



FACILITATION PANEL (FALP)

FOURTEENTH MEETING

Montréal, 20 to 24 April 2026

Agenda Item 2 Recent Facilitation-related developments in the United Nations and other international organizations

UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JSON PAXLST STANDARD

(Presented by Germany and the International Air Transport Association - IATA)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Information Paper presents an overview of the work undertaken by the JSON PAXLST taskforce, initiated by the IATA Facilitation and Passenger Data Working Group in cooperation with relevant governmental agencies, airlines, international organizations, and service providers. The taskforce seeks to modernize passenger and crew data exchange by replacing the legacy UN/EDIFACT standard with a JSON-based approach that enhances interoperability, supports digital transformation, and improves the efficiency of passenger data processing.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The UN/EDIFACT standard has served the aviation community for decades; however, it presents persistent challenges, including limited human readability, difficulty integrating with modern IT environments, and high maintenance and development costs. In response, the JSON PAXLST initiative aims to simplify data structures, reduce operational complexity, and align passenger data exchange with contemporary technological capabilities. The Annex 9 Standard 9.9 puts forward that “*It is to be expected that the UN/EDIFACT standard may be supplemented by modern message techniques*”.

2.2 The adoption of the JSON format is expected to improve transparency, support structured validation through machine readable schemas, and strengthen compatibility with widely used tools and system architectures. Stakeholder engagement in the taskforce has been strong, with participation from relevant governmental agencies, airlines, international organizations, and service providers. Surveys, workshops, and technical exchanges have reaffirmed the taskforce’s scope, which encompasses batch and interactive APIs, crew related data elements, and schema-based design principles.

2.3 The taskforce is addressing several long-standing challenges associated with the UN/EDIFACT standard, including limited human readability, difficulty integrating with modern IT environments, and high ongoing maintenance costs. The JSON PAXLST initiative seeks to simplify data structures, reduce operational complexity, and support the broader digital transformation underway across the airline industry.

2.4 The transition to JSON is expected to improve transparency, enhance data consistency, and increase compatibility with contemporary tools and systems.

3. STATUS

3.1 WCO/ICAO/IATA Contact Committee: An introductory presentation on the objectives, scope, and anticipated benefits of the JSON-based approach was delivered during the 21st API and BRI/PNR Contact Committee meeting in Brussels in October 2025 to raise awareness. This engagement enabled Member States to gain a clear understanding of the intent behind the transition from UN/EDIFACT to JSON and provided an opportunity to gather early feedback from participants.

3.1.1 A follow-up presentation is planned for the upcoming Contact Committee meeting in April 2026, during which the taskforce will report on observations and progress made in consolidating requirements. This continued engagement ensures that the Contact Committee remains fully apprised of developments.

3.1.2 The taskforce will also work on a tentative timeline that will be shared with the Contact Committee. Any changes will be communicated with the Contact Committee.

3.1.3 Further discussion and a formalized process for the transition from UN/EDIFACT will need to be developed within the Contact Committee. Establishing such a process will help stakeholders gain clarity on how future change requests and Data Maintenance Requests (DMRs) will be assessed, prioritized, and managed, including determining what falls within the scope of UN/EDIFACT and JSON versus what will apply exclusively to the JSON PAXLST standard.

3.2 High-Level observations & updates

3.2.1 Functional & operational requirements: The taskforce is prioritizing the development of core functional and operational requirements shared across the different data models. Focusing on these fundamentals, rather than entering detailed technical discussions too early, helps keep the work accessible and encourages broader participation. This approach allows stakeholders from varied backgrounds to contribute effectively before the project advances into more technical design work.

3.2.2 Different taskforce's subgroups are currently working on several aspect, including batch API, Interactive API and crew.

4. CALL TO CONTRIBUTION

4.1 The JSON PAXLST taskforce needs additional Member States participation to ensure a better balance of perspectives and to capture a broader range of functional and operational requirements. If interested, please contact IATA Customer Experience and Facilitation: fal@iata.org.