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COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UNCEFACT)
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UN CEFACT Forum Transition

Frequently asked questions

This document has been drafted by the CSG, and is for **information only**.

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1.   Q: What will happen with the present work items in the work programs of the various groups.

A: *Work items and projects will be listed by the present groups and transferred to the new Forum groups such as TBG for Trade related work and ICG for information content and ATG for Applied Technology*

2.   Q: Wherewillthe work be done on the maintenance and enhancements of existing UN EDIFACT messages

A: *Business requirements will be discussed in the TBG, management of the libraries will be done through the ICG*

3.   Q: Where does one ask for new codes in an existing recommendation e.g. a new status code or a new location code what is the process.

A: *Business requirements and business expertise will be provided through the TBG, administration and normalisation will take place in the ICG.*

4.   Q: **What is the procedure to enhance existing recommendations such as e.g. 11 or 12**

A: *Work on the maintenance and development of UN ECE recommendation will be done in the TBG based on business process analyses and business information modelling.*

5.   Q: **What is the process around the development of an XML information exchange and when can the first results be expected.**

A: *There are at the moment already a number of projects dealing with XML exchange of information based on the ebXML standards it is expected that the first results will be visible in the course of this year. Work is in constant progress to ensure that world wide unambiguous standards are in place to serve the user requirements.*

6.   Q: **What will happen with the present D Groups**

A: *The present D groups may continue their work in TBG as working groups or as project teams, TBG is the group where requests will be made to deal with business requirements and to discuss projects and where input will be obtained from the business and governmental bodies.*

7.   Q: **What will happen with the members of the D Groups**

A: *Those members that are providing business and process knowledge will find a place in the TBG groups. Those representatives which have specific knowledge of semantics and information will find there home in ICG whilst the technical and syntax experts will work in the ATG group.*

8.   Q   **How can D Groups continue to work.**

A: *For the D-Groups nothing has really changed they are free to organise interim meetings or to hold meetings with user groups. By having their meetings during the 2 Forums a year they are able to exchange projects and experiences with other working groups (D-Groups) and with working groups of other groups.*

9.   Q   **How does one become a member of a group.**

A: *The present members of the working groups will automatically be nominated as membesr of the Forum, moreover a call will be initiated through the head of delegations for experts to participate in the initial meeting of the Forum.*

10.   Q   **Is payment for membership required and what will happen with the money.**

A: *At the moment no payment for membership is foreseen, however to cover expenses and to ensure sufficient support it is foreseen that a meeting fee will be required. This fee will be used to ensure professional support and good administrative facilities.*

11.　Q　　**Where will the meetings take place and how often**

A:　　*The meetings of the Forum will take place twice a year and the first meeting will be held in Geneva. Thereafter a decision must be taken regarding location in order to ensure good world wide representation of all experts, however it is envisioned that the majority of the meetings will be held in Geneva.*

12.　Q　　**Is there any possibility that one group can tell the other one what to do and the required priority.**

A:　　*Business requirements developed through business process analyses and the open development process will have a priority impact on the work of the various groups but in principle if there are any priority issues these should be solved by the Forum Management Team and the CSG.*

13.　Q　　**What will happen if two groups have different meanings.**

A:　　*Any disagreements are to be solved in a cordial manner. If groups during a Forum cannot come to an agreement on a certain issue they should refer to the Forum Management Team.*

14.　Q　　**What will be the collaboration with OASIS**

A:　　*Experts from OASIS and UNCEFACT will work under the umbrella of the Forum to ensure that real standards are obtained and maintained. Through the membership of the Memorandum of Understanding with ISO, IEC, UN ECE, and ITU the co-ordination of standards and the collaboration of the various organisations has been laid down. The collaboration is constantly monitored through the CSG and the MoU management team.*

15.　Q　　**UN CEFACT is said to have had in the past years a technology driven approach, how does the new Organisation ensure that Trade Facilitation remains seen as a very important subject.**

A:　　*If we look at the overall structure we can see that Trade Facilitation is the pillar of the work of the Forum together with e-business. The whole structure is geared towards the solution of Trade Barriers with the use of e-business possibilities. By using the horizontal approach the combination of Technology and Trade Facilitation projects shall be regarded as prove that technology together with business can solve problems, which were first handled in isolation.*

16.　Q　　**There is a danger of creating an extra layer of bureaucracy, as the composition of FMT appears to be similar to the composition of the CSG. What has been done to ensure that responsibilities do not overlap but are complimentary?**

A*:　　The necessity to ensure good communication between the FMT and the CSG has already been acknowledged in a very early stage, which is why the Group Chairs are ex officio members of the CSG. The new structure will be quite similar to the present situation of the various working*

groups. But to ensure overall project co-ordination, aForum chair has been appointed for a period of two years.

17.   Q   Should the Forum not just be the concept of a joint meeting without any official status in accordance with R 650, where working groups are installed by the plenary?

A: *In order to ensure good co-operation between the various working groups especially since the idea is that a service provider will support theForum, it is important that a good entity is created to steer and support the various developments and to have a single point of reference for the whole system. Although the Forum is not a separate organization in itself, we are still reviewing R 650 to determine what changes may be required by this restructuring.*

18.   Q   What is the influence of the requestor once a certain business requirement has been identified.

A: *The workflow approach has been chosen for the various projects to ensure that all expertise within the working groups is used. In this way the Business process will always be a clear responsibility of the Domain and Procedures experts but also the result will be reusable elements to deal with the need of harmonised and standardised solutions. After definition of the requirement, the business requestor has an obligation to see whether proposals do indeed satisfy the business requirements.*

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