

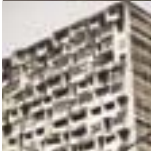


United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

REPORT 2011



UNITED NATIONS



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

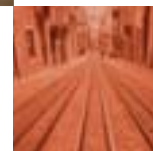
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UNITED NATIONS

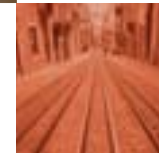
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Abbreviations and **acronyms**



ADN	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
ADR	European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
AETR	European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport
AGN	European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance
AGR	European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries
ATP	Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for such Carriage
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEB	Chiefs Executive Board
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECEF	European Clean Energy Fund
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EFE	Environment for Europe
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIBA	European Basketball Federation
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GGP	Generations and Gender Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans- European Motorways
TER	Trans-European Railways
THE PEP	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
UN	United Nations
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note: \$ are US dollars

the Chairman of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Amongst the most prominent issues on the multilateral agenda in 2010, one was of particular relevance to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The inter-agency review of progress on MDGs in Europe and Central Asia, coordinated by UNECE and presented at the MDG summit held in New York in September 2010, contained a thorough analysis of progress made and the policies to be promoted in order to ensure the full achievement of MDGs by the year 2015. This report exemplifies one of UNECE's strengths: its capacity to use its convening power for facilitating regional cooperation not only among its member States but also among the various United Nations development agencies active in our region.

2011 will be marked by the 64th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which will be held on 29-31 March 2011 at the Palais des Nations. The debates this year will be centred on two topics: economic integration in the region: new developments and new challenges in light of the economic crisis; and the role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the region, which will look at two key components: the transport and trade infrastructure and energy cooperation.

UNECE has an impressive track record of achievements in these fields, ranging from international transport agreements to trade facilitation standards and procedures; the development of Euro-Asian Transport Links; and, last but not least, its recognized role as a regional platform for fostering energy cooperation in the region.

These topics are of high relevance to UNECE's fifty-six member States, especially in light of the persistent effects of the crisis and of the pressing need to progress in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

As it is now the case every two years, the Commission session will constitute a special platform to debate these crucial issues amongst member States and other stakeholders in the region. It will also offer an opportunity to further reinforce the strong partnership between member States and the secretariat, under the resolute leadership of Executive Secretary Ján Kubiš.

It is by building on this fruitful dialogue that avenues for further progress and cooperation for the coming years can be identified and that UNECE can be in a robust position to further contribute to the economic integration of the region.

Alex Van Meeuwen
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Belgium

the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



2010 was a year of contrasts for our region: many countries bounced back from recession while several others faced difficult economic and fiscal adjustments, which in some cases are still ongoing. The year also had its share of crises, including the violence that induced the change of Government and institutions in Kyrgyzstan, the public finance crisis in the euro area or the environmental catastrophe caused by the burst of a pond collecting toxic waste from aluminum production in Hungary.

2010 also presented some more optimistic notes. The Cancun Conference, for example, succeeded in re-establishing a good path for the international negotiations on climate change. For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), two decisions of the General Assembly were of particular relevance: the resolutions of 2 March 2010, declaring 2011-2020 the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and of 28 July 2010, recognizing access to clean water and sanitation as a human right.

The first resolution formally recognizes the key role of the regional commissions in assisting low-income and middle-income countries in setting and achieving road traffic casualty reduction targets. It is a great encouragement for the work of the regional commissions and in particular of UNECE, as it recognizes our contribution over many years to improving road safety, not only through our technical and legal work, but also through our road safety campaigns and initiatives.

The second marks an important milestone in the international efforts aimed at improving the global situation in water supply and sanitation. In this domain, our region possesses a unique tool: the UNECE/WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention. The Second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, held in November 2010 in Bucharest, reassessed the key role that the Protocol can play in supporting the actual implementation of this resolution in the region.

In 2010, UNECE continued to strengthen its cooperation with partners from the United Nations family in order to better “deliver as one”. A good illustration of this principle is the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), jointly supported by UNECE and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The SPECA Economic Forum and Governing Council were held in Geneva on 18-20 October 2010. The Governing Council expressed satisfaction with the programme implementation of SPECA and its impact on regional economic cooperation. Following the Forum, which emphasized the important role of the United Nations in facilitating the efforts of the international community in promoting peace, stability and economic

cooperation in Afghanistan and Central Asia at large, SPECA was invited to join the Core Group of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA). In December, the Ministerial Conference on the Aid-for-Trade (AfT) Road Map for SPECA, held in Baku, adopted a Declaration calling for dynamic synergies between national and regional trade-related development initiatives. It also established a SPECA Regional Aid-for-Trade Implementation and Monitoring Council (SPECA AfT Council).

Another example of cooperation with other United Nations partners was the regional review of progress on the MDGs in Europe and Central Asia, which UNECE prepared in cooperation with 14 other United Nations agencies. This review was presented at an MDG regional Conference in Istanbul on 9-10 June 2010, organized in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Turkish Government, and then during the MDG Summit in New York. Many other examples can be provided, especially in technical cooperation activities, all of which aim to transfer UNECE's expertise and implement its legal instruments at the country level.

Cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions was also further enhanced last year, as joint projects such as Global Energy Efficiency 21, road safety or gender statistics made new progress. Furthermore, the Executive Secretaries of the five regional commissions have expressed their common willingness to engage in a strong partnership with UN Women, the newly established entity for promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Finally, the Regional Coordination Mechanism, revived in 2009 and bringing together all the Directors for Europe and Central Asia of the United Nations Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies, gained momentum with the creation of a thematic Working Group on climate change and the drawing of a compendium of capabilities available across the United Nations agencies at the regional level for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Outside the United Nations family, UNECE has worked on further strengthening ties with, among others, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). It also signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB).

UNECE also cooperates with a broad range of stakeholders at national level, including from the private sector. One good example was the launch in 2010 of the first Innovation Performance Review for Belarus. Such Reviews are policy-oriented documents aimed at providing advice to policy-makers and other stakeholders on policy actions to stimulate innovation and improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system. Kazakhstan has since already expressed its interest to be the next country to undergo such a review.

Looking forward to 2011, three highlights come to my mind:

- The sixty-fourth session of UNECE, which will be held from 29 to 31 March 2011. In our institutional setting, the Commission session, now held every second year, constitutes a privileged moment of dialogue among member States, and between member States and the secretariat. It is also a solemn occasion to reaffirm the direction of work for UNECE for the next two years. This year the high-level segment will discuss two topics of interest to all our member States: the new developments and challenges facing economic integration in our region in light of the economic crisis; and the role of regional integration and cooperation for promoting sustainable development in the region, which will look at two key components: the transport and trade infrastructure and energy cooperation.

- 2011 will be the International Year of Forests. UNECE will articulate most of its Timber and Forestry activities around that theme throughout the year, including the not-to-be-missed 'Forest Gallery' in the Palais des Nations (Salle des Pas Perdus) in February and the Regional Forest Information Week, coinciding with World's Forest Day (21 March) and, of course, the UNECE Timber Committee Week in October.
- Finally, the seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, which will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 21 to 23 September 2011. The Conference will address two main themes: sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. These will naturally resonate with many of the projects that UNECE is currently developing in our region. The Astana Conference is also expected to contribute to the Rio +20 process, together with the Regional Preparatory Meeting which the UNECE will also convene in December 2011.

I look forward very much to these occasions of policy dialogue with our constituency. They will help me ensure that UNECE activities remain focused on the areas of highest priority to our member States.

Ján Kubiš

Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Fostering innovation

The activities of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division (ECID) have continued to develop along three directions:

- **Policy learning** and knowledge sharing on the basis of the international experience
- **Capacity-building** to raise awareness and understanding of critical issues and increase technical competences
- **Networking**, which facilitates contacts between stakeholders and creates communities of practice through which experience and opportunities circulate.

The work of ECID has increasingly relied on developing close synergies between its different thematic areas (**innovation and competitiveness policies, entrepreneurship and enterprise development, financing for innovative development, intellectual property rights and public-private partnerships**). This approach has facilitated the mobilization of resources and the development of activities that integrate different aspects to deliver effective policy and practical advice.

The global crisis has created new challenges for policies targeting innovation and entrepreneurship, which can play an important role in promoting faster recovery and enhancing growth potential. The **International Conference on Policies to Address Financing and Entrepreneurial Challenges in High-growth Innovative Firms** (Helsinki, 2-4 June 2010), which was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, addressed the implications of this new policy environment in a practical way. This event provided a platform for a broad

exchange of practical experiences on good practices and policies on the promotion of high-growth innovative firms, in particular taking into account the new conditions that have emerged after the global economic and financial crisis. The Conference, which works with the active participation of many experts from countries with economies in transition, also made a direct contribution to capacity-building, as the learning component was reinforced by a programme of study visits to selected public and business institutions in Finland. On the basis of the discussions during the Conference and the insights gained in these visits, a *"Synopsis of good practices and policies to address financial and entrepreneurial challenges in high-growth innovative firms"* was prepared and submitted to the fifth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI).

Innovation in the service sector accounts for the bulk of economic activity in developed countries

The promotion of innovation in services has been receiving an increased policy attention, amid the awareness that this sector, which is critical for productivity growth and competitiveness, had been relatively neglected in traditional innovation policies. The substantive discussion segment of the Third Session of the **Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP)**, which took place in Geneva on 25-26 March 2010, considered various aspects regarding the special characteristics of innovation in services, the existing policy challenges and a number of national experiences in advancing innovation in this important sector, which accounts for the bulk of economic activity in developed countries. One outcome of these discussions was the publication *"Policy options for promoting innovation in the services sector"*.

