


# **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific - An update -**

Trade Facilitation Unit  
Trade, Investment and Innovation Division  
**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

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**STATUS AS AT : 23-11-2016 07:37:20 EDT**

**CHAPTER X**

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**20. Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific**

Bangkok, 19 May 2016

**Not yet in force** : in accordance with article 19, the Agreement shall enter into force ninety (90) days after the date on which the Governments of at least five (5) ESCAP member States have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the present Agreement pursuant to article 18, paragraphs 2 and 3.

**Text** : [Certified true copy](#)  
[CN.597.2016.TREATIES-X.20](#) of 23 August 2016 (Opening for signature) and [CN.598.2016.TREATIES-X.20](#) of 23 August 2016 (Issuance of Certified True Copies).

**Note** : The above Agreement was adopted on 19 May 2016 by resolution [72/4](#) during the seventy-second session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In



# TRANSPORT & TRADE FACILITATION NEWSLETTER

TRADE LOGISTICS BRANCH, DIVISION ON TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

## IN THIS ISSUE

Nº. 71 - Third Quarter 2016

## CUTTING-EDGE UN TREATY TO FACILITATE CROSS-BORDER PAPERLESS TRADE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The new UN treaty entitled **Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific** is expected to both build upon and support existing initiatives, also providing a new tool and “digital” complement for better implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and facilitate cross-border e-commerce.

Developed and developing countries are increasingly using technological innovations to facilitate the exchange of information between traders and regulatory authorities domestically, investing in single window and other paperless trade systems. The lack of appropriate legal and technical frameworks enabling the recognition of trade-related electronic data and documents across borders often means, however, that international

implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation and facilitate cross-border e-commerce. Implementation of cross-border paperless trade measures can potentially increase Asia-Pacific exports annually by US\$ 36 billion up to US\$ 257 billion. In tandem, the time required to export would fall between 24% and 44%, and the direct costs between 17% and 31%, depending on the reform scenario considered. Furthermore, the total

- (a) A common set of general principles, based on which paperless trade systems could be implemented;
- (b) A dedicated intergovernmental platform to exchange best practices, and to facilitate capacity-building and technical assistance;
- (c) The opportunity to multilaterally develop, adopt and implement more specific and



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## New UN treaty to facilitate paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific to support Trade Facilitation Agreement implementation

01.10.2016

A new UN treaty, entitled *Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific*, will open for signature on 1 October 2016. It is expected to provide countries of Asia and the Pacific with a new tool and "digital" complement for better implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the development of cross-border e-commerce. Grounded on a common set of general principles and a dedicated intergovernmental platform, the regional treaty will provide Parties with enhanced opportunities to exchange and harmonize practices, build each other's capacity, and multilaterally develop, adopt and implement more specific and detailed technical and/or legal protocols needed to achieve safe and secure cross-border paperless trade. Implementation will build upon existing international standards as well as on-going bilateral and subregional initiatives, such as the ASEAN Single Window.

In May 2012, Member States of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted a Resolution on Enabling Paperless

ESCAP



The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open, including 'Inbox', 'Welcor', 'Pan-As', 'Module', 'UNNE', 'asycud', 'unctad', 'webdtl', and 'Frame'. The address bar shows the URL 'https://paa.net/?p=1007'. The website header includes navigation links: 'About', 'Charter', 'Partners', 'Press Centre', 'Events Directory', and 'Contact us'. The PAA.net logo is visible on the left. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home / 2016 News Archives, Press Centre, Press Release / Pan-Asian e-Commerce Alliance Supports New UN Treaty on Paperless Trade Facilitation'. A '< Previous' link is on the right. On the left side, under 'PAA Members', a list of member organizations is provided. The main content area features the title 'Pan-Asian e-Commerce Alliance Supports New UN Treaty on Paperless Trade Facilitation' and a detailed paragraph about the alliance's support for the new UN Treaty. At the bottom, a line of text states: 'As a pioneer in realizing cross border paperless trade and transactions, the PAA continuously extends its collaboration with'. The ESCAP logo is partially visible in the bottom right corner.

