

Annual FITPRO Symposium
Prague, 24 May 2018

**UNECE, UNCEFACT, FITPRO,
National Trade Facilitation Committees
and the future of trade facilitation**

**Mario Apostolov, Regional Adviser, UNECE
Trade mario.apostolov@un.org**

Trade Facilitation & e-Business.

What's new

1. WTO TFA in force 22 Feb. 2017 – massive push. Now wave recedes. Less funding for TF development. Protectionism on the rise.
 2. Czech Republic No. 1 in new World Bank Doing Business Trading across Borders index (together with 15 other EU members)
 3. National Trade Facilitation Committees – binding by TFA art. 23.2.
 - Which level: EU or member States (e.g. CZ)
 4. Tasks of the NTFCs:
 - fulfill all remaining measures of the TFA, enquiry points (all information on laws, forms, procedures...),
 - SW backstop,
 - Implement and develop int'l TF and e-business standards.
- Digitalization of the economy. Standards for trade data exchange matter

National trade facilitation bodies:

- Requirement of WTO TF Agreement, art.23.2: **Each member shall establish** (or maintain) a **national committee on TF** or designate an existing mechanism to coordinate and implement the TFA – by the entry into force of the TFA
- Not subject to SDT (art.23.2) ⇒ **binding on day 1**
- TFA provision **based on experience**: TF bodies participated in the TFA negotiations
- **Issues to review:**
 - What focus and scope of the NTFCs? TFA implementation, or holistic TF approach? What structure? Legal mandate? Funding?
- All this is in UNECE Recommendations 4 & 40

What to look for when establishing an NTFC

Contents/ Focus / Scope

- TF along the Supply Chain
- WTO TFA implementation
- Analyze TF issues and propose solutions for SMEs, business, Governments, IOs
- Be a forum for discussing TF issues and finding solutions
- Produce deliverables: e-documents; guides for border-crossing, training, etc.

Organizational matters

- Mandate / ToR
- Structure: Committee / specialized sub-committees
- CEO
- Regular meetings
- Secretariat

Financing from

- State budget
- business contributions
- NTFC products
- Technical cooperation projects

Advisory services and capacity-building

UNECE Regional Adviser - support transition economies in the implementation of trade facilitation standards, best practice recommendations and other tools (notably the ones developed by UNCEFACT and UNECE); assistance to trade policy development and regional cooperation.

- WTO TFA readiness assessment: for Azerbaijan in 2017
- Ukraine – support for the Single Window (functioning since Feb. 2018), IWG on TF, PCS in Odessa (include info flows on agri exports).
- Support to EU Task Force on legal aspects of Single Window (EUCDM)
- BSEC Trade Facilitation Strategy and seminar on SW interoperability
- Eurasian Economic Union – seminar on data sharing, Moscow, Dec.17

UNECE-Czech project in support of TF – still very useful: the contacts, training, WTO TFA readiness assessments. We may collaborate again.

Paradox: UNECE and CEFACT in 2000 at centre of international trade facilitation. After the Bali WTO Conference & entry into force of TFA 22 Feb. 2017 – other IOs. Now the wave has passed: less funds for implementation, less political will. Paradox: UNECE comes closer to the centre again.

Existing CEFACT standards

- **UNCEFACT Reference Data Model for the international supply chain**
- **Unified UNCEFACT Methodology for business process modeling – UMM**
- **Core Component Technical Specification - CCTS v2.01 (ISO 15000-5/CCS); Core Component Library**
- **UNCEFACT rules for XML naming and design**
- **UNEDIFACT Standard**
- **UNLOCODE**
- **UN Trade Data Elements Directory (UNTDDED)**
- **UN Layout Key for trade and transport documents (UNLK) – Rec. 1**

Current UNCEFACT projects 1

Domains:

International Trade Procedures:

- ISMIT – Integrated Services for MSMEs

Single Window

- Revision of Rec.33 (SW) to cover all regulatory procedures at the border.
- Core Principles for the Operation of SW (examines risks of disrupting SW)
- Single Submission Portal (project Leader China)

Supply Chain Management & Procurement

- Sustainable Public Procurement technical project: balance for SD.
 - Cross Industry Invoice Implementation Repository technical project: collect examples of implementations to assist economies implement the CII standard – obligatory for procurement in the EU from 2019.
- Project Leader: Rolf Wessel (DE)

