Single Window for Export Facilitation

International Model

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What I will cover …

- Greek Integrated Trade Facilitation Strategy .. including Single Window
- Single Window Key Features
- Step by Step approach
- Key Factors for Success
- Concluding Comments

Greek Integrated Trade Facilitation Strategy – including Single Window

- Trade Facilitation -- Facilitate: to make trade easy or easier
- Fundamental component of trade and economic development strategy (TF in WTO etc)
- Single Window is not an end in itself
- SW is not a technology system!

Greek Integrated Trade Facilitation Strategy – <u>including</u> Single Window

- SW is essentially a political / organizational / procedural framework for trade facilitation and export development
- A call to a new way of doing business – based on government – government agency and government to business partnership …. for economic development
- … that can provides major economic benefits to all parties

Real Focus: Reducing the economic impact of regulatory processes on cross border trade

- Each additional day of delay (e.g. because of trade logistics procedures) reduces trade **by at least 1%**

Source: Simeon Djankov, Caroline Freund, and Cong S. Pham. (2007). *Trading on Time*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

- Direct and Indirect Cost from import/export-related procedures and required documents is up to 15% of product cost.

Source: OECD. (2003). *Quantitative Assessment of the Benefits of Trade Facilitation*. Paris: OECD Publications

Single Window Basics

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What is a Single Window

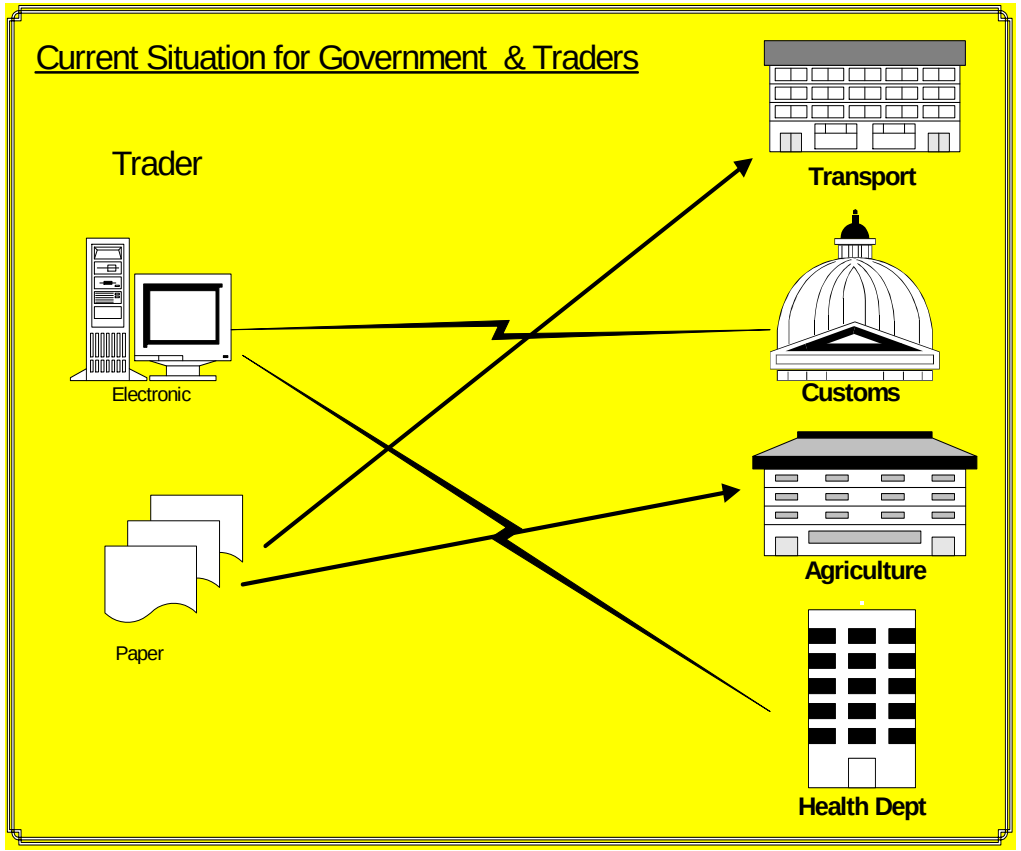
"A Single Window is a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfill all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.

