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**Sven Alkalaj**  
**UN Deputy Secretary General**  
**UNECE Executive Director**

**Geneva**

**Dear Mr Alkalaj,**

Let us express our deepest appreciation for the International Trade Facilitation Seminar "A Local Single Window (Port Community System) for the Ports in the Odessa Region in the Perspective of the European Integration of Ukraine", co-organized by UNECE in Odessa, on 30th May, 2012.

Such events are really relevant now, in light of the increasing role of automation and trade facilitation, and in the context of the strategic position of Ukraine as a transit country and economic integration in the European space.

At the end of the Seminar, participants adopted important recommendations. This kind of activities are aimed at implementing e-business and creating prerequisites for the implementation of Single Window at the local level to perform export, import, transit formalities at the regional and national levels, as well as recommendations for the implementation of international and European standards, based on which Single Window may be built.

As a result of our long-term cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the experience of its Regional Adviser Mr Mario Apostolov, the following results were achieved:

1. The new Customs Code of Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 June, 2012 now includes Article 319 on trade documents control based on the Single Windows concept.

2. After the Seminar, Odessa Sea Commercial Port initiated the pilot project "Single Window – Local Solution" implementing Port Community System Concept. PLASKE JSC agreed to be the investor. The relevant Memorandum between the Port and PLASKE JSC was signed.

3. The Seminar summarized the one year progress in Single Window - Local Solution introduction, both in organizational matters and in matters of technological development. As a result, recommendations foresee the next steps in Port Community System development (local Single Window) and the next approaches to cooperation.

We would also like to highlight the activity of Ukrainian ministries, agencies and the business community involved in the Interagency Working Group on the implementation of a Single Window – Local Solution within the Southern Customs and ports of Odessa region.

We would like to mention the involvement of the UNECE Regional Adviser Mr Mario Apostolov who contributed significantly to the trade facilitation and integration strategies of Ukraine into European and world markets. Mr Mario Apostolov assists in the promotion of trade facilitation and implementation of Single Window concept in Ukraine, providing methodological support based on international and European standards.

We would be grateful if you support the recommendations of the Seminar and send them to the Prime Minister of Ukraine. Such letter may assist in gaining political will allowing the improvement of the relevant legislation, which in its turn, may lead to trade facilitation and the introduction of the Single Window in Ukraine.

We express our sincere appreciation for the support of Ukraine's initiatives, aimed at trade facilitation, and hope to strengthen our partnership!

**Best regards,**

**ICC Ukraine President  
Member of World Council  
International Chamber of Commerce**



**Vladimir Shchelkunov**

**Chairman  
Public Council under Customs Service of Ukraine  
President  
UKRVNESHTRANS Association**

**Oleg Platonov**