Current UNCEFACT projects 2

Finance and Payment

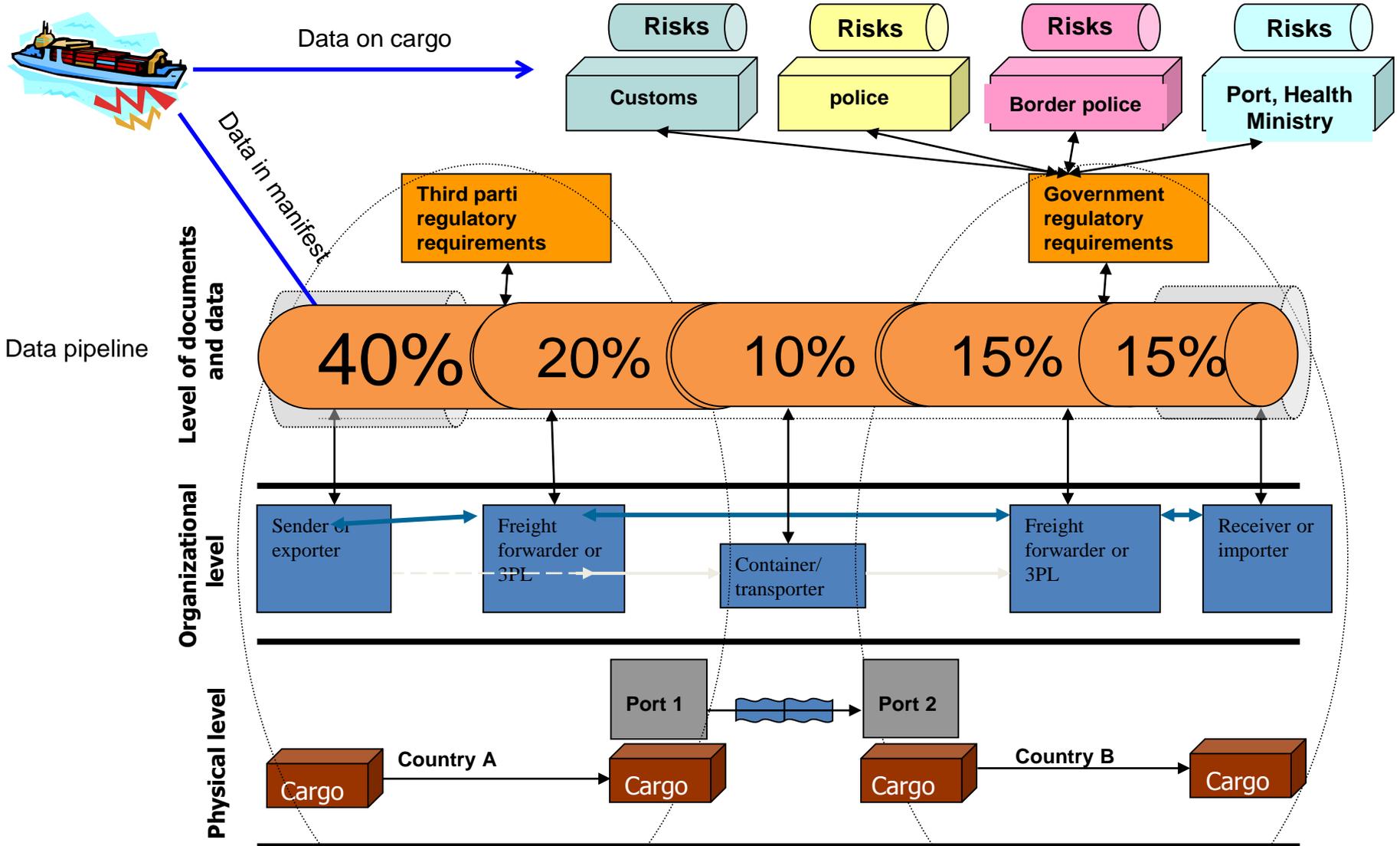
- Purchase Order Financing Request project: est. technical standard for this

Transport and Logistics

- IMO FAL electronic compendium mapping to create an XML version of the IMO FAL forms and to maintain these and the EDIFACT messages.
- Smart Containers project to identify processes and information that devices affixed to containers (including air-faring ULD) can integrate into info exchange in the global supply chain.
- Revision of Recommendation 16 (UN/LOCODE) incl. new types of locations
- Multi Modal Transport Reference Data Model: subset of CC Library
- BSP RDM (Buy Ship Pay reference Data Model)
- Pipeline Data Carrier - following EU-funded projects (Cassandra, CORE, SELIS...) seeks to capture data at the source in order to ensure that it is more reliable. It will help government agencies'

Data Pipeline

Future Customs and international trade



Current UNCEFACT projects 3

Insurance (Healthcare Reimbursement Claims technical project)

e-Government Domain

- **Blockchain** white paper to clarify what blockchain and distributed ledger are and provide use cases in various areas (incl. transport and logistics)

Environmental Management Domain (Waste Management)

Travel and Tourism Domain (Sustainable Tourism green paper)

Agriculture

- FLUX – Electronic Interchange of fisheries catch data. Technical project to create messaging standards for declaring fishery control and management.