Effective management and protection of intellectual property rights is an essential dimension of the innovation process. In a globalized economy where innovation stakeholders develop complex relations across borders, this is an issue with a clear international component. The fourth session of **TOS-IP** which took place in Geneva on 8-9 July 2010, discussed the international character of innovation today and the importance of a robust legal intellectual property environment, including appropriate enforcement of intellectual property rights. The discussions highlighted the challenges for intellectual property rights management in cross-border cooperation on R&D and open innovation and the contribution of international cooperation to address them. A *"Synopsis of good practices and policy recommendations on the management of intellectual property in open innovation"* was prepared on the basis of the discussions at this meeting and presented at the fifth session of CECI.

The Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property has actively contributed to a number of capacity-building events in different countries with economies in transition. A major highlight was the **International Conference on the Commercialization and Enforcement of Intellectual Property** (Moscow, 6-8 October 2010), which was organized in cooperation with the All-Russian Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Rospatent, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Innovation is a complex matter that results from the interaction of multiple stakeholders. Creating strong linkages between the different actors (government agencies, entrepreneurs, investors, research institutes and universities) involved in the innovation process is a main concern of innovation policies. ECID has continued to develop activities that address this policy issue in a practical way. **"From Applied Research to Entrepreneurship: Promoting Innovation-driven Start-ups and Academic Spin-offs"**,



which took place in Kiev on 9-11 November 2010, was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Technical University of Ukraine "Kiev Polytechnic Institute". This event was the third in a series of activities that bring together the work of ECID on entrepreneurship, financing for innovative development and intellectual property rights. The Conference included a Capacity-building Seminar dealing with intellectual property management in public research institutions.

The development of an appropriate infrastructure is an important factor

in policy efforts to increase competitiveness and economic prosperity. The interest in public private partnerships, as an effective tool to harness private resources and expertise to attend to significant infrastructure needs, remains strong in the UNECE region, in particular in countries with economies in transition. The activities of ECID and the **UNECE Team of Specialists on Public Private Partnerships (PPP)** have contributed to overcoming the skills gap that prevents a wider use of PPP by facilitating increased awareness and understanding of this form of financing. Policy aspects have also been emphasized, including the legal and institutional requirements for successful PPP, drawing lessons from international experience. Training workshops targeting participants from countries with economies in transition have been organised in a number of countries, including Uzbekistan (28-29 July 2010) and Austria (21-22 October 2010).

Promotion of economic cooperation and integration of the Central Asian and neighbouring countries has been an important agenda of ECID. Under the framework of the **United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)**, ECID has actively supported the work of the **SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development (PWG on KBD)** together with the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of The Economic and Social Commission for Asian and the Pacific (ESCAP). ECID took the lead in organizing capacity-building events on innovation, intellectual property rights, financing of innovative enterprises and PPP, inviting government officers and other stakeholders from SPECA member countries to various ECID events during 2010. ECID also organized jointly with ESCAP, **the third Session of the SPECA PWG on KBD and the capacity-building seminar on knowledge-based disaster management** in Astana from 28 to 30 September 2010.

ECID has contributed to the emergence of networks to facilitate the exchange of good practices. The first meeting of the **Expert Group on PPP for Central Asia** took place in Astana on 2 July 2010. This expert group was established at the International Conference "Addressing the Challenge of Doing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Black Sea Region, the Caucasus and Central Asia: Bridging the Gap in PPP Knowledge and Skills (Istanbul, Turkey, 29 -30 April 2010). ECID also took the initiative in

Effective management and protection of intellectual property rights is an essential dimension of the innovation process



promoting the establishment of a **SPECA Network of Policymakers on Knowledge-based Development** to facilitate policy learning and knowledge sharing among its members. ECID provided the network members with access to the **CECI Information Exchange Platform**, the secure web-based networking tool for knowledge sharing and communication.

In order to support its growing capacity-building activities, ECID has continued to develop training materials in different thematic areas. The second phase of the **Private Public Partnerships toolkit** is under way. Its contents have been discussed in a number of

The interest in Public Private Partnerships, as an effective tool to harness private resources and expertise to attend to significant infrastructure needs, remains strong in the UNECE region

international meetings and members from its wide network of experts have contributed useful case studies that will be incorporated in this training tool. This participatory process will ensure the relevance of its contents to the practical needs of practitioners and other stakeholders. A multimedia **training software** in the area of **Financing for Innovative Development** will be launched next year. This tool, which can be used for self-learning or in a class environment, builds on previous ECID publications on financing of innovative companies, thus continuing the existing approach that seeks to transform the work on the identification of good practices into practical products that support the wide dissemination of these useful experiences and increase technical skills.

The preparation of the **Innovation Performance Review of Belarus** initiated a new type of activity for ECID. The *Innovation Performance Review* is a policy oriented document aiming to provide advice to policymakers and other stakeholders in their respective country on possible policy actions to stimulate innovation and improve the overall efficiency of the national

innovation system. This pilot Review was prepared by a Team of international and national experts with the support of the government of Belarus and the wide involvement of other innovation stakeholders in the country. The recommended policy actions and measures were discussed at the fifth session of CECI in Geneva on 1 December 2010 in a joint meeting with this Team, independent reviewers, national authorities and other experts and stakeholders. The final text of the Innovation Performance Review of Belarus will be released as a UNECE publication.



