



TRADEPOINT
WTPF WORLD TRADE POINT FEDERATION

**MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING**

between the

World Trade Point Federation (WTPF)

and the

**United Nations Economic Commission for
Europe (UNECE)**



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Trade Point Federation (WTPF)

RECOGNIZING that mutually beneficial economic cooperation amongst countries is crucial to ensuring economic growth, job creation, prosperity and peace on a worldwide scale;

RECOGNIZING that the sustainability of production activities and, hence, wealth generation, depends heavily on the capacity and capabilities of new enterprises and local producers in countries in transition to meet the challenges of globalization;

RECOGNIZING that trade facilitation reduces transaction costs in national and international economies and strengthens trade relations through the simplification, rationalization and whenever possible elimination of procedures;

RECOGNIZING the important impact of new information communication technologies on international trade and, in particular, on trading systems and international supply chains;

RECOGNIZING that some vulnerable societies, communities and social groups are in need of access to new economic opportunities and support in order to assist them in participating fully in economic development;

NOTING the UNECE's objective in trade development, which is "to assist in the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy, and to work to prevent the development of new barriers to trade within the region";

NOTING that the UNECE and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), which operates under the auspices of UNECE, are a focal point within the United Nations system for the development, maintenance and promotion of trade facilitation standards, recommendations and best practices and related expertise;

NOTING the UNECE's key role in helping the countries in its region to use information and communication technologies for transition and enterprise and economic development

FURTHER NOTING the WTPF's objectives to increase the participation of small and medium enterprises in international trade; to help them trade more efficiently; and to provide them with a full set of services with regard to trade information, facilitation and transaction, as well as electronic commerce.

FURTHER NOTING that, at the present time, the WTPF represents a network of more than a hundred Trade Points world wide, each of whom acts simultaneously as a trade facilitation centre, a source of trade information and a gateway to global information networking.

BELIEVING that small and medium enterprises can particularly benefit from access to new economic opportunities and support, as well as new technologies, which would enable them to participate fully in international trade;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

I. to establish effective consultation, co-operation, and a regular exchange of information between them;

II. to encourage regular contacts between the WTPF and relevant UNECE subsidiary bodies in order to exchange appropriate information and promote together UNECE work in such fields as trade facilitation and electronic business; enterprise development and SMEs, development of e-commerce, trading partner agreements, online dispute resolution, self-regulatory instruments in e-commerce and commercial quality standards.

III. to establish a close cooperation between the WTPF and the UNECE information dissemination activities. In particular, the UNECE Multiplier Point Programme and the Trade Points are to cooperate in promoting each other's activities, to share contacts in order to develop their networks further, as well as to invite, where appropriate, the Trade Points to act as Multiplier Points and the Multiplier Points to act as Trade Points in their countries.

IV. to identify all relevant publications supported by electronic means that can be disseminated through the respective websites, and to provide the Trade Points with the latest information on the UNECE trade facilitation recommendations, electronic business standards, agricultural quality standards and other relevant results of UNECE's work.

V. to hold regular meetings to facilitate an exchange of views; to review the provisions and operation of this Memorandum in the light of experience; and to consider modifications and developments to cover specific projects or activities, as appropriate.

VI. to identify the areas in which the WTPF can contribute to realize UNECE's objectives.

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Done in on November 2004

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

WORLD TRADE POINT FEDERATION

**Brigita Schmögnerová,
Executive Secretary**

**Bruno Masier
President**