Specification Domain

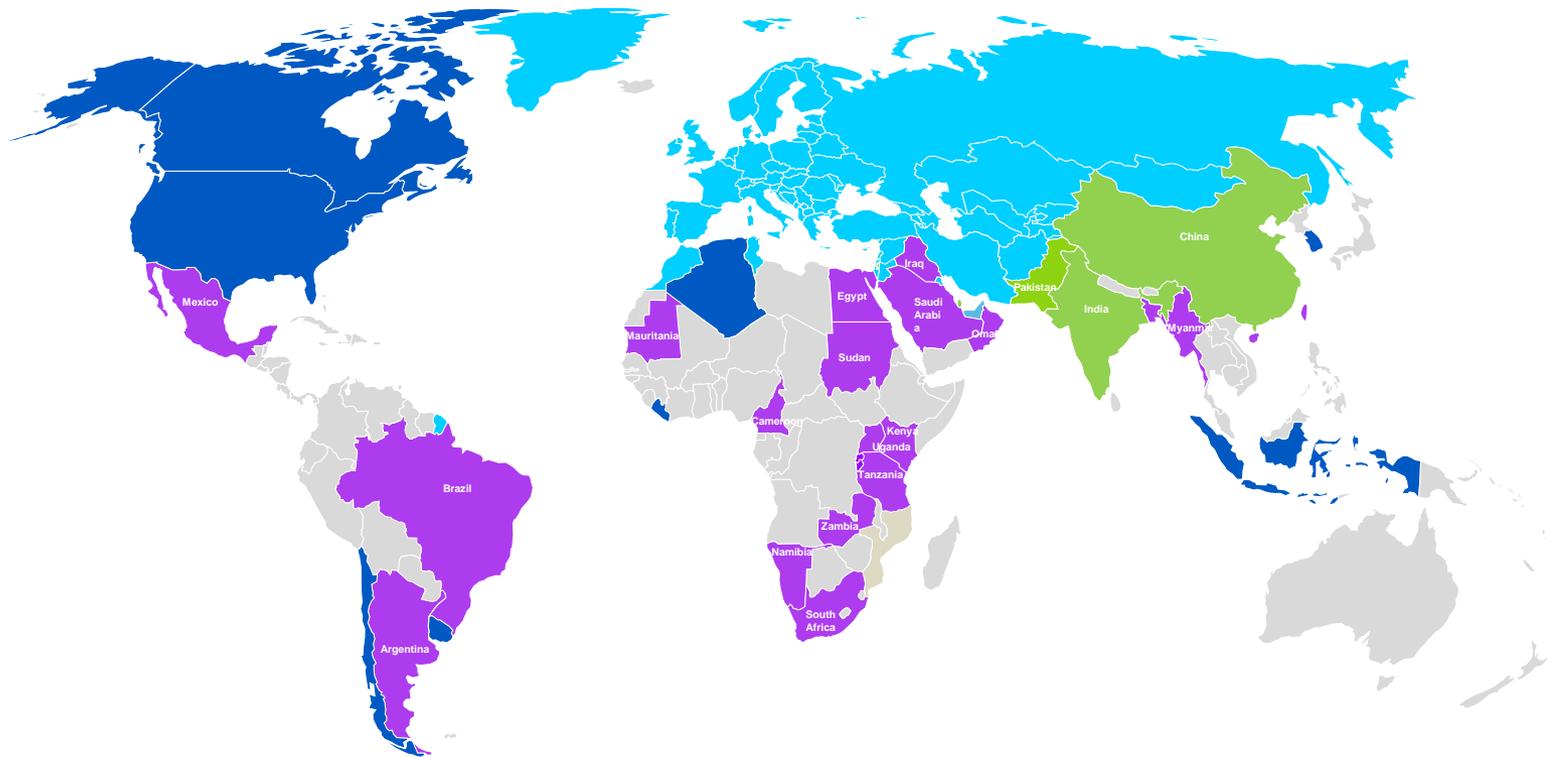
- Header/Envelope Document Exchange technical specification project
- Library Publication Format project (Core Component Library - base semantic deliverable for all subsequent UN/CEFACT technical

