



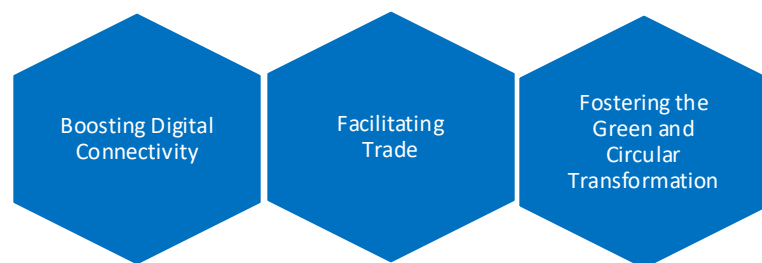
**Central Asia-Caucasus
Perspective:
Enhancing digital trade facilitation
along Trans-Caspian Middle
Corridor
Presented by Nurbek Maksutov,
Kyrgyz Republic,
CEFACT Vice-Chair**



UNECE-hosted UN/CEFACT Mandate and Objectives



Key Focus Areas



Objectives

- Focal point for trade facilitation recommendations & e-business standards
- Closely aligned with ECE cross-cutting themes on circular economy & digital and green transformations for sustainable development
- Targeted support to strengthen value chains in support of SDGs 8, 12, and 17

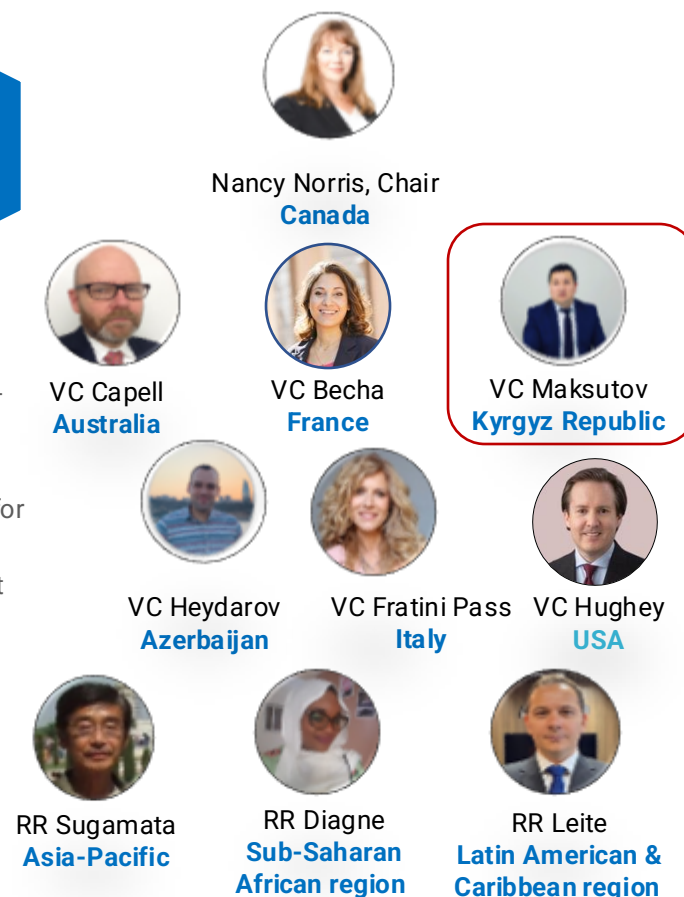
Key tools

- 49 global trade facilitation and code lists recommendations
- 950 e-Business standards and guidelines

