



Ministerie van Financiën

Cooperation Business community and Government

- Senior Policy advisor Ministry of Finance, Directorate General Taxation and Customs
- UN/CEFACT vice chair

Harm Jan van Burg



Disclaimer

Views of the speaker are his own and do not necessary represent the official views of The Netherlands Government and its institutions or UNECE and its committees for that matter.



Ministry of Finance of The Netherlands

The Ministry of Finance guards the national treasury and works towards ensuring the Netherlands is financially healthy and prosperous. The Ministry of Finance oversees the responsible and effective spending of government resources, makes rules to ensure a stable financial system and oversees the quality of financial institutions. The Ministry of Finance also works on equitable and solid tax legislation. The Dutch Tax and Customs Administration, part of the Ministry of Finance, levies and collects taxes and duties.



Basic values. We want to be:

Dedicated. We work for the parliamentary democracy and its institutions. We do this under the law with integrity and efficiency. Together with other Ministries, we promote the common good.

Expert and Professional. We keep a critical eye on our work and we risk sticking our neck out. We work professionally and we work together. We do not put our faith in bureaucracy, but rather in the abilities of our colleagues.

Accessible. We are well aware that our work affects citizens and businesses and we act with this in mind. We listen to the opinion of others because we believe this is important. We treat everyone with respect and are transparent in our work.

Encouraging. We motivate and correct one another and help each other to develop. We do justice to each other's responsibilities and fulfil our agreements. We remain open to new ideas and want to continue learning.



Partners and organisations implementing development cooperation

The Netherlands government implements development policy together with various partners. Partnerships with international organisations, the business community, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions allow the Netherlands to pool knowledge, technology and networks.



UN/CEFACT and international cooperation

- UN/CEFACT's mission is to improve the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional 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 contribute to the growth of global commerce

(UN/CEFACT = United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business)



UNECE recommendation 40

(from the introduction)

“The importance of consultation across government agencies and between government and private sector stakeholders has long been acknowledged. This was recognized in UNECE Recommendation No. 4 (first published in 1974 and last revised in 2015) and has recently been underscored in the Trade Facilitation Agreement of the World Trade Organization. Nevertheless, experience shows that even when the right to consultation is granted by law and supported by existing consultative structures, establishing concrete methodologies and best practices is essential to ensure its effective implementation.”

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/recommendations/rec40/ECE_TRADE_423E_Rec40.pdf



Some remarks

- Consultation is a must
- Cooperation is necessary and effective
- Roles and responsibilities must be clear transparent and respected
- Regulation is for the good of the society and the business community
- Fair implementation of laws and regulations creates a level playing field.
- Governments should strive for creating a positive business case for compliance.
- Effectiveness of regulations affecting international trade should be constantly monitored and adjusted when necessary and possible
- Complexity of Government should not be the burden for the business community (and citizens off course)
- Cooperation between government agencies at the border is paramount for efficient and effective trade operations
- Government agencies should learn and organise to rely on each other



Considerations for (more) E business

Private Sector

- Speed up border clearance
- Reduce transaction costs
- Reduce administrative burden
 - Single assignment
 - Re-use of data

Government

- More efficient processes
- Contributes to Risk based enforcement
- Reduced fraud
Prerequisite to paperless



Ministerie van Financiën

UN/CEFACT

SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND
EFFECTIVE PROCESSES
FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

www.uncefact.org

h.j.m.burg@minfin.nl

19 November 2014