* Business community, including start-up entrepreneurs, local, regional and national authorities in charge of business and trade, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Governments, missions, delegations, international organizations, and civil society groups

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

### **5.4.3 Information Dissemination**

#### ***5.4.3.1 Promotional Material on Agricultural Quality Standards***

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) will work on promotional material (e.g a booklet on UNECE Standards) for the use of the secretariat and delegations in promoting knowledge and application of UNECE Standards.

*Target Audience:* Governments and trade

*Target Date for Completion:* 2004



#### **5.4.3.2 Information Brochure on UNECE's Trade-Related Work**

UNECE will develop an informative brochure outlining the specific Recommendations, norms and standards and tools it has developed.

*Target Audience:* Governments, permanent missions, business community, international organizations

*Target Date for Completion:* 2004

#### **5.4.3.3 Maintenance and Further Development of UNECE Trade-Related Web sites**

Over the last two years, the Trade Development and Timber Division has developed several web portals providing trade facilitation information and tools to specific user groups. These sites contain over 10,000 web pages of information. The sites are much appreciated by the user community; access to the web portals of the Division accounts for about one third of the UNECE web access. During the next two years, the sites will be significantly re-focused to ensure better access to trade facilitation and standards information.

*Target Audience:* Governments, permanent missions, business community, international organizations

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

#### **5.4.3.4 Information Dissemination Programme**

UNECE will embark on a proactive information dissemination programme (including regular briefings, press releases, liaison) over the period 2003-2005.

*Target Audience:* Governments, permanent missions, delegations, trade missions, business community, and international organizations

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

#### **5.4.4 Promoting UN/CEFACT's Work**

##### **5.4.4.1 UN/CEFACT Promotion and Communications Group**

At its Plenary meeting in May 2002, UN/CEFACT decided to establish a Promotion and Communication Group (PCG) to develop policy guidelines for promotional and communication activities, as well as promotional material focusing on the benefits of trade facilitation and UN/CEFACT's work. The PCG may develop publications and guidelines on specific issues, as well as take initiatives for seminars and events. It will report to the UN/CEFACT Plenary. The secretariat will support the PCG through the preparing policy guidelines and promotional material, and generally promoting UN/CEFACT work, in association with the PCG.

*Target Audience:* Governments, permanent missions, delegations, business community, international organizations

*Target Date for Completion:* Ongoing

## **5.4.5 Trade Promotion**

### ***5.4.5.1 Development and Maintenance of the Trade Directory***

The Trade Directory for the UNECE region is a reference guide developed to assist in bridging existing information gaps and to stimulate trade and investment within the region. It offers a “one-stop shop” for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) looking for institutional information in support of their export or investment activities, and increased transparency in regulations and trading requirements at both national and international level. The Directory consists of two sections: the first section lists international organizations supporting trade and the second, national organizations supporting trade in each UNECE member State. It will be made available on the Internet and regularly updated.

<i>Target Audience:</i>	Governments, permanent missions, delegations, business community, international organizations
<i>Target Date for Completion:</i>	Ongoing. The first version was made available on the Internet in May 2003

## **5.5 INTEGRATION**

### **Integrating UNECE's trade activities with those of other UN and international trade-related bodies**

UNECE enjoys well-structured cooperation and coordination with United Nations Headquarters, as well as with trade-related organizations within and outside the United Nations system, especially:

- United Nations regional commissions
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- The World Bank
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Trade Centre (ITC) UNCTAD/WTO
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

During the planning period, particular attention will be given to strengthening cooperation with the other UN regional commissions, UNCTAD and the WTO to support an open and accessible forum for intergovernmental policy deliberations regarding trade in goods and services. At the regional level, studies and capacity-building activities

(seminars, workshops, advisory services) will contribute to further economic integration in Europe and the development of a possible common European economic space. In addition, work will be undertaken to strengthen transition economies in their policies and institutions to implement the sustainable development of trade. The business community and non-governmental organizations will be encouraged to participate in all aspects of the subprogramme.

UNECE cooperates closely with the other regional commissions on specific projects, such as the Mediterranean Project and the Regional Commissions Project on Trade Facilitation and e-business (detailed in sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.7 respectively), and exchanges information on a regular basis.

UNECE also works with a range of subregional groupings, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) secretariat, and specialized agencies such as the CIS Interstate Council for Standardization. In all cases, its work is well coordinated with the other secretariats and adds value to inter-governmental trade cooperation. It also works closely with the EU.

