



Proposal of a general nature

BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA, SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Resolution

Expanded use of electronic data interchange (EDI)

Congress,

Bearing in mind

that expeditious customs clearance of postal items is essential to the overall quality of international postal services,

Taking into account

the fact that the submission of information about postal shipments in electronic form to customs authorities in advance of shipment can significantly accelerate the clearance of postal items,

Conscious

that recent changes in national legislation, policies and customs regulations adopted by governments call upon postal administrations of origin and destination to transmit data on inbound and outbound international postal items, for the purposes of customs clearance, in advance of receipt or dispatch of the items,

Aware

that governments of many UPU member countries are liberalizing their postal markets, as a result of which common customs clearance procedures for all operators will become increasingly necessary,

Noting

that regulators, particularly in certain regions, have already adopted or are developing policies that would grant authority to multiple operators to provide postal services simultaneously within a single national market,

Acknowledging

that in liberalized markets, postal administrations will have an ever greater need to collaborate with, and use the services of, private sector commercial operators for the delivery of postal items,

Realizing

that expanded use of EDI messages to transmit customs data on postal items can create the conditions under which the customs clearance regulations are applied in the same manner to both postal shipments and similar shipments carried by private sector delivery firms,

Pro

5.6.2008

Observing

that the rapid developments in technology in the postal sector are placing increasing pressure on postal administrations to implement the transmission of customs data on international postal items,

Convinced

that increased use of electronic transmissions of customs information on postal items from postal administrations to customs authorities can not only become a valuable tool for combating terrorism and other threats to the security and safety of international mail exchanges, but can also improve operations, reduce administrative costs and facilitate assessment procedures,

Mindful

of the close cooperation between the UPU and the World Customs Organization to align the import and export of mail with the guidelines outlined in the Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade,

Pleased

to note that the Postal Operations Council, through the work of the EMS Cooperative, the Parcels Group, the Telematics Cooperative and the Postal Security Action Group, has developed, deployed and promoted applications and actions to expand the transmission of data concerning international mail exchanges,

Understanding

that postal administrations have disparate levels of resources, expertise, hardware, and manpower with respect to implementing electronic customs manifesting,

Instructs

the Postal Operations Council to:

- develop and maintain standards for UPU–Customs EDI messaging, through the Standards Board, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization,
- promote, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization, the use of EDI transmissions among postal administrations and from postal administrations to local customs authorities for the clearance of postal items,
- draw up a plan with deadlines for the implementation of transmission of EDI customs messages on postal items in a phased-in manner, starting with required transmissions by developed countries by a date or dates to be determined after appropriate study.

Reasons. – As more administrations employ electronic manifesting, it has become clear that such methods enhance the efficiency and speed of customs clearance, a critical stage in the international mail supply chain. At the same time, it is apparent that commercial mailers are in many cases more prepared to understand and comply with new customs requirements than individual or other small mailers. In addition, some postal administrations, especially in developing countries, are not currently in a position to employ the resources necessary for electronic or other item-level manifesting. The Postal Operations Council should consider these and any other relevant factors in creating regulations for uniform customs information standards. While uniformity is the ultimate objective, these regulations should take a phased approach, in light of technological disparities among postal administrations, including disparities between those already using electronic manifesting methods, and the need for those administrations to pursue appropriate implementation measures at a national level. While implementation of operational procedures related to the electronic exchange of item-level customs data may require initial investments, it is expected that these investments will ultimately be outweighed by the benefits of more efficient customs processing and greater security in the international mail network supply chain.

24th CONGRESS

Proposal of a general nature

Draft programme and budget impact (PBI) statement (2009–2012)

Title of proposed resolution:	Expanded use of electronic data interchange (EDI)
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PBI statement submitted by:	Bahamas, Babados, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States of America
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PART 1 – Overview of goals and outcomes of proposed resolution	
Objectives	Results (performance indicators)
1 Develop and maintain standards for UPU–Customs EDI messaging.	Standards Board develops standards for UPU–Customs EDI messaging.
2 Promote the use of EDI transmission among postal administrations.	More postal administrations are aware of the purpose and benefits of EDI transmissions with other administrations.
3 Promote the use of EDI messaging between postal administrations and local Customs authorities.	More postal administrations are aware of the benefits of EDI messaging with local Customs authorities for clearing postal items.
4 Develop a phased-in approach with specific implementation deadlines for the transmission of EDI customs messages on the basis of an appropriate study.	Appropriate study completed. Plan prepared with specific implementation deadlines.

PART 2: Overview of estimated funding required for implementation of proposed resolution for the period 2009–2012					
Funding (proposed)					
Regular budget			Extrabudgetary resources		
Staff (M/M)		Other expenditure (000 CHF)	Staff (M/M)		Other expenditure (000 CHF)
P	G		P	G	
0	3	0	0	0	0

Details/comments regarding other expenditure and extrabudgetary resources
Funding for three G-staff man/months to prepare and distribute awareness-raising material to postal administrations, and distribute an implementation plan.