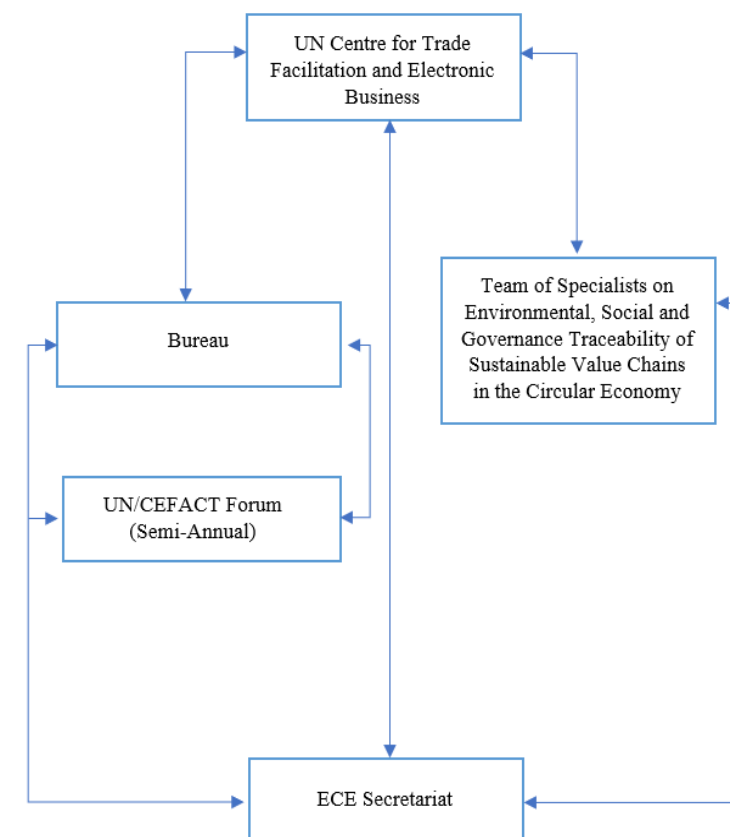
Means

- 1,700 experts from 80 countries
- Bi-annual Forums and annual Plenary sessions
- Regular Bureau calls

UN/CEFACT Bureau



Organizational structure of UN/CEFACT



UN

UN/ECOSOC

UNECE

EXCOM

UN/CEFACT

UN/CEFACT



**Toolbox for Enhancing Digital
and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
along Transit Corridors**

UNECE-UN/CEFACT Package of Standards for data exchange

- **adopted in the EU eFTI regulation**
- **integrated into the SPECA roadmap**
- **global relevance**



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What Is A Digital Corridor?



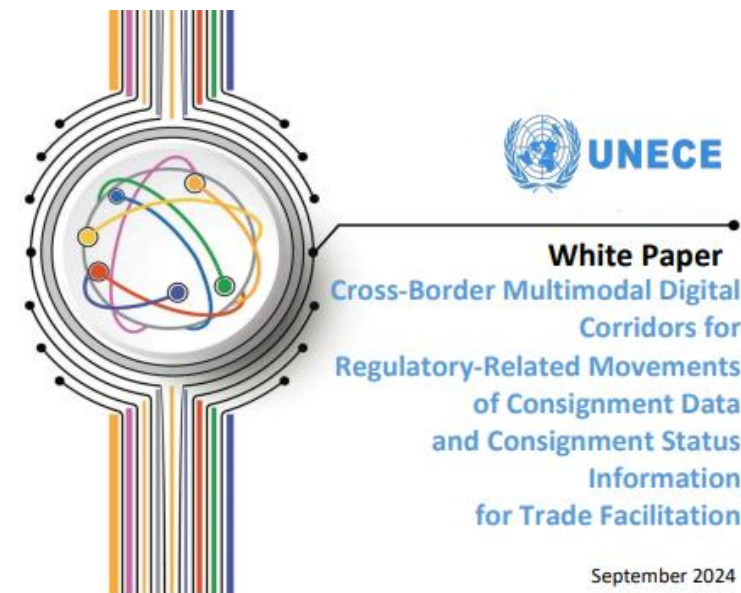
A Digital Corridor is **an electronic platform that connects multiple trade ecosystems** (e.g. air/ocean/land community systems or single window systems) to share the status of business activities and relevant cargo information.



Movement of cargo through international (air/ocean/land) borders is **often delayed due to lengthy and complex regulatory clearances**.

- Several research projects have shown that **a large amount of reusable data exists between origin and destination**, for example in customs declarations, carrier manifests etc.
- **If reusability of data is established** and information on cargo status is exchanged between origin and destination, **then it removes non-tariff barriers to trade between countries and their respective land, sea and airports.**

→ [**UNECE Whitepaper**](#)



September 2024

Digitally Enabled Hard Infrastructure & Soft Infrastructure

Digitally Enabled Hard Infrastructure

- **Physical backbone of digital transport corridors**
- Includes **connectivity networks, data storage facilities**, and transport infrastructure like **ports, railroads, and terminals** - assets that need modernization and integration to support real-time digital data exchange and automated processes across borders
 - ✓ ICT Networks, smart transport infrastructure



Soft Infrastructure: Frameworks, Standards, and Policies for Digitalization

- **Institutional, regulatory, and operational frameworks** that ensure compatibility, security, and trust within digital corridors.
- As important as the physical components. Provides the **guidelines and governance necessary for smooth cross-border data exchange**
 - ✓ Standardized Data Exchange and Interoperability of Systems
 - ✓ Data Reusability and Transparency
 - ✓ Digital Trust and Cross-border Paperless Trade.