The ECID **“Project on Development of Sustainable Biomass Trade and Export Opportunities for Selected Regions of the Russian Federation”** continued to implement technical cooperation services and capacity-building activities for the Russian biomass sector. An important outcome in 2010 was the development of the **first Regional Biomass Action Plan (RBAP) for the regions of the Russian Federation**. RBAPs coordinate the development of the regional biomass sector and integrate the interests of the forestry and woodworking, agricultural, electricity and municipal heating, waste and recycling sectors. Through the development of RBAPs, regional governments can develop a level playing field and governance that encourage companies to invest in the biomass sector. The cooperation between the government and private sector on the implementation of RBAPs can result in the development of branch organizations and cooperatives, and prevents excessive competition on resources and emerging markets.

The Innovation Performance Review of Belarus provides advice on possible policy actions to stimulate innovation

Another important practical output of the Sustainable Biomass project in 2010 was the **introduction of the innovative technology of algae biomass production in the Russian Federation**. Algae production does not yet exist in the Russian Federation, but the country has a substantial potential to introduce it on a large scale and thereby gain high socio-economic benefits. Algae biomass production can be used for electricity and heat production and can also be applied for biofuels production. The algae plant concept helps to clean waste water of pulp and paper mills, municipal waste sites and similar facilities, since algae can be used as bioremediation of waste water and sewage. Furthermore, algae are widely used in the pharmaceutical industry, for instance as a nutritional supplement, and application of algae biomass in this sector has also a high potential in Russia.



Future directions

ECID will continue to respond to the growing demand for capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services from countries with economies in transition within the available resources. Recent successes in fundraising are encouraging and continued efforts will be made in this

direction. The national **Innovation Performance Reviews** may enrich the future work of ECID, involving its different Teams of Specialists and networks of experts. The assessment resulting from such reviews could serve to better identify training needs, so these can be addressed through follow-up capacity-building activities. ECID will aim to develop and strengthen further the relations with national organizations, which are a major channel for the dissemination of policy messages and the effective organization of capacity-building activities.



ENVIRONMENT

Advancing the pan-European environmental agenda

The fourth Economic Commission for Europe **Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development** was held in December 2009 in Geneva. The multi-stakeholder meeting attracted more than 220 delegates from across the UNECE region, with representation from member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and civil society. The meeting reviewed the region's progress in implementing sustainable development in the areas of transport, chemicals management, waste management, mining and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Subregions made varying levels of progress in achieving sustainable development, due to different economic, infrastructural and historical aspects that must be taken into account in the regional and global review. Participants noted that sustainable transport played an important role in ensuring effective communications, trade and migration, while having the lowest possible impact on the environment. Also, it was highlighted that the safe production and use of chemicals was vital for protecting human health and worker safety.

Poverty eradication, protecting and managing natural resources and changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption were considered the three main cross-cutting sustainable development concerns that required urgent action in protecting the planet's human and environmental capital.

Preparations for the **Seventh "Environment for Europe" (EfE) Ministerial Conference** continued in the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Conference, which will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 21 to 23 September 2011, will address two main issues



of regional as well as global importance: “Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems” and “Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development”.

Governments and partners in the EfE process agreed to focus on the following issues for the ministerial discussions:

- how to ensure effective policies to protect water-related ecosystems, human health related to water quality and quantity, and, in particular, priorities and challenges in adapting water management to extreme weather events and to climate change
- the policy mix and tools that are most effective to improve water efficiency by different users, and ways to encourage investors to take into account the impacts of their activities on water quality and quantity, energy and resource efficiency, and vulnerable populations
- the policy mix for enabling a green, socially inclusive and competitive economy through an integrated approach, as well as approaches to resource efficiency, research, innovation and investment to help the transition towards a green economy.

Europe’s Environment Assessment of Assessments report, prepared by the European Environment Agency in cooperation with UNECE and other EfE partners, will support the work of the Conference. The report will assess existing environmental assessments, processes and practices identifying gaps, needs and priorities; evaluate capacity to measure progress on targets and implementation of Conventions and agreed actions; and contribute to the development of a shared environmental information system within the European Union, and across the pan-European region.

The **Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment**, at its annual session, discussed progress made by Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the implementation of recommendations on environmental monitoring and information management made in the environmental performance reviews for those countries. It provided practical guidance to these countries on how to better implement the recommendations.

The Working Group promoted the exchange of information on major ongoing and planned actions in UNECE countries regarding the modernization and upgrading of national monitoring networks; developing inventories of air emissions, wastewater discharge and waste; expanding monitoring of biodiversity; improving data handling; enhancing institutional mechanisms for data sharing and exchange; publishing environmental assessments; and reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Overall, it was found that monitoring of atmospheric air and water was progressing well, while monitoring of waste, soil and biodiversity was still lagging behind.

