

DRAFT - Bureau teleconference discussion notes and decisions
Wednesday, 18 June 2014 GoToMeeting session (16:00-17:05 CEST)

Participants:

Bureau: Stuart Feder (Chair), Anders Grangård, Estelle Igwe, Lance Thompson

Invited Guest: Eduardo Gutentag (Adviser)

Apologies: Harm Jan van Burg, Raffaele Fantetti, Tahseen A. Khan

UNECE Secretariat: Maria Ceccarelli, Tauno Kangur

| Agenda item | Discussion | Action/Decision |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Roll-call | Quorum: 4 of 7 Bureau members | |
| 2. Agree on Draft Agenda. | | Agreed. |
| 3. Approve notes of previous session(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion notes of 11 June were reviewed and, given some comments from Vice Chairs who were unable to attend, there will be follow-up at the next call. • On the subject of continuing the policy of open access to content on the Confluence website, Adviser Gutentag reviewed a note which is attached. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed notes prepared for call on 11 June, as an initiative to try out an alternative drafting approach, will be reformatted to align with the previous less detailed secretariat format and adjusted to show that some topics will be followed up with respect to matters concerning ODP and meetings of experts outside Forums. |
| 4. Follow-up to last call and developments for information / decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chairs Grangard and Thompson will be reviewing the list of projects as part of their initial efforts of BPS Project and Review and Support (PRS), with a view to shortly following up with Bureau on some suggestions concerning the status of projects across-the-board and any needed clarifications. • India Forum: Considering that the HCA might still take several weeks to be signed, secretariat has requested a meeting with the high UNECE management, to take place next week, to have their opinion on how to proceed. The Bureau will be informed as soon as possible on the outcome. • Draft Agenda for meeting of experts in Paris next week organized by Vice Chairs Igwe and Thompson was noted, including efforts concerning WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. • A number of documents being prepared by the Bureau were noted, including the Integrated Strategy, Programme of Work, envisaged activities of BPS Project Review and Support and procedures (e.g. availability of notes on Bureau calls on Confluence). | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 5. Information from UNECE secretariat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Facilitation Agreement: The WCO has held an information meeting this week at WTO, to inform about their activities and tools to support the TFA. Ratification of the TFA might be more difficult than expected. LDCs appear increasingly concerned they will not get the support they need to comply with the TFA. • Nigeria is playing a significant role on TFA issues in Geneva. Vice Chair Igwe will review the situation with colleagues in Nigeria and during the Paris meeting and suggest to the Bureau what might be supported by UN/CEFACT.. | |
| 6. Other business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat has proposed an alternate date for 2015 Plenary: 16-17 February 2015. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed by Bureau, secretariat will go ahead with the rooms booking. |
| 7. Planning next calls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will take place Monday, June 30 at 14:00 CEST. | |