Seamless Data and Document Exchange along corridors

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Toolbox for Enhancing Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation along Transit Corridors



- UN/CEFACT promotes the wide uptake of the [Package of Standards](#) for **enhancing soft infrastructure and the exchange of data across different modes of transport**
- Policy recommendation with
 - **global relevance:** applicable to any transit corridor
 - **enhancing the integration of LLDCs** in the global economy

1. Standards developed for the digitalization of information flows in various parts of the supply chain before 2020:

- eCMR
- Cross Industry Invoice
- Cross Industry Delivery
- Cross Industry Catalogue
- Cross Industry Quotation
- Cross Industry Remittance Advice
- Cross Industry Scheduling
- Cross Industry Ordering Process
- Material Safety Data Sheet Details (MSDS)
- Contract Financial Execution Management
- Market Research Information
- Verified Gross Mass (VERMAS) documents
- International Forwarding and Transfer documents
- Smart container information
- Numerous agricultural certificates, accounting, and other documents

2. Standards for logistics data and document exchange published in October 2020 at www.unttc.org and <https://unece.org/trade/uncefact/mainstandards>

- Provisional booking
- Firm booking
- Booking confirmation
- Shipping instructions
- Waybill
- Status report
- Status request
- Packing list
- RASFF (Rapid Alert for Security of Food and Feeds)

3. Standardized data exchanges to support cross-modal cargo transfers – package of standards for digitalization of multimodal data exchange

- Inland water transport contract document (IWT “Bill of Lading”; CMNI consignment note; etc.)
- Maritime waybill
- CIM/SMGS and SMGS consignment notes
- CIM/SMGS Wagon List (+Commercial Act, etc.)
- eCERT (sanitary-phytosanitary certificates and basis for other certificates): aligned to the Buy-Ship-Pay Reference Data Model

4. Air cargo and dangerous goods documents:

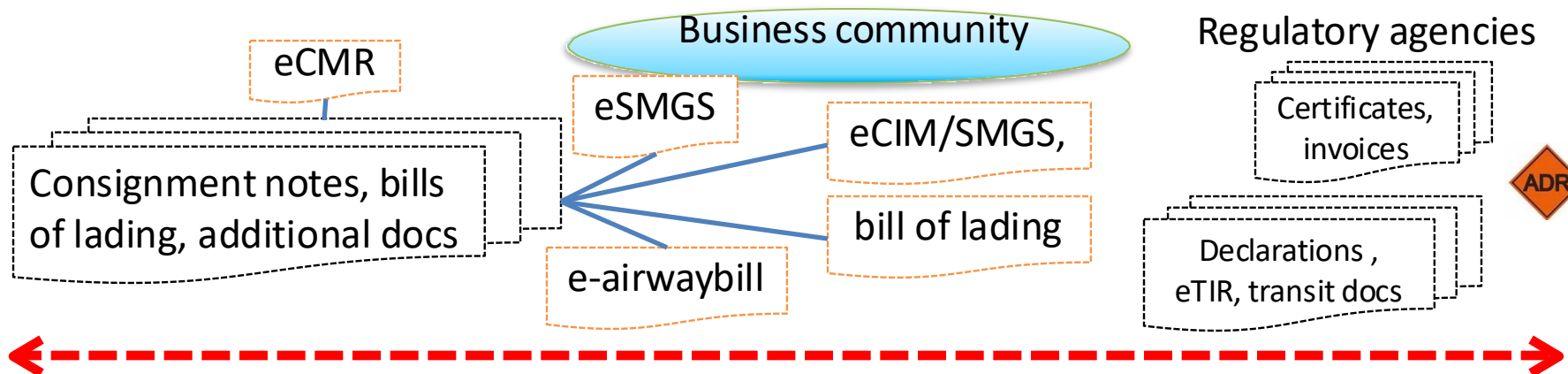
- Airwaybill
- Dangerous goods declaration
- Consignment security declaration

Electronic version of the **FIATA multimodal Bill of Lading** launched in 2022; work ongoing on three other FIATA documents



Three layers of interoperability in a multimodal digital corridor

cargo information flow interoperability



legal interoperability

- legal equality of paper and electronic documents, messages, electronic records
- stakeholder agreement to use standard data and document exchanges
- acceptability of electronic records [in courts]