**PAA Members**

- CIECC - China
- Trade-Van - Chinese Taipei
- Tradelink - Hongkong SAR
- EDI-I - Indonesia
- NACCS - Japan
- KTNET - Korea
- TEDMEV - Macau SAR
- Dagang Net - Malaysia
- InterCommerce - Philippines
- CrimsonLogic - Singapore
- CAT Telecom - Thailand

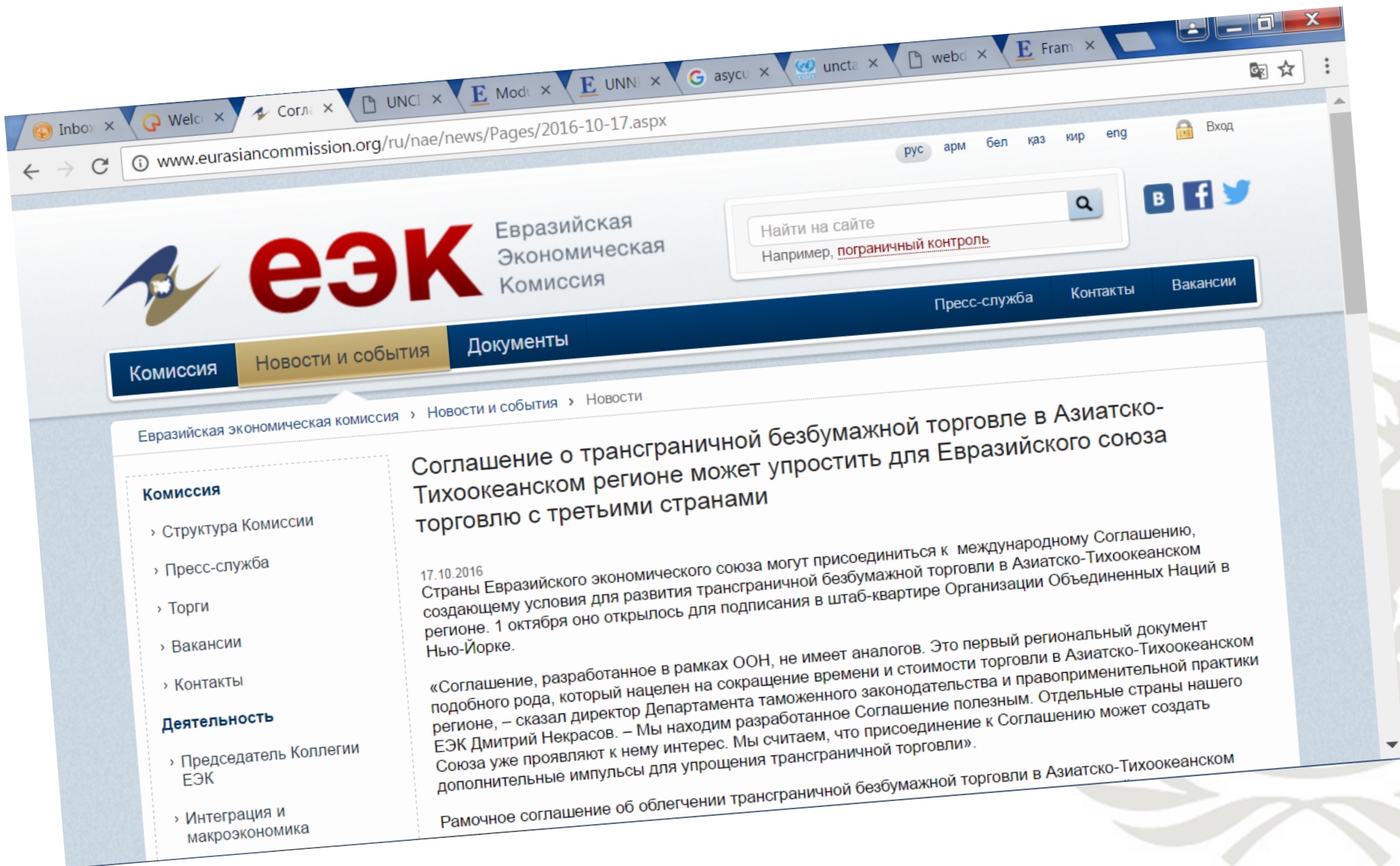
### Pan-Asian e-Commerce Alliance Supports New UN Treaty on Paperless Trade Facilitation