The Working Group also prepared draft guidelines for developing national strategies to use water-quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool. The guidelines aim to assist countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as interested South-East European countries, to revise their water-quality monitoring programmes to make monitoring a practical tool for environmental policy development, target setting and pollution abatement strategies.

The **Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators**, established by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians continued its efforts to improve environmental data collection and reporting in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, and to promote comparability of environmental statistics and indicators in the region.

At its two meetings held in 2010, the Task Force reviewed a total of 11 of 36 indicators covered by the UNECE *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*. It discussed the use of statistical classifications, data collection methods and procedures for the production of these indicators. Useful information was also collected on data availability and on problems in producing the indicators in individual countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe, and some specific amendments to the indicator Guidelines were suggested.

The Joint Task Force concluded that methodological discrepancies in producing the indicators required further examination with the aim of achieving data comparability and providing a better basis for making informed decisions on environmental policy. It recommended that the work be continued, in particular, to review the remaining indicators from the Guidelines and to clarify definitions and develop detailed guidance, possibly in the form of data tables, on the production of indicators. Continuation of data reporting on indicators was considered of high importance for identifying gaps and opportunities for filling those gaps. Fully sharing these conclusions, the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians, at their meetings in November 2010, agreed to extend the mandate of the Joint Task Force for the period 2011–2012.

*The Seventh
“Environment
for Europe”
(EfE) Ministerial
Conference will take
place in Astana,
Kazakhstan, from 21
to 23 September 2011*

The **Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP)**, now in its eighth year, made great strides in 2010 in promoting sustainable urban transport. THE PEP symposium on “Green and Health-friendly Investments and Jobs in Transport” took place in December 2010. It gave a renewed political impetus to THE PEP as a unique policy framework that encourages transport policymakers and transport planners to take health and environmental impacts into consideration when making transport policy.

In 2010, two capacity-building workshops were organized under THE PEP, jointly serviced by UNECE and the World Health Organization (WHO). One workshop “Working together to make things happen”, held in Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in June 2010, focused on integrated policy approaches to sustainable urban transport. The other, held in Batumi, Georgia, in September/October 2010 explored “Safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas”. The Batumi workshop launched a “Walking School

Bus” to promote the International Walk to School Month and featured the participation of local architects, urban planners and municipal authorities to encourage physical activity and environmentally friendly transport through the promotion of human-powered mobility such as walking and cycling.

The **Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme** is currently in its second cycle of reviews. In spring 2010, Azerbaijan was reviewed for the second time; subsequent to the peer review, the final report will be officially published in 2011 in three languages (English, Russian and Azeri). A review on Bosnia and Herzegovina was also produced and peer-reviewed in 2010. The final report, available in four languages (English and the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina), will be officially launched in 2011. Tajikistan will be the next country under review. Work has already begun, with a preparatory mission which took place in June 2010 as well as a fact-finding mission carried out in September 2010. In addition, a preparatory mission to Turkmenistan was carried out in November 2010.



Monitoring of atmospheric air and water is progressing well, while monitoring of waste, soil and biodiversity is still lagging behind

The Expert Group on Environmental Performance met twice in 2010. Similar to the principle adopted by the Committee in 2008, the Expert Group on Environmental Performance will be enlarged on an ad hoc basis by including experts recommended by delegates to the Committee in future meetings.

The **UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** is at the end of its second phase of implementation (2008–2010). Two key priorities were identified for advancing ESD in the region during this phase: developing and implementing National Action Plans for ESD; and developing competences in ESD.

At its fifth meeting in March 2010, member States considered progress made by countries in the implementation of the Strategy, including the status of development and implementation of the national action plans for ESD; the collection of good practices, initiated in 2009; and preparation of the workplan for Phase III of the Strategy’s implementation.

National Strategies and/or Action Plans for ESD have been developed or are in the process of development in 23 countries across the UNECE region. One expert group is developing a range of core competences in ESD for educators and general recommendations for policymakers to address this issue. The Group will present the outcome of its work to the next meeting of the Steering Committee in April 2011.



A collection of good practices as a key tool to promote ESD in the region and worldwide is ongoing through a dedicated website. At the same time, a thematic collection was carried out of good practices in applying ESD to address sustainable consumption, production and transportation in the context of climate change. Some 60 good practices collected across the region served as a valuable contribution to the fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region.

A first mandatory national reporting on the implementation of the Strategy is being carried out at the end of Phase II to assess the implementation progress across the region and learn from each other's experiences, based on a set of performance indicators. The results, compiled into a synthesis report, will be further considered in April 2011.

The **Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)** was established to assess and address environmental problems that threaten or are perceived to threaten security, societal stability and peace, human health and/or sustainable livelihoods within and across national borders in conflict-prone regions. ENVSEC collaborates closely with Governments, particularly foreign, defence and environment ministries, national experts and non-governmental organizations.