infrastructure

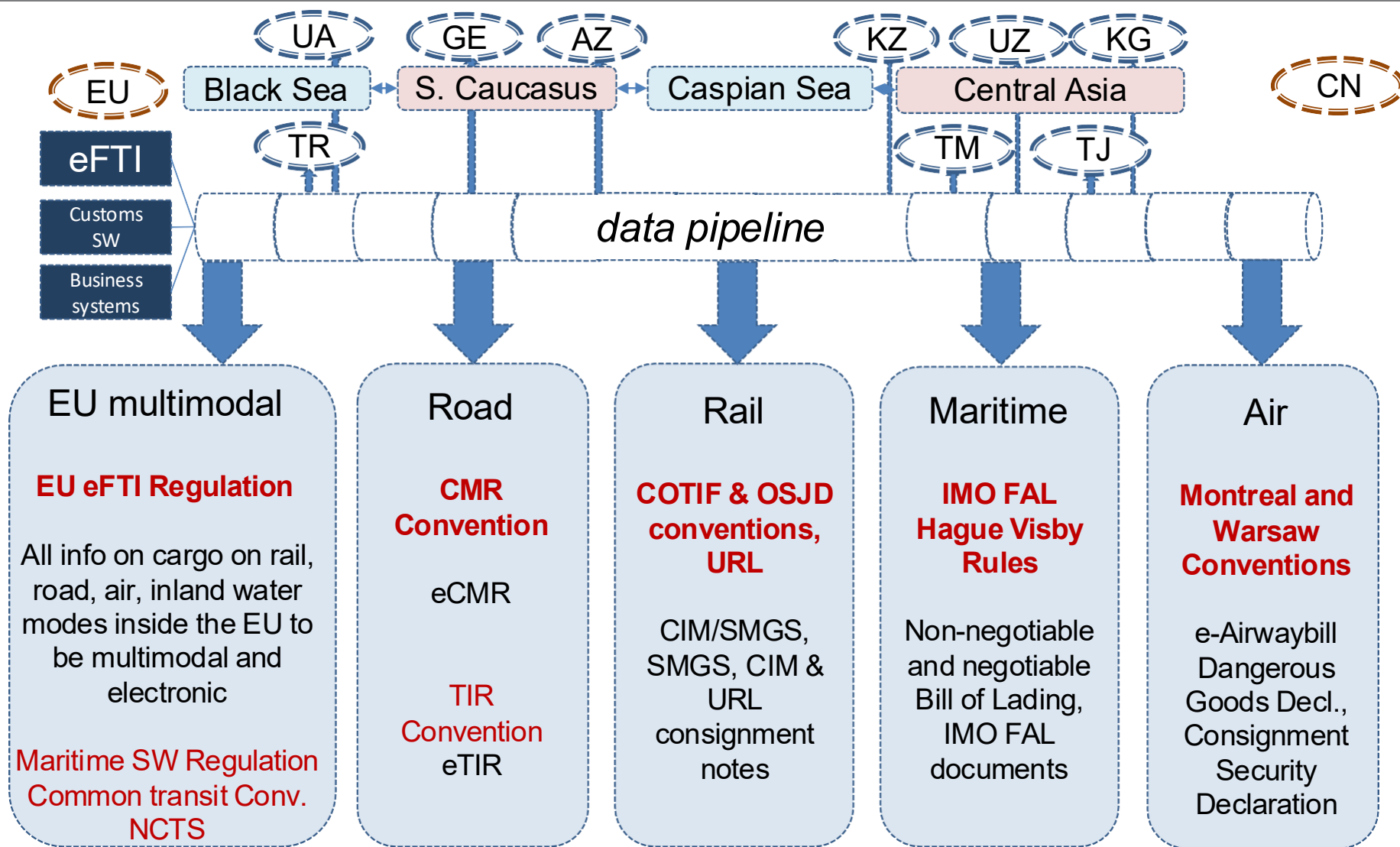


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Toolbox for Enhancing Digital
and Sustainable Trade
Facilitation
along Transit Corridors



