



European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

eBusiness Coordination Group

N0080

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Introduction

In the plenary meeting of the CEN e-Business Coordination Group (eBCG) on May 7 a presentation was shown, as had been given at the 25th UN/CEFACT Forum, 20 - 24 April 2015. Members of the eBCG are a.o. convenors of CEN Technical Committees, CEN Workshops and representatives of the European Commission.

A number of slides from this presentation triggered questions amongst the participants. Two of the slides are reproduced below, and for each slide the questions.

Finance and Payment

It is assumed that 'Within the United Nations framework of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) serves as the focal point for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services.' and 'UN/CEFACT supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce'.

UN/CEFACT is a subsidiary intergovernmental body of the UNECE Committee on Trade; it is mandated to develop a programme of work of global relevance to achieve improved worldwide coordination and cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services.

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

Finance and Payment

- Purchase Order Financing Request;
- Integrating Trade Finance and Supply Chain Finance into Trade Facilitation;
- Expanded Remittance Advice project
- Background research on Public Procurement using International Standards (gap analysis between payment areas and other standards)

UN/CEFACT 25th Forum 20-24 April 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

The texts quoted, paralleled and underpinned by observations, seem to suggest that UN/CEFACT indeed has given priority to the 'inside-out approach' for the development of its deliverables where an 'outside-in approach' would instead be preferable, in order to ensure that its deliverables optimally use and complement existing initiatives, public sector objectives and milestones.

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In this context, ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2015/8, states the development and maintenance of UN recommendations and global standards and mentions that *'possible steps during 2015-2016 may involve bringing running activities at European level to the international stage at UN/CEFACT'*.

It will be clear that the uncertainty expressed ('possible', 'may', ...) adds to the risk of duplication of effort and/or lack of connections between the various work areas. It is suggested that UN/CEFACT clarifies the way in which these risks are supposed to be mitigated and establishes a dialogue with the relevant stakeholders to jointly define and agree upon next steps.

References

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eGovernment

Similar questions may be asked regarding the below slide. In Europe, as an example, agreements have been made on e.g. the eIDAS Regulation and tangible steps are identified to help realise and implement. It should be made clear how the UN/CEFACT envisaged matters will be aligned.

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN/CEFACT – UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

eGovernment

Recommendation for ensuring legally significant
trusted trans-boundary electronic interaction

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