If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once".

UNECE Recommendation 33

Single Window Concept

FROM



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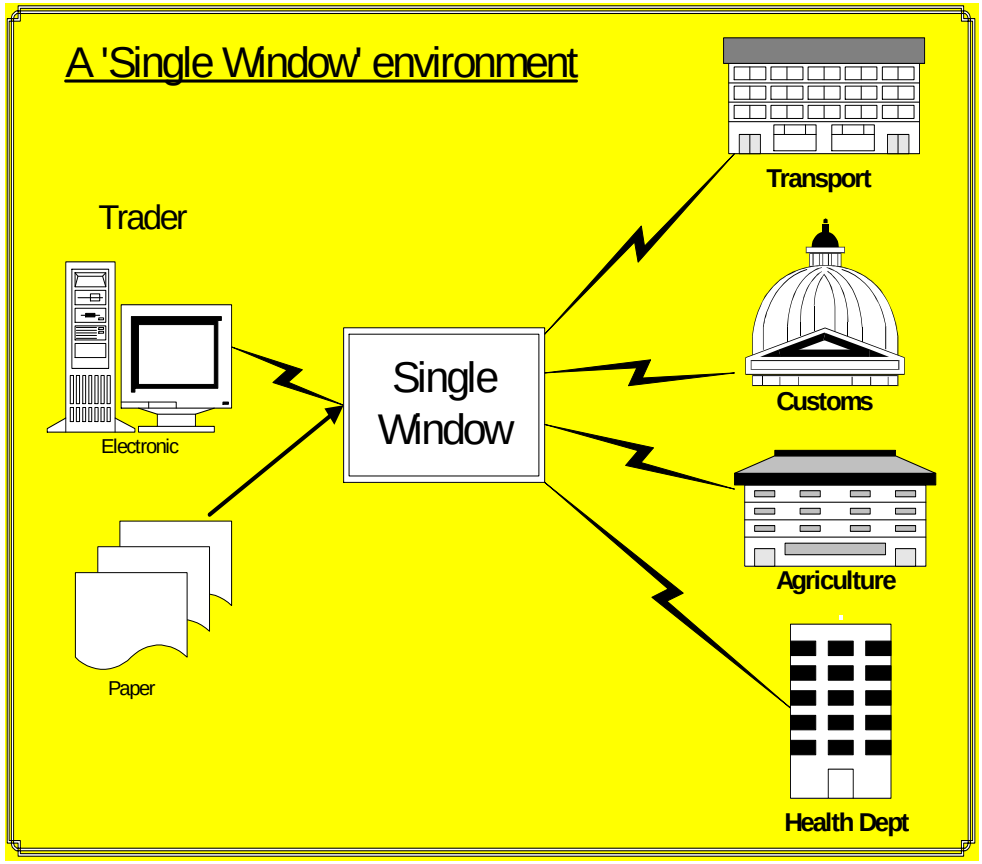