The specific cooperation undertaken with each of these organizations is summarized in the table below. This work will continue and will be strengthened over the planning period.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mechanisms for Cooperation</b>	<b>Current concrete UNECEc cooperation</b>
FAO Codex Alimentarius (Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats</li> <li>○ Secretariats actively participate in relevant meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNECE standards are circulated to the members of the Codex Committee for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables whenever a Codex Standard for the same or similar produce is developed</li> </ul>
ICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participation in meetings and seminars</li> <li>○ Exchange of information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participation in the UN/CEFACT ITPWG</li> <li>○ Many Chambers of Commerce host UNECE Multiplier Points</li> </ul> <p>Joint organization of the elections of the special committee under the 1961 European Convention on International Commercial Arbitration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussions on standardization of the documentary credit form</li> </ul>
IEC, ITU and ISO (See also ISO Technical Committee 154 and ISO)	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU	<p>Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats</p> <p>Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups</li> <li>○ Summit meetings by the Memorandum of Understanding Management group on coordination and standardization issues</li> </ul>
ISO (See also ISO Technical Committee)	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE, IEC, ISO and ITU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and annual seminars</li> <li>○ Participation in the MoU</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current concrete UNECEc operation
154 and IEC, ITU and ISO)		
ISO Technical Committee 154 (See also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regular Working Group meetings</li> <li>○ Plenary meetings once a year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNECE is the Secretary to the Technical Committee 154</li> <li>○ UNECE is the maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory)</li> <li>○ The MoU for UNECE to be the secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique and demonstrates the excellent cooperation between the two organizations</li> </ul>
ITC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Active participation in and contribution to each other's programmes</li> <li>○ Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An informal agency group on trade facilitation</li> <li>○ Presentations on trade facilitation to ITC seminars</li> <li>○ ITC has arranged parallel workshops during CTIED Forums</li> <li>○ Exploring ITC's participation in the Mediterranean project on supply chain management</li> <li>○ Exploring ITC's contribution to training on trade facilitation</li> </ul>
OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries and secretariats actively participate in each other's relevant meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNECE Standards are adopted by OECD</li> <li>○ The UNECE meetings, the OECD Plenary meeting and both secretariats work closely on updating and interpreting the standards</li> </ul>

Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current concrete UNECEc operation
Regional Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meetings</li> <li>○ Joint projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mediterranean project (ESCWA and ECA)</li> </ul>
UNCTAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums</li> <li>○ Mutual contribution to projects: experts, publications</li> <li>○ - Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joint publications: Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations and the Brochure on Trade Facilitation for the Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2002</li> <li>○ UNCTAD participates actively in the UN/CEFACT ITPWG</li> <li>○ UNECE supports the Czech technical assistance cooperation managed by UNCTAD</li> <li>○ UNCTAD provides assistance to the UNECE Russian timber project</li> </ul>
WCO	Memorandum of Understanding between UNECE and WCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Participates actively in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups</li> <li>○ Possible participation with UNECE in an e-learning project</li> <li>○ Possible participation in the G7 customs dataset</li> </ul>
WTO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member of the informal inter-agency group for trade facilitation (ITC, WTO, UNCTAD, UNECE)</li> <li>○ Trade Division &amp; WTO staff meet regularly beyond the inter-agency group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WTO was a partner in organizing the UNECE Forum on Trade Facilitation in May 2002</li> <li>○ WTO representatives attend regularly meetings of CTIED subsidiary bodies</li> <li>○ UNECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions</li> </ul>



Organization	Mechanisms for Cooperation	Current concrete UNECEc operation
World Bank		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ - Participates actively in UN/CEFACT ITPWG meetings</li> <li>○ - Participation with UNECE in the Mediterranean project</li> <li>○ - Supports International Forum on Trade Facilitation</li> <li>○ Supports SECI project</li> </ul>

## **5.6 SUPPORT FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS**

One of the major tasks of the secretariat is to support the subsidiary bodies in preparing and implementing their programmes of work, which are, in turn, based on needs and priorities that have been established through a dialogue among Governments, and between Governments and users from both the private and the public sector. The support services include research, preparation and distribution of documentation in the three working languages (English, French and Russian), the maintenance of databases and websites, as well as the general distribution and promotion of the work done. The secretariat manages resources and assists the groups in their work, providing detailed documentation and background studies to develop trade policy, standards and trade facilitation recommendations.

The main intergovernmental bodies supported by and providing input to the Trade Development Branches are:

- Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED);
- United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT);
- Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6);
- Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7).

Participation in these intergovernmental bodies is open to Governments and various elements of civil society such as the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academic communities and other interested groups.

### **5.6.1 Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED)**

The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED) is the intergovernmental body responsible for all UNECE activities related to trade, industry and enterprise development. It reviews and approves a programme of work (Plan) that includes the work of all its subsidiary bodies (including those that are not serviced by the Trade Development branches) and monitors the implementation of this programme of work.

The objectives for the work of the Committee, as set out in the UNECE 1997 Plan of Action, are to:

- Support the UNECE objective of facilitating and strengthening the involvement of all member countries in harmonious economic relations;
- Assist in the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy, and work to prevent the development of new barriers to trade within the region;
- Contribute to the creation of a clear, predictable and supportive environment for industrial and enterprise development activities.