Information chain in a digital corridor



Alignment of data in modal dangerous goods declarations to the UN/CEFACT MMT RDM

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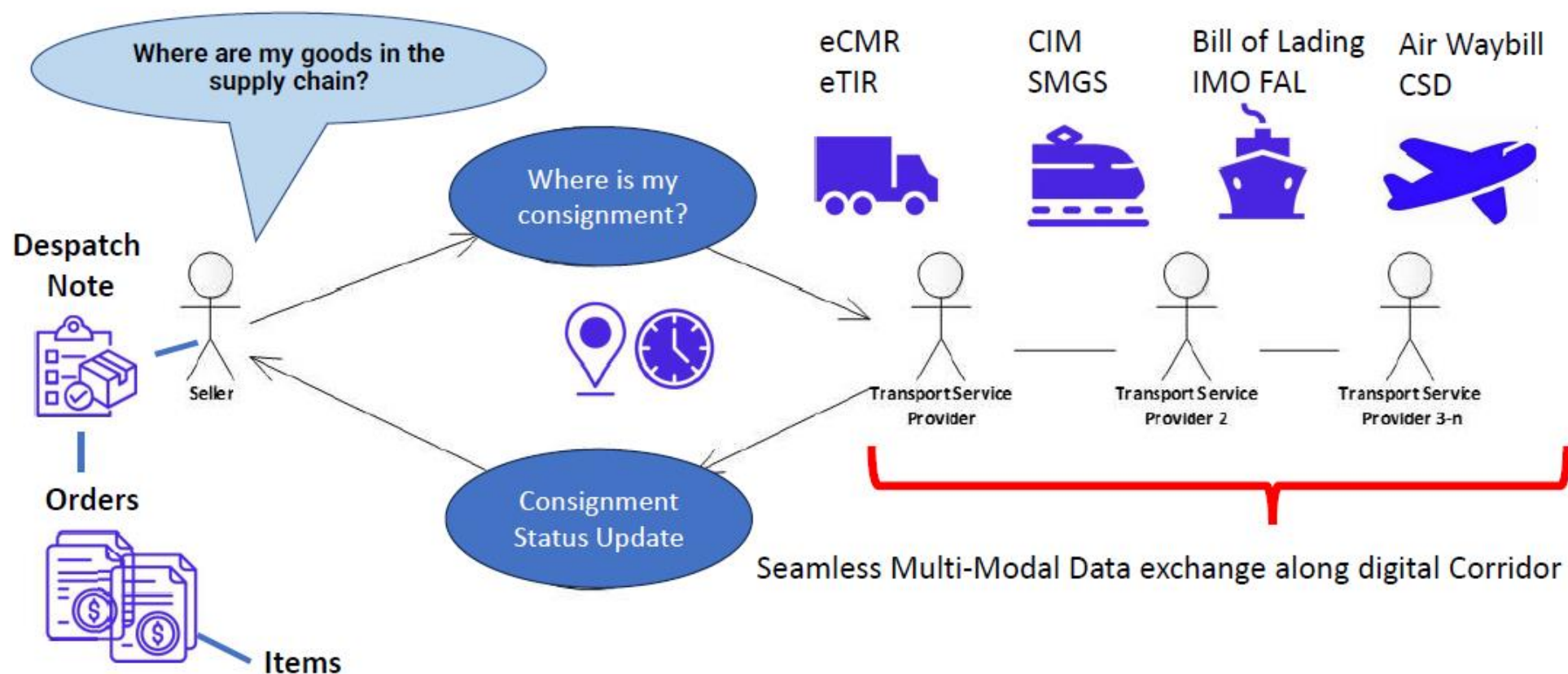
Toolbox for Enhancing Digital
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UN/CEFACT Focus: Semantic Standards Bridging Multimodal transport

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Toolbox for Enhancing Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation along Transit Corridors



A map of the Caspian Sea region showing the Trans-Caspian Corridor and the SPECA Roadmap for Digitalization. The map includes labels for Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and China. Key cities like Moscow, Minsk, Astana, Almaty, Baku, and Istanbul are marked. A red line traces the corridor from Istanbul through Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan to Kashgar. The Black Sea and Caspian Sea are also labeled.

The Trans-Caspian Corridor and the SPECA Roadmap for Digitalization

The SPECA Roadmap For Digitalization

- The Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) Roadmap for Digitalization aims to advance digital transformation across the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. This initiative is designed to enhance multimodal data and document exchange using United Nations legal instruments and standards.
- **For the Region it means leveraging digitalization for:**
 1. **Enhanced Efficiency:** By digitalizing data and document exchange, the corridor will experience reduced delays and improved coordination among different modes of transport (air/ocean/land community systems or single window systems)
 2. **Real-Time Data Exchange:** This allows for better tracking and management of goods, leading to increased reliability and predictability in supply chains.
 3. **Economic Growth:** Improved transport efficiency can boost trade and economic activities, benefiting the economies of the participating countries.
 4. **Sustainability:** Digitalization can lead to more sustainable transport practices by optimizing routes and reducing unnecessary movements.

The SPECA Roadmap for Digitalization

Key areas of focus include

- Implementing international digital standards (e.g., e-CMR, digital signatures)
- Addressing legal and procedural gaps
- Optimizing data flows across various transport modes
- Phasing out outdated practices that hinder digital progress

- **The timeline outlines specific steps**

- By 2024, eTIR systems and discussions on B2B data exchange will begin
- By 2025-2026, multimodal eTIR, electronic bills of lading, and eCMR will be in use
- By 2027, digital systems for rail and air transport will be operational



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**Toolbox for Enhancing Digital
Connectivity
along Transit Corridors**



Thank you!



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