The Single Window Concept

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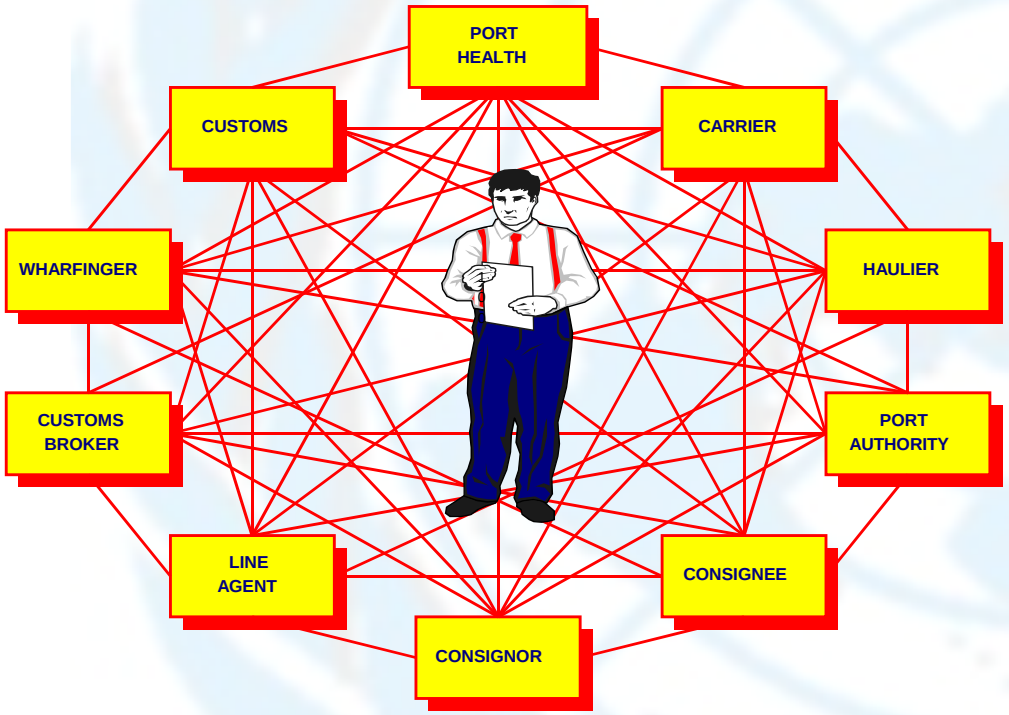
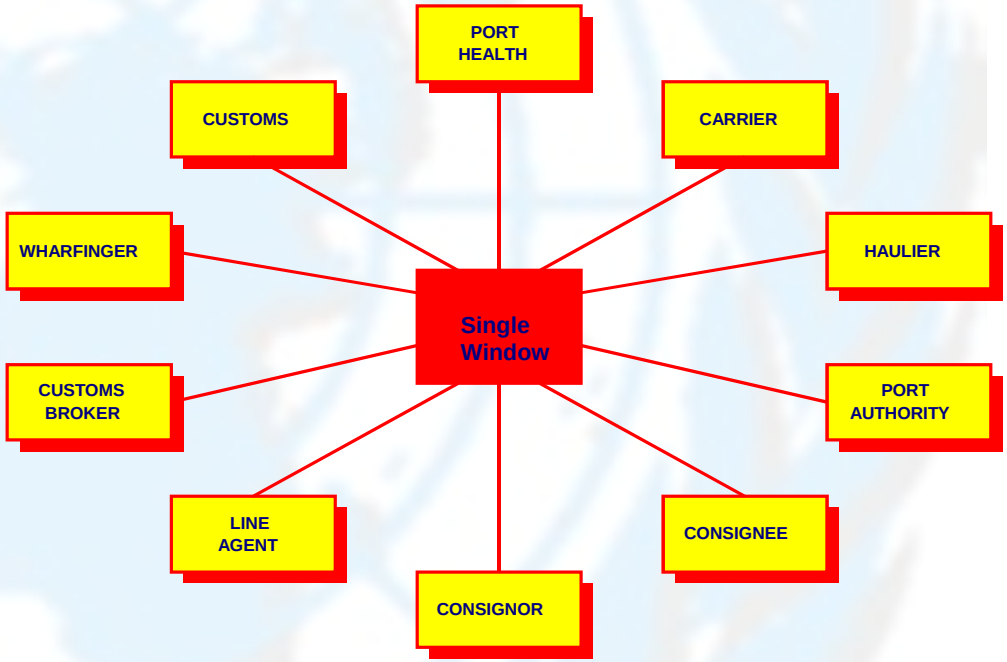


Mountains of paper

30% mistakes

TO



Customs, export, import, etc. processes together

Many documents filed together

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UN Recommendation 33 on Single Window

Recommends Governments to establish Single Window for Cross Border Trade

Defines features:

- … one time submission
- ..of standardized information and documents
- sharing of information amongst government agencies;
- coordinated controls and inspections of the various governmental authorities;
- Allow payment of duties and other charges;
- Be a source of trade related government information.

