

**RESOLUTION No. 62 ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
IN INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

[CM(87)28]

The Council of Ministers of Transport, meeting in Paris on 19th November 1987,

CONSIDERING:

- The rapid growth and the economic importance of trade between countries;
- The vital role of transport in trade, and the importance of efficient transport in promoting economic growth;
- The rapid development of improved communication techniques to replace traditional paper-based methods;

NOTING:

- That the many partners in trade transactions, including transporters, forwarders and shippers, are seeking more efficient and cheaper methods of exchanging information about all aspects of trade transactions;
- That, at present, many trade and transport documents are complex, unwieldy and costly;
- That significant benefits can be obtained from harmonized information exchange, whatever communication methods are used;
- That modern, computer based communication methods when used effectively, offer substantial possibilities for economies in information exchange;
- That efficient information exchange requires a standardised set of data elements and a unique method of message construction;
- That valuable work in defining such standards is being done in other international fora (such as the UN/ECE, and the EC) and that the approach being adopted in these organisations deserves support provided there is close liaison between them;

RECOMMENDS that, to the extent possible, trade or transport related information exchange on an international level will use the data element names, descriptions and methods of representation laid down in the UN/ECE Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED), and follow the message construction rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (EDIFACT) which are part of the UN/ECE Trade Data Interchange Directory (TDID);

URGES Governments to give wide circulation to this Resolution within their countries.