

**Bureau teleconference discussion notes and decisions**  
**Monday, 29 May 2017 GoToMeeting session (15:00-17:00 CET)**

**Participants:**

**Bureau present:** Anders Grangård, Colin Laughlan, Estelle Igwe, Harm Jan van Burg, Ian Watt, Lance Thompson (Chair), Tahseen A. Khan, Sue Probert

**Bureau absent:** Raffaele Fantetti

**Secretariat:** Maria Ceccarelli, Maria-Teresa Pisani, Tatiana Rosu

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action/Decision</b>
1. Roll-call	Quorum: 8 of 9 Bureau Members = quorum	
1a. Approval the agenda		Approved with minor modifications.
1b. Approval of meeting report of 16 May 2017		Approved with minor modifications.
2a. Harmonization PDA	VC Watt presented briefly the background of the initiative. The intent is to have a conversation about the nature of the current projects and the original views and objectives of the Bureau. To achieve harmonization the VCs suggested further discussion in Paris.	The discussion will be continued during the F2F Bureau meeting in Paris.
3a. T+L – Smart containers project proposal	It was noted that the scope seems perhaps too broad and the inclusion of EDIFACT messages and references to IoT was questioned. However, others felt the scope is adequate; it is the potential user community who might be the main users of the information and the relevant parties that might receive the smart containers updates, which is intentionally broad for the moment. The project is more about making available a general solution to be reused by the stakeholders, and not about making specific solutions for each of them. Furthermore, the smart container could be another actor in a supply chain situation. The data could be very valuable to track changes and history during cross-border logistics. Additionally, it was suggested to take into account the following elements within the existent library: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN/CEFACT Core Component library</li> <li>• UN/CEFACT International Supply Reference</li> </ul>	<b>Bureau decision 1705013</b> Approval of T+L – Smart containers project proposal with minor modifications, pending 3 HoD support. Project leader: Hanane Becha VC in charge: VC Probert.
3b. T+L eBOD project proposal	VC Probert presented the T+L eBOD project. A few questions, which were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The type of delivery (Bill of Delivery) should be specified (whether this is responding to specific paper processes in today's transactions).</li> </ul>	VC Probert will bring these comments and questions to the project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two similar projects exist within UN/CEFACT (eCMR [p1040] and Scheduling [p1036]). The project proposers should make clear the relationship with these projects.</li> <li>• The scope of the project is similar to that for the T+L Smart Containers project. It was suggested to wait until the end of the T+L Smart Containers (recently approved), as they may overlap (which could have not be known in 2015 when the project started).</li> <li>• English grammar issues to be addressed by the project team.</li> <li>• The Multi-Modal Transport Reference Data Model [p1023] and the Supply Chain Reference Data Model [p1030] should be referenced in this type of project.</li> <li>• The project leader and the editor are from the same country. It was suggested to expand the number of countries involved in one project. A rule for this will be discussed at the F2F meeting in Paris.</li> <li>• The project should not be referring only to mobile exchanges. The project should be in line with UN/CEFACT’s program of work and strategy. The focus should be on business processes and data requirements.</li> <li>• In terms of deliverables, a RSM will be required between the BRS and XML messages. It must be related to MMT-RDM or SCRDM.</li> </ul>	<p>proposers as well as the three HoDs who provided support for this project.</p>
<p>3c. eGOV – Ensuring Legally Significant Trusted Transboundary...</p>	<p>The secretariat informed the Bureau on the steps that should be taken to start the process of development of an International Convention. First, an independent group of experts should prepare a draft position paper. The position paper should define the scope of such a Convention and explore support, arguments and other alternatives to the Convention. The position paper should also explore relevant legal instruments developed or adopted by other organizations. The minimum number of member states to ratify the Convention in order to have it entering into force should be mentioned in the position paper. For instance, for the UNECE Environment Conventions previously signed, a minimum of 16 Member States were needed to ensure entry into force. A legal expert should be in the drafting group. The entire process can take up to about 2-3 years, including the drafting.</p> <p>Once drafted by experts, the Position Paper needs to be approved by the Bureau, and the Plenary. It could also include the Zero Draft of the Convention, which is then sent the inter-governmental body (it can be the UN/CEFACT Plenary or an ad-hoc intergovernmental body) for negotiation.</p>	<p>The secretariat could draft a note summarizing the steps for the Bureau. Meanwhile the project team could start drafting the Position Paper. Meanwhile the project team (which will need to be extended) could start drafting the Position Paper. The discussion will be continued at the F2F meeting in Paris.</p>