"Single Window" Facilities in many countries, such as …

- Finland
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Hong Kong SAR (China)
- Mauritius
- Japan
- Malaysia
- Senegal
- Singapore
- Sweden
- United States
- Ghana

World Bank estimate there are currently 49 countries with Single Window, of which 20 link to all relevant government agencies - Trading Across Border 2012 report

http://www.unece.org/cefact/single_window/welcome.htm

Single Window Implementation

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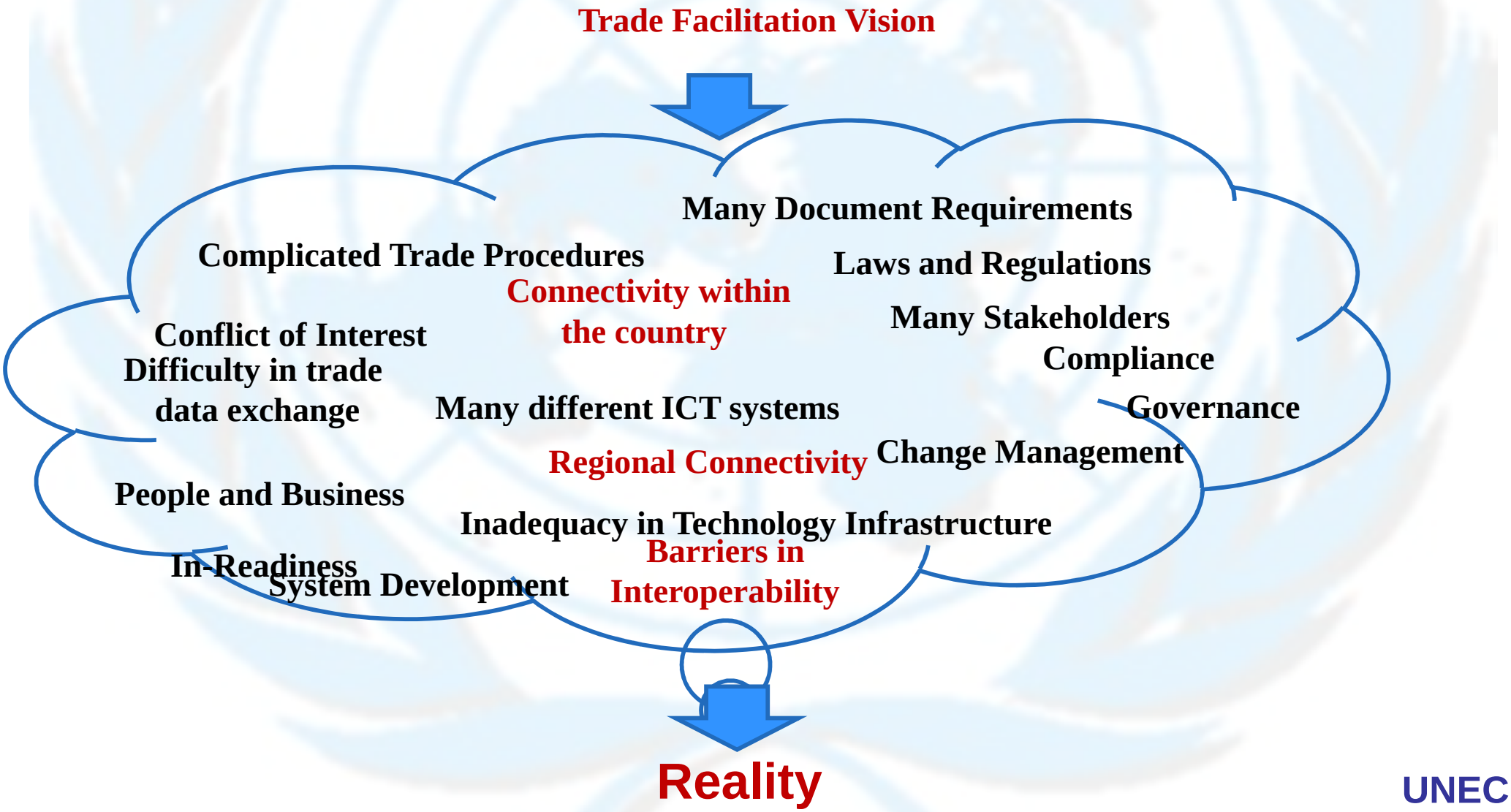
The Challenge of implementing Single Window