The Committee accomplishes the above by:

- (a) Assisting in reducing technical barriers to trade and market access;
- (b) Developing and promoting standards, common procedures and best practices for trade;

- (a) Developing regional/international contact networks for national ministries and business communities;
- (b) Encouraging the adoption of international or regional standards and norms related to trade and business;
- (c) Identifying ways of developing trade and investment finance possibilities;
- (d) Promoting the development of new economic sectors based upon innovation and new technologies;
- (e) Facilitating the restructuring and development of industry and enterprises.

This encompasses more than just the work done by the Trade Development branches since the Committee is responsible for two subprogrammes. The Trade Development branches, however, are responsible for most of activities a) through e).

#### **5.6.2 United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)**

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) was created to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively and thus contribute to the growth of global commerce. The Centre focuses on the worldwide facilitation of international transactions through simplifying and harmonizing procedures and information flows.

UN/CEFACT is open to participation from UN member States, intergovernmental organizations, and sectoral and industry associations recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). The Centre's objective is to be "inclusive". It actively encourages organizations to contribute and help develop its recommendations and standards.

It comprises five groups:

- International Trade and Business Processes Group (TBG);
- Information Content Management Group (ICG);
- Applied Technologies Group (ATG);
- Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG);
- Legal Group (LG).

### **5.6.3 Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies (WP.6)**

The UNECE Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies provides a unique forum for examining and debating issues related to norms, standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment and market surveillance. Participation includes Governments, international, regional and national organizations and the private sector.

The Working Party cooperates with the principal international standards-setting bodies and with regional and national regulatory, standards and conformity assessment organizations and agencies. Special attention is devoted to assisting countries with economies in transition.

### **5.6.4 Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7)**

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards develops internationally harmonized, agricultural commercial quality standards for perishable produce on the basis of national standards or trade practices to:

- Facilitate fair international trade and prevent technical barriers to trade;
- Improve producers' profitability and encourage production of high quality produce;

- Protect consumers' interests by guaranteeing product quality.

The standards constitute a common trading language for buyer and seller, facilitating negotiations as well as the establishment of contracts and resolution of conflicts. The OECD not only adopts these standards but also develops explanatory material and guidelines for implementing them.

The agricultural quality standards work is organized in four thematic “specialized sections”:

- Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (GE.1);
- Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit) (GE.2);
- Specialized Section on Standardization of Potatoes (GE.5 and GE.6);
- Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11).

## **5.7 PUBLICATIONS**

The Trade Development and Timber Division prepares a large range of publications, both non-recurrent and recurrent . These are sources of highly relevant information and also serve as reference guides to facilitate the implementation of standards, norms and recommendations in member States. A list of publications scheduled for 2003 – 2005 is given below:

### *Non-Recurrent Publications:*

- Proceedings of annual CTIED Forums, 1 issue in 2003
- Guidelines on Standardization and Related Regulatory Policies, 1 issue in 2003
- Single Window Trade Facilitation Recommendation, 1 issue in 2004
- Guide and Formal Recommendation on Trade Facilitation Benchmarking, 1 issue in 2005

- Revised Recommendation 12 on measures to facilitate maritime transport documents, 1 issue in 2005
- Recommendation regarding Driver Visa Requirements for International Truck Drivers (Internet-only publication), 1 issue in 2005
- Legal Aspects of Trade Facilitation, 1 issue in 2005
- Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations (revised edition in 2005)
- UNECE Experience using the World Bank Trade Facilitation Audit Methodology, 1 issue in 2004
- Updated Trade Facilitation, UN/EDIFACT and e-business training material, 2003
- Guide on Regulatory Issues, 1 issue in 2004
- Revised UNECE Standard for Porcine Carcasses and Cuts (paper-only version), 1 issue in 2004
- Revised UNECE Standard for Bovine Carcasses and Cuts (paper-only version), 1 issue in 2005
- Colour charts for dry and dried produce (paper-only publication), 1 issue in 2005
- Reports on Sustainable Development issues in the Russian Forest Sector (XB), 1 issue each year
- Brochure on UNECE Trade Development, Products and Services, 2003
- Information brochure on the work of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (CTIED), 2003
- Information brochure about Agricultural Quality Standards, 2003
- Trade Policy Briefings, 3 issues each year
- Recommendations to Improve Trade Financing and Procedures, 2003

Recurrent Publications:

- Trade Data Interchange Directory (TDID – also known as the UN/EDIFACT Directories), Internet publication, 2 issues each year
- Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED), Internet publication, 1 in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Trade and Electronic Business, Internet publication, 1 each year
- United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), Internet publication, 2 each year
- UNECE Standards for Dry and Dried Fruit (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Early and Ware Potatoes (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Seed Potatoes (revision), Internet publication, 1 issue in 2005
- UNECE Standards for Poultry Meat (to be issued only if the new revision is approved), 1 in 2003
- Annual report on CTIED trade activities, 1 in 2003
- Compendium of Best Practices for International Trade and Business, CD Rom publication, 1 issue in 2005
- Trade Development Directory, Internet publication, 1 issue each year

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