The TIR system



- Amendment 34, entry into force on 1 July 2018
- Increase the recommended guarantee amount from 50,000 \$ to 100,000 euros;
- New texts in Annex 8 and Annex 9 to reinforce the supervision by the TIR Administrative Committee of the UN of the international guarantee system, the printing and distribution of TIR Carnets
- improve the international eTIR system; define the eTIR procedure (Article 1 (s))
- Finalize the legal basis for eTIR (Annex 11).
- Expansion: 73 contracting parties, incl. China, Pakistan, India
- Become multimodal

Geographical scope of the TIR Convention

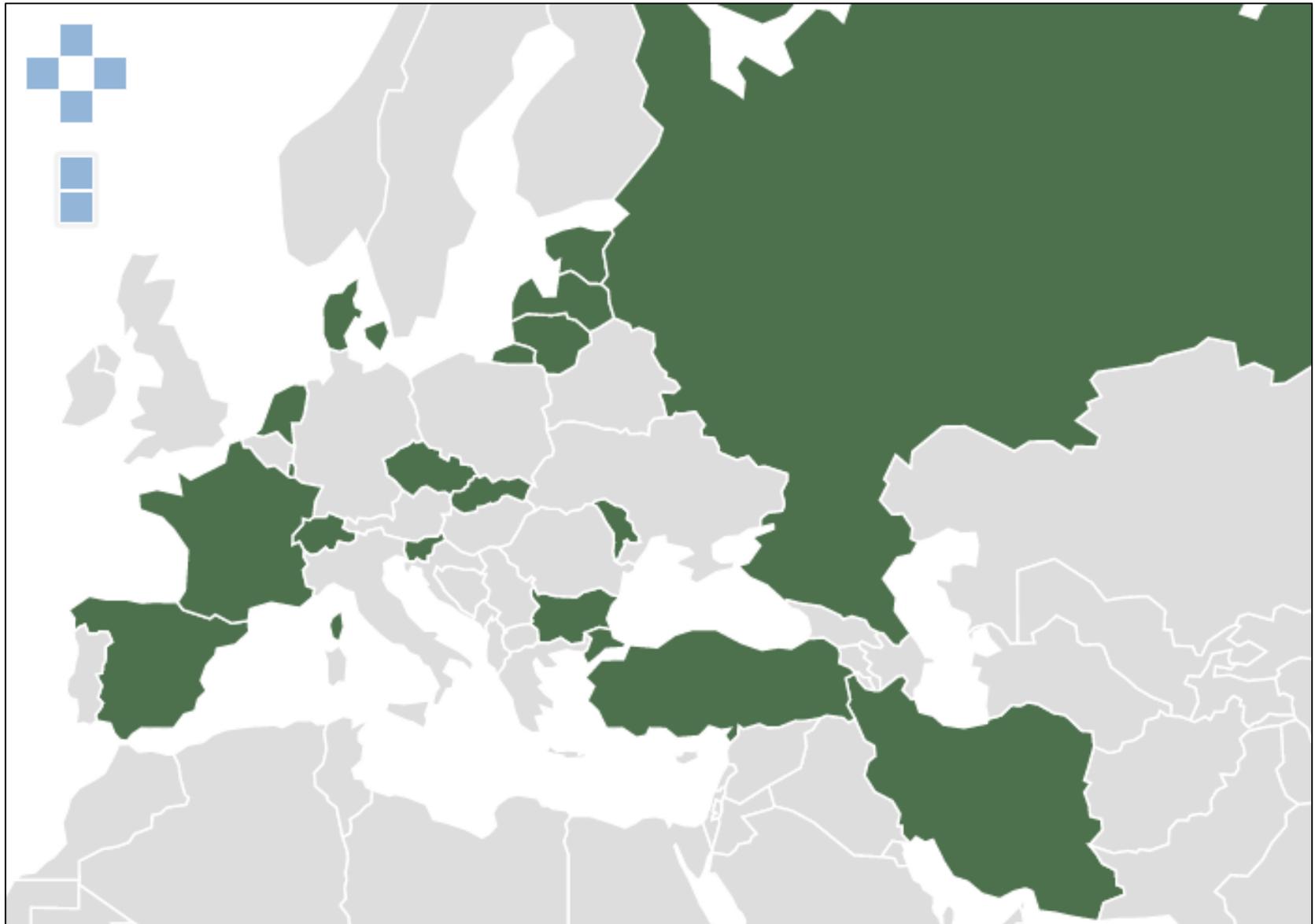


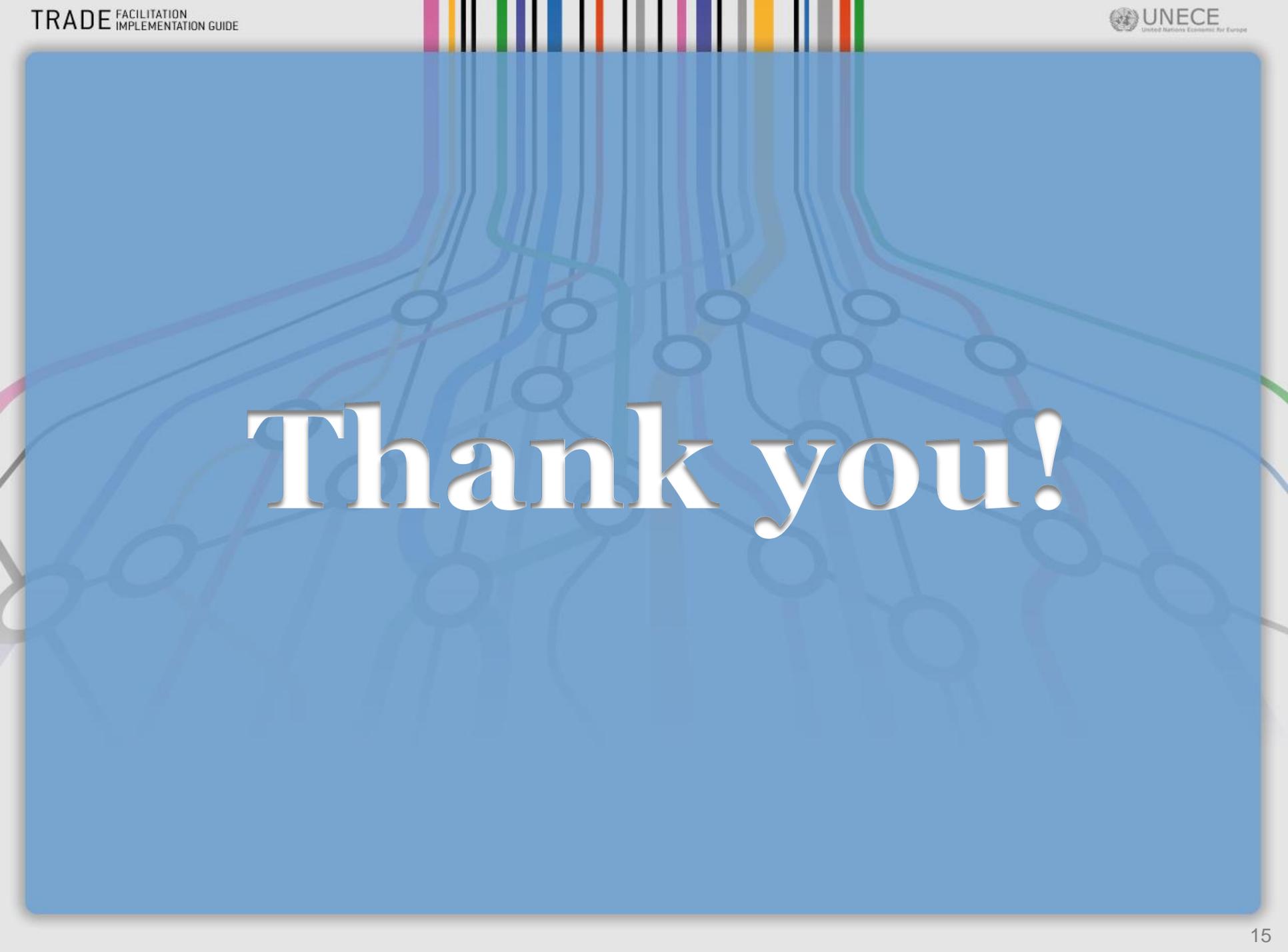
■ Contracting parties to the TIR Convention
■ TIR operational countries

■ TIR implementation countries

■ Interested parties

2008 e-CMR: 17 CPs





Thank you!