There are a lot of obstacles to be solved.



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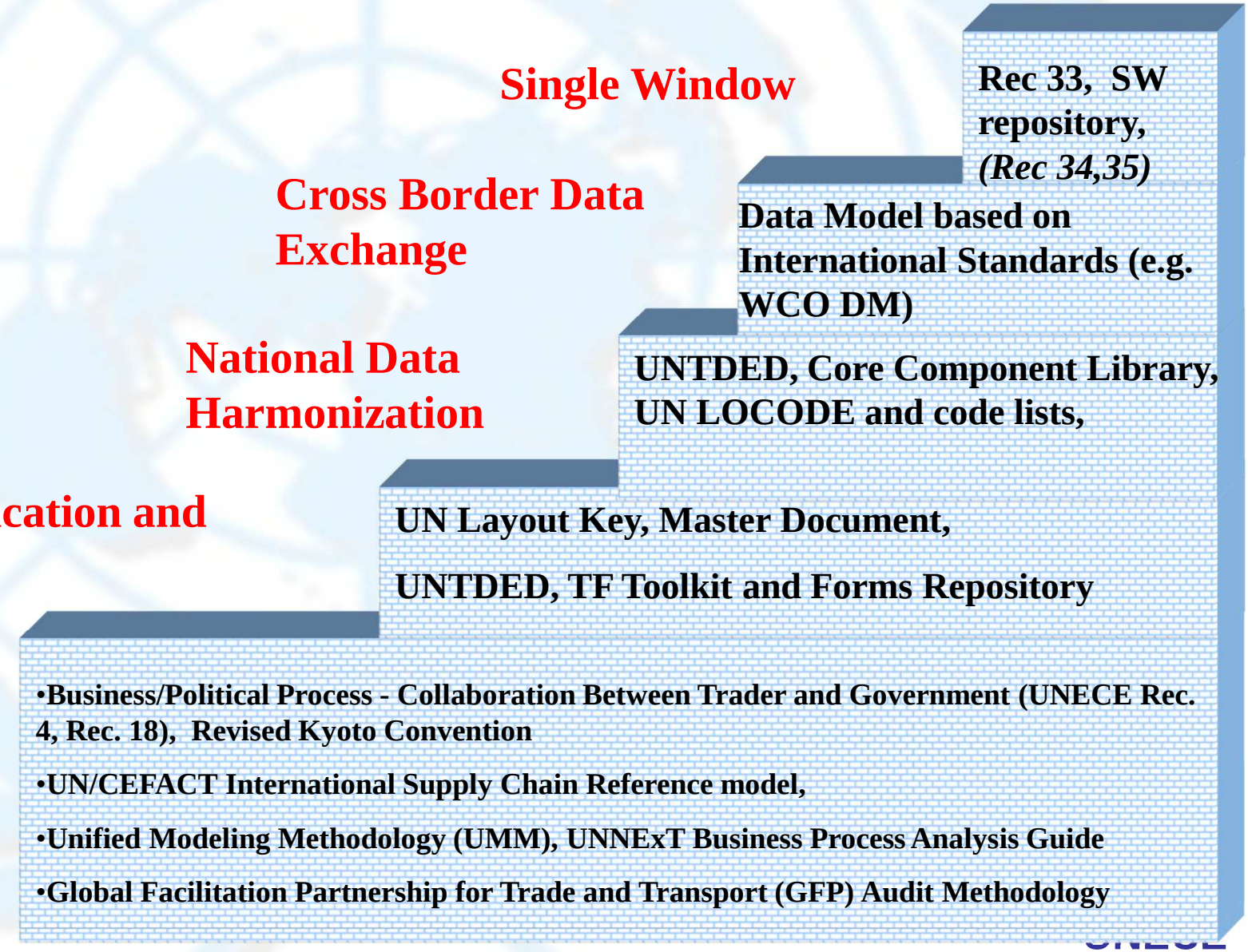
Need for a Single Window Implementation Framework (SWIF) to manage this Complexity