**Pan-Asian e-Commerce Alliance Supports New UN Treaty on Paperless Trade Facilitation**

20 October 2016 – Pan-Asian e-Commerce Alliance (PAA) fully supports the new United Nations (UN) Treaty on Paperless Trade Facilitation which was opened to members for signing on 1 October 2016. The Agreement provides the framework for cross border electronic exchange of trade documents, as well as for the respective governments to adopt message standards and secure data communication protocols, thereby harmonizing various initiatives on bilateral and multilateral paperless trade initiatives. Further, the Treaty serves as a tool for an efficient implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention.

As a pioneer in realizing cross border paperless trade and transactions, the PAA continuously extends its collaboration with

20.10.16 – Single window service providers across South-east and East Asia express support for the Framework Agreement



**17.10.16 - Agreement on cross-border paperless trade in Asia and the Pacific may simplify trade of Eurasian Economic Union members with other countries in the region**

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## ☐ Background and Overview

### ☐ Overview of Provisions

### ☐ Procedure for Becoming a Party

### ☐ More Information



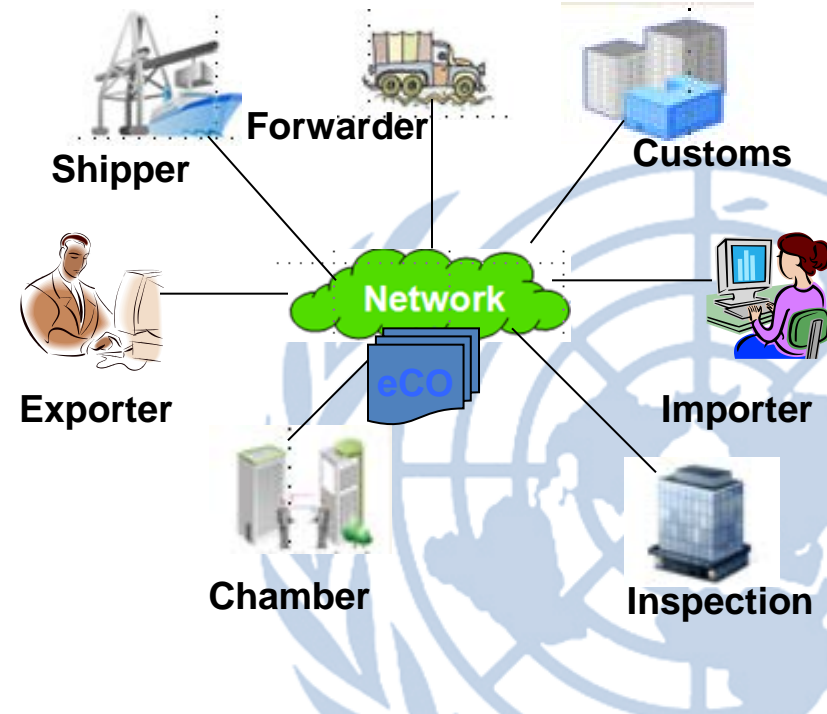
# Paperless Trade (e-trade)?

## ■ Paperless Trade

Conduct of trade activities on the basis of electronic rather than paper documents, e.g. *electronic Customs declaration, electronic cert. of origin*  
(application of e-commerce to international trade domain)

## ■ Paperless Trade Systems

Legal/regulatory and technical frameworks in which paperless trade



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