	<p>The Executive Office of UNECE in consultation with the New York legal office for International Treaties should provide legal advice on the formal steps including with the EXCOM.</p> <p>It was suggested to have the UN/CEFACT Plenary as the negotiating body for the Convention. The possibility to add the aspect of “Ensuring legally Significant Trusted Transboundary Electronic Interaction” as an extension to the Regional Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific could also be explored. Thus, the Agreement could become global. The Secretariat emphasized that modifying or amending this Agreement could be a lengthy process. It was also suggested that having a regional Agreement first would move the process forward faster. This is also due to rapid technological changes that cannot be neglected.</p>	
3d. SWD – Core Principles project [p1041]	VC Igwe invited the Bureau to update the milestones dates due to increased interest from a wider audience than initially expected.	<b>Bureau decision 1705014</b> Approval of milestones updates for SWD – Core Principles
3e. T+L – MMT project [p1023]	VC Probert invited the Bureau to update the milestones dates for this project.	<b>Bureau decision 1705015</b> Approval of milestones updates for T+L – MMT project.
3f. T+L – eCMR project [p1040]	VC Probert invited the Bureau to update the milestones, as the BRS needs to be adjusted.	<b>Bureau decision 1705016</b> Approval of milestones updates for eCMR project.
3g. T+T – DTI project		The discussion was postponed for the next Bureau meeting.
3x.	<p>Change in responsible Bureau Vice-Chair (following new structure):  <u>Insurance Domain projects to be placed under VC Probert:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insur – Reimbursement of Claims (should end in 2014?)</li> <li>• Insur – CC for C’al Insurance (should end 1 Jan 2014)</li> <li>• Insur – CC Property Claims (should end 2012?)</li> </ul>	The Insurance domain with all of its current projects has been moved to Ship PDA – under the responsibility of VC Probert.
4a. Preparations for UN/CEFACT 30 <sup>th</sup> FORUM	<p>Preparations for UN/CEFACT 30<sup>th</sup> FORUM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first FOC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 15:00 CET.</li> <li>• The secretariat is working on the HCA signature by the Executive Office. The venue and timing for the Forum is booked.</li> </ul>	

5a. Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat contributed to the UNCTAD Empowerment Program for National Trade Facilitation Committees in Gabon and Cameroun. A press-release has been published on the UNECE website.</li> <li>• The Secretariat will represent UNECE and UN/CEFACT at the UN OCEAN Conference during the 1st week of June in New York. Colleagues from FLUX will also participate.</li> <li>• The secretariat is preparing an event with the Working Party 6 at the EU Development days on sustainability and traceability in the textile sector in Brussels on 8 June 2017.</li> <li>• The Chief of the Trade Facilitation Section, Maria Ceccarelli, has been invited to speak at a side event at WSIS on digital trade.</li> <li>• The secretariat is preparing a regional report “Global Survey on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade” in cooperation with other Regional Commissions. The report will be presented at the Aid for Trade side event at WTO in July 2017.</li> </ul>	
5x. (no Liaison points pending?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VC van Burg will attend in September 2017 the Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2017 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.</li> <li>• The secretariat is trying to organize a side event on this occasion.</li> </ul>	
6a. Report from Secretariat		
7a. Report from Communication	The searchability of outputs published online should be improved.	
9a Other business		
9b. Next Bureau meeting	Next Bureau meeting: June 12 (MONDAY) <b>15:00 CET.</b>	