- Decompose the task and establish a systematic framework for the Single Window Project

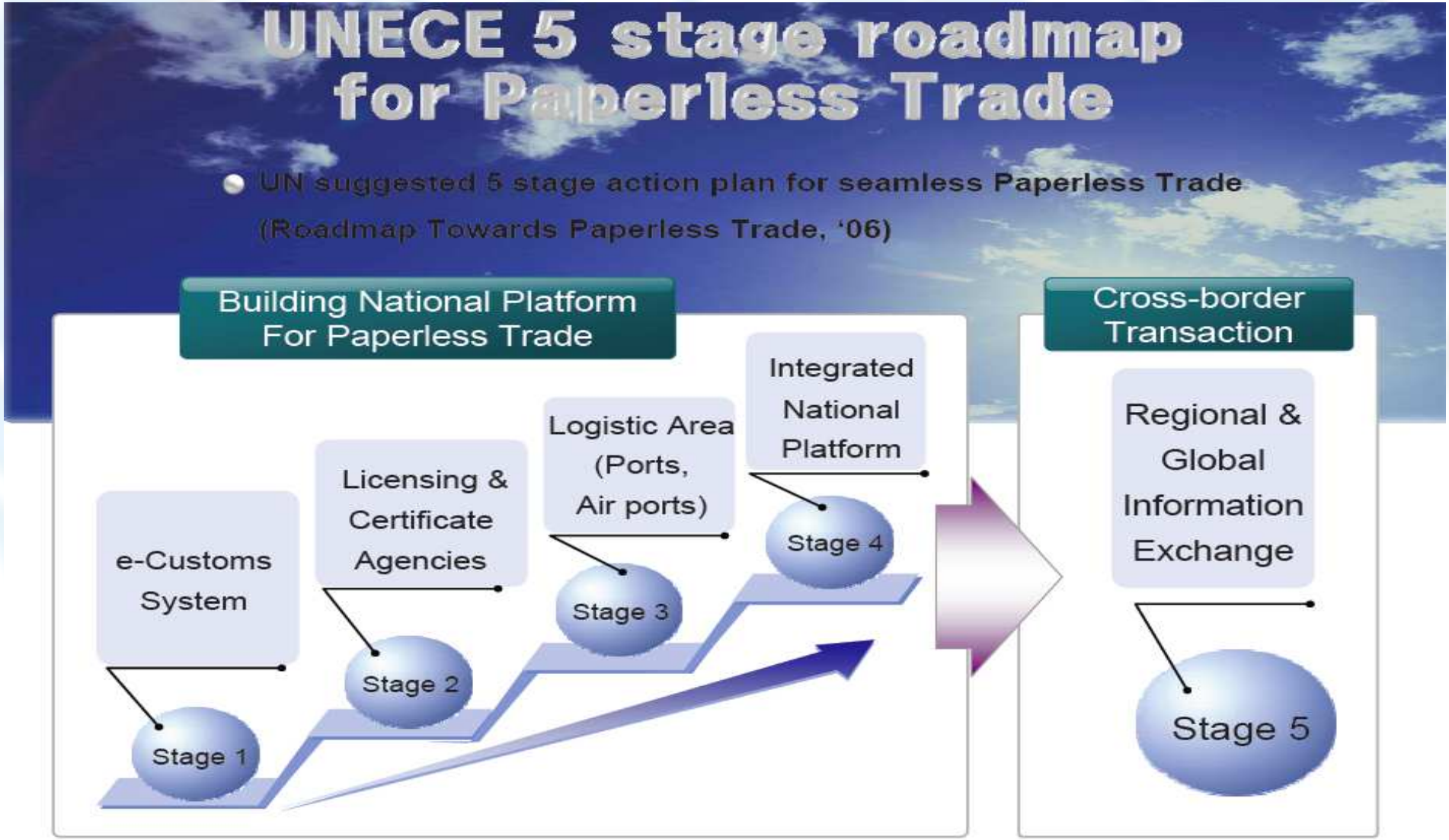
  - Define the Single Window concept
  - Describe the project phases
  - Define objectives and outcomes of each phase
  - Describe the techniques to manage phases and develop outputs
  - Establish a common terminology
  - Manage policy, legal, technology and business requirements of a SW Implementation