ENVSEC has carried out assessments and published reports, illustrated by maps, for understanding the linkages between environment and security in the political and socio-economic reality of Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. Based on these assessments, ENVSEC develops and implements projects aimed at alleviating and reducing tensions, building confidence among cooperating countries and regions and preventing or avoiding conflicts.

MEAs administered by UNECE are an important pillar of ENVSEC activities and provide added value to the partnership. Moreover, the number of ENVSEC projects that UNECE is engaged in is increasing, highlighting the importance of the MEAs in conflict prevention, preventative diplomacy, confidence-building and regional cooperation to reduce conflicts.

Water and adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context has continued to be one of the priority areas of work under the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Water Convention). A programme of pilot projects aiming to support cooperation in adapting to climate in transboundary basins was launched in May 2010. There are at present four pilot projects directly supported by the Water Convention — for the Chu-Talas Basin (shared by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan); the Dniester (shared by Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova); the Neman (Belarus, Lithuania and Russian Federation); and the Sava (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia) — as well as many other projects partnering in the overall programme.

The Espoo Convention continued to grow in 2010, with the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Malta



Another basin in which the Water Convention is promoting cooperation is the Drin Basin, including parts of Albania, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo (UNMIK). To accomplish this, UNECE has initiated the Drin Dialogue, a structured consultation process aimed at the development of a shared vision among the riparian countries and stakeholders for the sustainable management of the basin.

The work on National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on integrated water resources management, a main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative Component for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, has continued to expand. New Dialogues have been initiated in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; adding to the ongoing ones in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The NPDs have proven to be powerful tools to strengthen water governance in these countries. They have resulted in legislative acts, ministerial orders, strategy documents and implementation plans.

In April 2010, negotiations started in the Water Convention's Legal Board on the establishment of an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance. While the overall objective and powers of such a mechanism are still to be negotiated, the Legal Board underlined that the main aim was to

provide the Convention with a concrete tool to assist Parties in solving implementation problems and preventing or settling differences regarding the interpretation and application of the Convention, taking into account countries' needs and the Convention's distinctive cooperative spirit.

In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right

Water and health in the UNECE region took a significant step forward at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the **Protocol on Water and Health**, held from 23 to 25 November 2010 in Bucharest. Five years after the entry into force of the Protocol, the session marked an important milestone in the evolution of this instrument. It provided an opportunity to review progress achieved so far and to

reflect on and plan for the challenges that lie ahead. A wide variety of topics that had been the focus of work over the past three years were discussed, including ratification and implementation of the Protocol; preventing and addressing water-related diseases; adapting water supply and sanitation to extreme weather events; supporting small-scale water supply and sanitation systems; and access to information and public participation under the Protocol.

In July the United Nations General Assembly, shortly followed by the Human Rights Council in September, declared that access to clean water and sanitation was a human right. The Protocol guides its Parties on how to translate that right into practice, and how safe, acceptable, affordable, accessible and sufficient water can be provided, in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination and of transparency of information. In Bucharest, Parties discussed activities to promote the exchange of experience on measures supporting equitable access to water and thus addressing affordability issues and access in remote communities.

Parties also reviewed the results of the first reporting exercise under the Protocol. The exercise illustrated how the Protocol is helping to address water and health issues in the region, as well as highlighting remaining gaps and common challenges, mostly linked to difficulties in intersectoral cooperation and to the development of integrated strategies. To address these governance issues, the Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting were adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

The **Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** held its sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2010 in The Hague, the Netherlands. At the meeting, Parties adopted a long-term strategy for the Convention, laying out a road map for the next decade and focusing on five areas: the promotion of the issues treated; the exchange of information; assistance to countries; strategic partnerships; and sustainable financing. Parties also reviewed progress on implementing the Convention made through the Assistance Programme for countries with economies in transition. Countries participating in the Assistance Programme can henceforth avail themselves of an instrument to aid implementation, the “Indicators and criteria for the implementation of the Convention”, which were adopted at the sixth meeting.

The detrimental effects of fine particulate matter and ozone emissions on human health are now proven

The **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context** (Espoo Convention) continued to grow in 2010, with the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of Malta, as well as numerous ratifications of the Convention's two amendments. An informal review of the application of the Convention revealed that it had been applied to concrete economic development activities on over 700 occasions to date. One recent application was within a pilot project in Belarus involving also Lithuania. The pilot project, under ENVSEC, encouraged dialogue between the two neighbours, led to further development of national legislation in Belarus, and provided a basis for the negotiation of a number of bilateral agreements.

There has been a continuing strong emphasis on the review of compliance of Parties with their obligations under the Espoo Convention, led by the Convention's Implementation Committee. In addition, detailed advice has been given to Tajikistan on how to implement the Convention in its national legislation, should it decide to accede to the Convention. A subregional workshop was held in Tunis on the application of the Convention in the Mediterranean Sea area, bringing together North African States with member States of UNECE that are Parties to the Convention. Strong interest was generated among national experts regarding accession to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The secretariat also provided expert support to the negotiation of a Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, as well as drafting recommendations on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context for the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution.

