

SIDE-EVENT

Digital Solutions and Opportunities in Regional Trade: the EAEU Approach

**Wednesday 24 April, 2024 (Bangkok)
16:45-18:00, Meeting Room A, Level 1**

The digitalization of trade stands as a cornerstone in the quest for global economic resilience and sustainability. By harnessing the power of technological advancements, these processes pave the way for enhanced productivity and seamless cross-border commerce, aligning closely with the aspirations of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8.2. This goal emphasizes the need for higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, highlighting the critical role of digital transformation in achieving sustainable economic growth and decent work for all.

The development of digital technologies in trade, taking into account decisions and achievements at the national level, is enshrined as a task of further development of economic integration processes within the EAEU in the Declaration on further development of economic processes within the EAEU until 2030 and for the period until 2045 "The Eurasian Economic Path". The ongoing efforts in this direction signify a collective move towards a more integrated and prosperous global economy.

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) stands at the forefront of embracing digital transformation in trade to enhance regional integration, economic efficiency, and global competitiveness.

Over the years, the EAEU has accumulated a lot of experience, which can be of practical importance for other integration initiatives and plurilateral forums in the Asia Pacific region.

This year, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), as the regulatory body of the EAEU, will be presenting a side event "Digital Solutions and Opportunities in Regional Trade: the EAEU Approach" which will focus on the significant strides made by the EAEU in digitalizing various aspects of trade, reflecting on the collective efforts of member states and the broader implications for international cooperation and engaging in an interactive discussion with the EAEU Member States, representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

The EAEU has embarked on an ambitious journey to digitalize rail freight transportation, a critical component of the region's logistics infrastructure. This initiative involves the comprehensive digitalization of railway transportation within the EAEU and extending to third countries such as China and Uzbekistan.

By leveraging advanced digital technologies, the EAEU seeks to streamline cross-border rail operations, reduce transit times, and enhance the reliability of freight movements, thereby reinforcing the trade corridors that are vital for the region's economic activities.

In alignment with global trends towards paperless trade, the EAEU is dedicated to the digitalization of trade documents, particularly those confirming the non-preferential and preferential origin of goods.

A huge step was made on fostering e-commerce in EAEU, which include customs, tax, technical and trade regulation in this sphere. The further progress is closely connected with developing of digital trade, which includes not only e-commerce, but any digital solutions in trade from payments to AI.

Most progress has been achieved with the free trade agreements (FTAs) partners of the EAEU Member States.

Nowadays, all EAEU FTA drafts contain provisions allowing the use of certificates of origin issued electronically (e-COs). At the same time, special attention is paid to projects on electronic origin data exchange systems, the so-called EODES.

At the same time EAEU consistently includes in its trade agreements progressive provisions related to IPR concerning electronic trademarks system that provides for the electronic application for, and maintenance of, trademarks and a publicly available electronic information system, including an online database, of registered trademarks and trademark applications.

Furthermore, recognizing the pivotal role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), innovations, and digital initiatives, these areas are consistently integrated into the EAEU's trade agreements. This strategic inclusion reflects the union's vision of leveraging digital transformation as a catalyst for sustainable development and economic prosperity. Moreover, aiming at increasing of security and transparency of supply system particular attention is paid to provisions on electronic commerce, namely, to provisions that provide for use of electronic technologies in trade and for appropriate protection of rights of participants of e-com.

This side event presents an invaluable opportunity for stakeholders to engage in discussions on the EAEU's digitalization endeavors across trade and transportation sectors. By highlighting achievements, exploring challenges, and envisaging future directions, the event aims to foster dialogue on enhancing regional cooperation, sharing best practices, and building partnerships to further the digital agenda within the EAEU and beyond.

We cordially invite policymakers, industry experts, academics, and international delegates to join us in this insightful exploration of digitalization within the EAEU, paving the way for a more integrated, efficient, and sustainable future.

Programme:

- 16:45-16:50 Opening remarks by the moderator and background
Alexey Kravchenko, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
- 16:45-16:50 Welcoming remarks
Andrey Slepnev, Member of the Board (Minister) for trade, Eurasian Economic Commission
- 16:50-17:45 Speakers:
Kanybek Kasymali Uulu, Deputy Director of the Trade Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Dmitry Murev, General Director of JSC «Russian Railways Logistics»
Shuhrat Sobirzoda, Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
Ilia Kabanov, Head of E-commerce and Digital Marketing Division, Department for Tariff and non-Tariff Customs Regulation, Eurasian Economic Commission
Yanying Li, Legal Officer, International Trade Law Division, UNCITRAL Secretariat
Witada Anukoonwattaka, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP
Dmitry Tameev, International Project Manager, Group of Companies SKB Kontur
- 17:45-17:55 Q&A
Discussion facilitated by the moderator
- 17:55-18:00 Closing Remarks