Step by Step approach

Implementing Single Window is a multi year incremental project



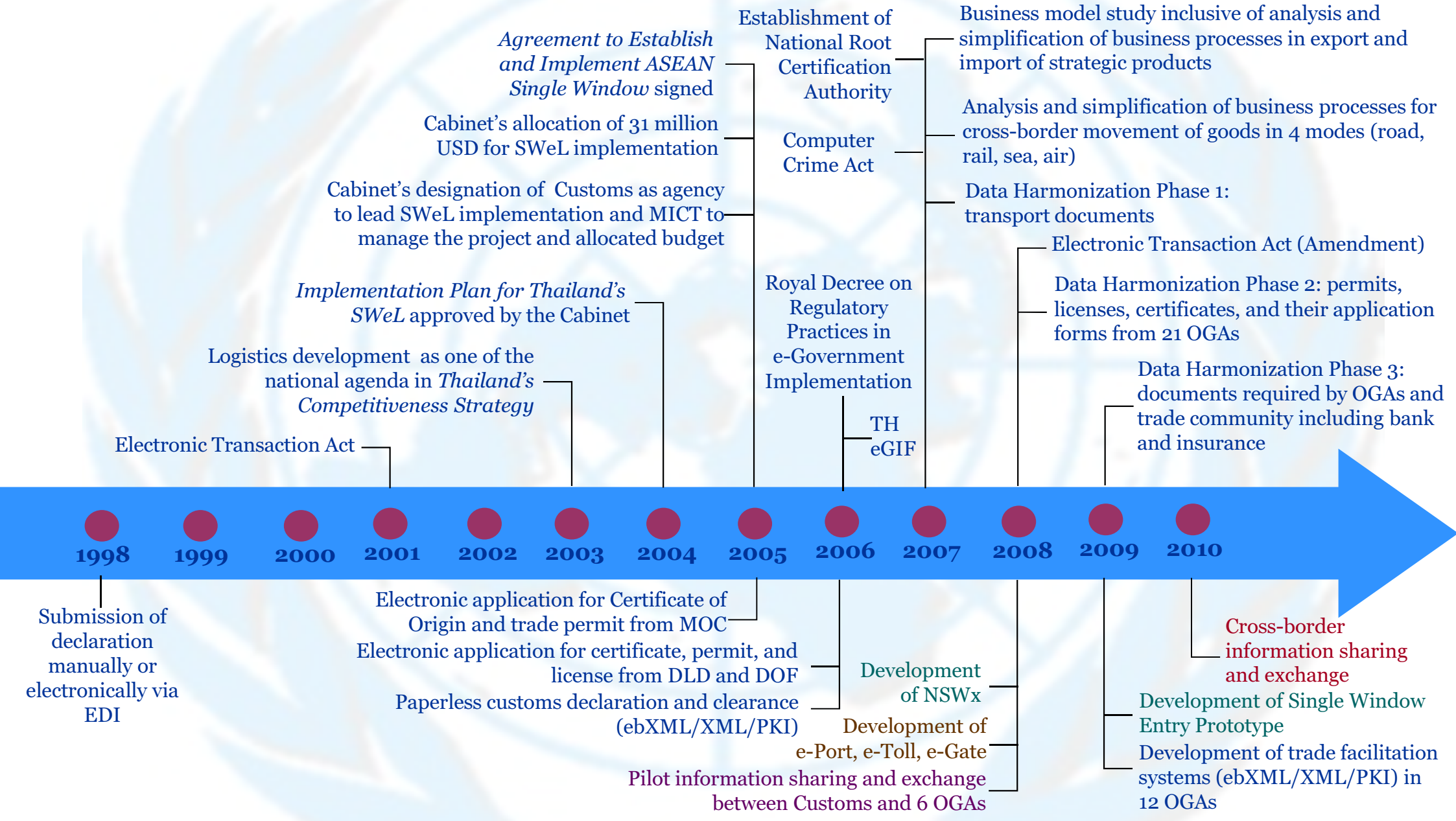
Phased SW Implementation (Korea)