The Convention's Working Group provided a forum for the exchange of good practices with regard to legislation and procedures for implementation of the Convention, and with regard to climate change in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. The Working Group also began considering in detail the application of the Convention to nuclear-energy-related activities.

The Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment entered into force on 11 July 2010 and by late 2010 had 19 Parties, including the European Union as a regional organization. Final preparations were therefore made in 2010 for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. This session, together with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, will be held in June 2011.

In 2010, the **Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters** (Aarhus Convention) continued to focus on exchange of information, sharing of experience and good practices and capacity-building in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention through the activities of the Convention's task forces and the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy.

To raise public awareness, access to information and public participation regarding living modified organisms/genetically modified organisms, a joint Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety workshop to discuss good practices and challenges in this area took place in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention decided to strengthen the work on public participation in decision-making and entrusted a newly established Task Force with this work at its extraordinary session in April and June 2010. The Meeting also paved the way for the adoption in 2011 of a procedure to allow accession to the Convention by non-UNECE member States.

To foster the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in South-Eastern Europe by promoting the use of electronic information tools, a subregional workshop on this topic took place in Skopje in November 2010.

For the Convention's Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, the highlight of the year was the first session of its Meeting of the Parties. At this session, the governing architecture of the Protocol, its Work Programme for 2011–2014 and other key decisions were adopted. The PRTR.net web portal (<http://www.prtr.net/>) is continuing to play an important role in assisting Governments and stakeholders in the development, implementation and improvement of pollutant release and transfer registers in the region and beyond. With ratification by Austria, Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Protocol membership reached 27 Parties this year.

In 2010, the **Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution** continued work on revising two of its protocols: the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). The Convention's Executive Body is expected to make decisions on the inclusion of particulate matter and black carbon, two pollutants with links to a number of environmental consequences, in addition to impacts on climate, in a revised Gothenburg





Protocol. In addition, measures to allow needed flexibility for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe will be introduced in the Protocols under revision to help these countries with implementation and ratification.

The secretariat continued its efforts to implement the Air Convention's action plan to assist the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe. A project to assist the Republic of Moldova in implementing and ratifying the Gothenburg Protocol has made significant progress and is planned to conclude in early 2011. In the framework of a project focused on assisting the countries

in South-Eastern Europe to implement and ratify the Persistent Organic Pollutants, Heavy Metals and Gothenburg Protocols, several countries completed strategic national documents which laid out the technical and legislative steps to be undertaken to accede to the Protocols. A joint project was launched in April between the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan, aiming to assist these countries in implementing and ratifying the Convention's most recent Protocols, in addition to facilitating the use of best available technologies, and in developing a policy and legislative framework to address air pollution in the region. Preliminary discussions have commenced with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan on potentially establishing a similar project.

The Convention is working to revise its overall strategic framework. A long-term strategy for the Convention was introduced at the 2010 Executive Body session, addressing emerging issues such as new pollutants and furthering its global outreach. For instance, the detrimental effects of fine particulate matter and ozone emissions on human health are now proven, while reactive nitrogen, with its severe impacts on vegetation, is also a growing concern.



Learning from each other¹: the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

There is widespread concern that our current model of development is unsustainable and that our education systems reflect and support this model to a large extent. We are faced with a dual challenge of (a) re-casting our model of development while (b) preparing our society for survival in a rapidly changing world. Education alone cannot solve the world's problems, but is an essential prerequisite for empowering society to make the transition to a sustainable future. Education for sustainable development is crucial for good governance, informed public decision-making and the promotion of democracy. It plays a fundamental role in overcoming social, economic and environmental challenges. The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) illustrates the importance of education in achieving sustainable development.

As an important regional contribution to the Decade, UNECE member States adopted the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development in 2005, thereby placing ESD high on the political agenda. The Strategy was prepared through a participatory process involving all relevant actors with the aim of encouraging UNECE member States to develop and integrate ESD into their formal education systems as well as into non-formal and informal education. The Strategy also suggests establishing a partnership mechanism between different ministries and agencies to coordinate the implementation.

¹ By Monika Linn, Deputy Director and Angela Sochirca, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment Division

Work under the Strategy is pursuing a set of related goals: ensuring that policies support ESD, promoting sustainable development through all forms of learning, equipping the education sector with the competences to engage in ESD, developing ESD tools and materials, promoting research and development of ESD, strengthening cooperation on ESD in the UNECE region, and fostering conservation, use and promotion of knowledge of indigenous peoples as well as local and traditional knowledge in ESD.



© International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The Strategy is the regional implementation pillar of the United Nations Decade of ESD and is being implemented in close cooperation with UNESCO.

