

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Rotating Acting Chairmanship

The Chair of UN/CEFACT, Lance THOMPSON stepped down on June 30th. He has integrated the UNECE Secretariat as Chief of UN/CEFACT Support Unit; so, he will still be very involved. As per the procedures, the remaining Vice Chairs designated an acting chair until the next Plenary (April 2018) when a new chair can be elected. The remaining Bureau decided to do a rotating acting chairmanship in order to share the responsibility equally.

The decided rotation will be:

- 1 July – 18 September: VC Grangård
- 19 September – 16 October: VC Fantetti
- 17 October – 11 December: VC Igwe
- 12 December – 22 January: VC Probert
- 23 January – 25 February: VC Laughlan
- 26 February – 16 March: VC Watt
- 17 March – 30 April: VC Khan

VC Van Burg will continue to lead the Forum Organizing Committee.

Domain Coordinator Nominations

During the Bureau face to face meeting in Paris end of June, the Bureau nominated Domain Coordinators and Focal Points for the period 2017-2019 as follows:

- International Trade Procedures Domain: Virginia Cram Martos
- Single Window Domain: Aleksei Bondarenko
- Supply Chain & Procurement Domain: Edmund Gray
- Finance & Payment Domain: Liliana Fratini Passi
- Accounting & Audit Domain: Benoît Marchal & Eric Cohen
- Transport & Logistics Domain: David Roff & Jérôme Bescanot
- Insurance Domain: Andreas Shultz
- Environment Domain: Norbert Pfaffinger
- Agriculture, Fisheries & Agri-Food Domain: . Frans van Diepen
- Travel & Tourism Domain: Akio Suzuki
- Utilities Domain: Kees Spaarboom
- Library Maintenance Focal Point: Mary Kay Blantz
- Syntax Focal Point: Gait Boxman
- Validation Focal Point: Hidekazu Enjo

A few domains / Focal Points still require nominations; these are the TFIG Focal Point, the WTO-TFA Focal Point, the Cross-Border Management Domain, the e-Government Domain, the Specifications Domain, the Harmonization Focal Point, the Communication Team Focal Point, the BRS-RSM Harmonization Focal Point. If you would like more information on these, please contact the relevant PDA Vice Chair, the Chair or the Secretariat. All interested parties should send their candidature to [the UNECE Secretariat](#) on or before **8th September 2017**. The responsibilities are described in document [ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2016/13](#); the candidacy form is available in Annex B (page 11) of document [ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2012/9](#).

ONGOING WORK

Projects in Public Review

The Supply Chain & Procurement Domain is launching a Public Review of the Cross-Industry scheduling project. To consult the final version of the BRS and for any comments, [please consult the CUE page](#).

The Transport & Logistics Domain is launching a Public Review of the Electronic Consignment Note (e-CMR) BRS. To consult the final version of the BRS for any comments, [please consult the CUE page](#).

Project Development

The International Trade Procedures Domain launched a joint project with the World Economic Forum. This paper will be one of a series offered by the WEF and presented to members of the WTO in order to help guide them on the obligations within the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The project is already reaching its end, but it is still possible to provide comments. If you would like more information, please contact the Project Lead, [Lance Thompson](#), or see [the CUE project page](#).

The Single Window Domain launched a project on Single Submission Portals, building on the [Terminology paper](#) approved at the last Plenary. This project will seek to create a recommendation and guideline on these types of platforms that can propose facilitations mechanisms similar to those offered by national single windows. The project is currently seeking HoD support. **Your consideration to support this project would be most welcome.** For more information, please see [the project page on CUE](#) or contact [the secretariat](#), [Vice Chair Igwe](#) or [Project Leader Ibrahima Diagne](#).

The Transport and Logistics Domain is launching a project on Smart Containers and the messages that these containers can communicate to the rest of the supply chain. This project is seeking two further Heads of Delegation support. **Your consideration to support this project would be most welcome.** Please contact the Secretariat or Vice Chair Probert if you would like further information.

The Supply Chain & Procurement Domain is launching a project on Sustainable Public Procurement. This project is to identify policies, standards and good practices for sustainable procurement, and their impact on trade facilitation. The Background Research in Public Procurement is integrated into this new project as background material. This project is seeking two further Heads of Delegation support. **Your consideration to support this project would be most welcome.** Please contact the Secretariat or Vice Chair Fantetti if you would like further information.

Several projects have extended their milestone dates and are still active, if you or experts of your delegation would like to get involved. These include: the [ITPD Women in Trade Facilitation project](#), the [SWD Core Principles of Single Window project](#), the [T+L Multi-Modal Transport project](#), the [T+L eCMR project](#), the [T+T Destination Travel Information project](#).

Reminder that UN/CEFACT has launched a **questionnaire on the use of its deliverables**. You will have received a separate message on this subject. We would appreciate if you can circulate this to your constituencies and agencies for responses by 15 September on [this survey monkey](#).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

30th UN/CEFACT Forum

The 30th UN/CEFACT will be held in Rome, Italy from **October 2nd to 6th 2017**. Online registration is available [on the event webpage](#). Agendas and meeting schedules will be made available on this same website shortly.

1st UN/LOCODE Advisory Board

Following the approval by the Plenary and EXCOM of the UN/LOCODE Advisory Board, the first kick-off meeting will be held **30th November and 1st December 2017** in Geneva. There will likely be a dedicated session for UN/LOCODE Focal Points (current or potential).

31st UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, Switzerland

Pending final room allocations, the UN/CEFACT 31st Forum will be in Geneva, **April 23rd to 27th 2018**.

24th UN/CEFACT Plenary in Geneva, Switzerland

Pending room allocations, the UN/CEFACT 24th Plenary will be in Geneva, **April 30th and May 1st 2018**.