This involves …

- Customs
- OGAs
- Financial Sector
- Logistics (e.g. Port Community Systems)
- Traders
- Others …

Single Window Development in Thailand



SWeL: Single Window e-Logistics
MOC: Ministry of Commerce
OGAs: Other government agencies
DOF: Department of Fisheries
EDI: Electronic Data Interchange

MICT: Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
TH eGIF: Thailand's e-Government Interoperability Framework
NSWx: National Single Window hub for information sharing and exchange
DLD: Department of Livestock Development
PKI: Public Key Infrastructure

KEY FACTORS IN ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL SINGLE WINDOW

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Key Factors

- Strong and explicit political will
- SW Implementation Plan with clear project boundaries and SMART objectives (and benchmarks) …. with management and oversight by a High Level Steering Committee
- Step by Step Implementation – based on agreed priorities
- Process analysis, simplification, harmonization and standardization

- Strong Lead Agency – that can deliver results in an agreed timeframe
- Partnership between Government and Trade
- Partnerships with Other Government Agencies
- Use of International Standards and Recommendations
- Change Management

Critical to ….

- First simplify the processes (and eliminate steps where possible) – and change the legal framework
- and then automate the simplified processess
- and integrate the key agencies (Customs, OGAs, etc)
- **In practice, this is an iterative process**
- An Automated Customs system is often the first step

Use International Standards

- UNECE Recommendation & Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window (Recommendation No 33)
- UNECE Recommendation 34 - Data Simplification & Standardization for International Trade
- UNECE Recommendation 35 - Establishing a Legal Framework for an International Single Window
- UNNEXT Guides (Single Window Implementation Guide; Data Harmonization Guide, etc)
- UNECE Repository of Single Window applications
- WCO Instruments
- UNECE Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (Q3 2012)

Net results … as identified by existing Single Windows

- *Faster processes, clearance and release*
- *Reduced costs of compliance*
- *Reduced documentation*
- *Reduced corruption*
- *Reduction in bureaucratic processes*
- *Better collection of government revenues*
- *Improved trader compliance*
- *Better risk management techniques for control and enforcement purposes*
- *Predictable application and explanation of rules*

Benefits far outweigh costs ……

Concluding comments

Concluding comments …

- Focus on the end game – trade facilitation for export and economic development
- Establish an Implementation Plan – with SMART objectives .. and benchmarks …and a High Level (inclusive) Steering Committee … with a strong review mechanism

Concluding comments …

- Step by step approach – initial gains and longer term gains
- Simplify – automate - integrate
- Use of International Standards
- Leadership and partnership – think win-win

Follow-up

All UNECE and UN/CEFACT Recommendations, codes, standards and publications are available for free on our website at:

- www.unece.org/
- www.unece.org/trade
- www.unece.org/cefact/

- E-mail: tom.butterly@unece.org