

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### UNECE International Conference on Single Window

Nearly 100 participants from over 30 countries participated in this two day conference 30-31 October in Geneva. Various aspects of Single Window were discussed and a number of recommendations resulted, among which a consensus that it is time to launch a revision of Recommendation 33. The full conference recommendation document as well as all of the presentations are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46572>

### 30<sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Forum, Rome

The Forum in Rome was very successful, with around 150 experts participating. All the participants and the UNECE were grateful to the Italian External Commerce Agency for hosting the event. A number of projects were launched with success, such as the Single Submission Portal, Smart Containers and Canonical Models, as well as the launch of the two new domains, Harmonization and Communications, both of which attracted a good deal of interest. Three conferences were held, each of which was well attended:

- **Traceability of Sustainable Textile** exposed the importance of transparency in the entire chain to know the environmental, health and workers' conditions in view of a future project.
- **Blockchain**, which presented a number of models for current and potential use of Blockchain and how UN/CEFACT could evolve its deliverables in order to accommodate this technology.
- **30 years of UN/EDIFACT** underlined that despite its age, UN/EDIFACT is still pertinent in today's trading environment, very widely used and even attracting new users every year.

### New UNECE staff

Since the last HoD Quarterly Report, **Helen Ross** and **Tomas Malik** joined the UNECE secretariat as regular staff. They fill the shoes of Yuri and Giangu respectively (and finally replace Tauno and Claudio).

## ONGOING WORK

### Projects in Public Review

There are currently no projects in Public Review.

### Project Development

The following projects were completed and will be published shortly:

- The Paperless Trade White paper, developed jointly with the World Economic Forum.
- The Cross Industry Scheduling project (BRS, RSM and schema)
- The Cross Industry extension project (RSMs for CI Catalogue Process, CI Delivery Process, CI Ordering Process, CI Quotation Process, CI Remittance Process), all aligned to the Supply Chain Reference Data Model
- The Agriculture Primary Natural Product Traceability project (BRS, RSM and schema)

The eCMR project has completed its Public Review and is working on the comments received. It should be finalized soon.

Several projects are still under development; if you or experts of delegations would like to get involved, please contact the project leader on the CUE page. These include: [ITPD Women in Trade Facilitation project](#), the [SWD Core Principles of Single Window project](#), the SWD [Single Submission Portal Project](#), the SC+P [Sustainable Public Procurement project](#), the T+L [Multi-Modal Transport project](#), the T+L [Pipeline Data Carrier project](#), the T+L [Smart Container project](#), the eGov [Blockchain White Papers project](#), the SPEC [Header/Envelope Document Exchange project](#), the SPEC [Code Management project](#), the SPEC [Library Publications Format project](#), the SPEC [Reference Data Model Publication project](#), the HMZ [Canonical Models project](#).

## COMMUNICATIONS TOPICS

UN/CEFACT and the UNECE secretariat are very pleased to underline that since the last Quarterly Report, we have had over two dozen tweets, several press stories and press releases. We are working on a semi-annual newsletter (December and June); if you or any expert from your delegation would like to actively participate in this newsletter, please contact the secretariat.

### **New Page on the Public Website**

A new page on the public website has been created for “Guidance Material” which includes the White Papers, future Green Papers, the Executive Guides and the Brochures. A new, streamlined brochure was developed for the October 2017 Forum in Rome; it is available on the [public website under the “Brochure tab”](#), if you would like to use it in your communications on UN/CEFACT.

### **You Tube Videos**

We shall also be publishing very soon some short videos on the UNECE YouTube channel on specific projects. The link will be provided in the next Report.

## OTHER

### **Acting Chair**

The current acting Chair is Estelle Igwe, until mid-December. Sue Probert follows until the end of January, followed by Colin Laughlan, then Ian Watt, then Tahseen Khan. For reminder, there will be elections for Chair at the beginning of the 24<sup>th</sup> Plenary.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **1<sup>st</sup> 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 **30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017** in Geneva. There will likely be a dedicated session for UN/LOCODE Focal Points (current or potential).

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sustainable Fisheries Team of Specialists**

Following the approval by the Plenary and EXCOM of this Team of Specialists, the first kick-off meeting will be held on **28 and 29 January 2018** in Geneva.

### **April 2018 UN/CEFACT Forum in Geneva, Switzerland**

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

### **24<sup>th</sup> UN/CEFACT Plenary in Geneva, Switzerland**

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

### **October 2018 UN/CEFACT Forum**

We are currently studying possible locations; if you would like to study the possibility of hosting, please don't hesitate to contact the secretariat.

### **5<sup>th</sup> UNECE International Single Window Conference in Geneva, Switzerland**

Following the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Single Window Conference, the UNECE will organize a Single Window Conference on **22 and 23 November 2018**.