The implementation of the Strategy is a continuous, long-term process, with three major phases:

- (a) Phase I (until 2007) - Countries identified what they are already doing that fits within the framework of the Strategy as well as priorities for further action required to implement the Strategy;
- (b) Phase II (until 2010) - The implementation of the Strategy should be well under way. Countries should review progress made in the implementation of their national/state strategies and revise them, if necessary;
- (c) Phase III (until 2015 and beyond) - Countries should have made considerable progress in implementing ESD.

ESD is still developing as a broad concept encompassing interrelated environmental, economic and social issues. Although achieving ESD is strongly linked to national and local priorities, needs and traditions, the international exchange is crucial. In this regard, a Steering Committee on ESD was established to decide on the Strategy's implementation and review its progress in the UNECE region. It also provides a forum for exchanging experiences, in particular at the policy and institutional levels, and is an efficient mechanism for ESD implementation. It is composed of representatives from both the education and environment sectors, as well as key ESD stakeholders participating as observers. Participating countries recognize the importance of "learning from each other".

Measuring progress

A number of activities have been carried out since 2005. One important achievement is the development of a reporting mechanism, including a set of indicators, as an innovative tool to support the monitoring and the assessment of progress in implementing the Strategy. The first pilot reporting exercise was carried out on a voluntary basis, and 36 out of 55 participating member States have submitted their National Implementation Reports. On the basis of these reports, a first review on progress in ESD in the UNECE region was made in 2007. The second mandatory reporting exercise is currently being carried out, and a third one will follow in 2015. In addition, a guidance for reporting was developed to facilitate monitoring and assessment. These tools and materials have been compiled in a publication, which can be received upon request from the UNECE secretariat.²

² "Learning from each other: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development", United Nations New York and Geneva, 2009 (ECE/CEP/159).



Another important achievement is a collection of good practices in ESD in the UNECE region³. This joint UNECE and UNESCO endeavour resulted in the first publication of a wide range of good practices to promote ESD in formal, non-formal and informal education. Also, a collection of good practices – addressing sustainable consumption, production and transportation through ESD⁴ – served as a practical contribution to the Fourth UNECE Regional Implementation Forum for Sustainable Development in December 2009. Good practices offer a wealth of experience and could be a key tool to promote ESD in the region and worldwide during the next phase of the Strategy's implementation.

The culminating event in the implementation of the Strategy's phase I was a joint high-level segment on ESD held during the Belgrade Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"

in 2007. This event was attended by ministers and high-level officials from both the education and the environment sectors. This event gave an encouraging sign of integration with other sectors as well as of ways to cooperate and make sustainable development a reality. The ministers considered the achievements, lessons learned, challenges, and the way ahead. They adopted a joint Statement on ESD, providing commitment to further accomplishment of the Strategy throughout its implementation phases and beyond 2015.

Overall, the conclusion is that phase I for the implementation of the ESD Strategy has been successfully implemented. The close and effective joint work between UNECE and UNESCO, especially in the area of monitoring progress, has been highly appreciated by member States.

The UNECE region has a good base for implementing ESD. Most countries in the UNECE region have education systems with skilled educators, provide access to basic education, grant equal rights to education for all, and have achieved high levels of literacy and scientific knowledge. But many challenges still need to be met to implement ESD effectively. A key challenge is to make the current education systems flexible enough to support the interdisciplinary nature of ESD. Civil society needs to be more involved and institutional and material resources need to be mobilized. Other challenges are the absence of an agreed definition for ESD, confusion about understanding the difference between environmental education and ESD, institutional, legislative and policy frameworks requiring adaptation to the needs of ESD, and the lack of ESD teaching tools, competences and research.

³ Good practices in Education for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region, UNESCO/UNECE, Education for Sustainable Development in Action, Good Practices No.2, August 2007.

⁴ Addressing sustainable consumption, production and transportation through education for sustainable development: analysis of good practices (ECE/AC.25/2009/4); and the compilation of good practices (ECE/AC.25/2009/5); available on website (http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/4Session/RIM_4_Dec2009.htm).

The first regional progress report on ESD5 concluded that most countries were committed to establishing the policies and institutional and administrative structures. In particular, the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia had made evident progress. The countries of South-Eastern Europe faced a number of challenges, as many were still taking the prerequisite measures to support ESD. Other countries had progressed significantly. The report also showed that a decentralized governing structure was not an obstacle, and that countries with a federal structure had made good progress.

The key role of educators

The progress report comprises detailed findings and highlights the key role of educators. Major challenges include: (a) giving special attention to those in kindergarten or primary school today, who will become tomorrow's decision-makers; (b) building a stronger partnership between authorities and stakeholders; (c) developing competences in ESD; (d) building the capacity of decision-makers and other stakeholders; (e) a more integrative conceptualization of sustainable development to allow for socio-economic perspectives in ESD; (f) development of adequate ESD materials for all levels; (g) enhancing the use of indigenous and other traditional and local knowledge; and (h) making sustainability attractive not only to certain groups, but to the society as a whole. In the global context, the problems posed by climate change are a leading example of where ESD can be applied to daily life, as climate change affects everyone. ESD offers an essential way to shape knowledge and attitudes, and hence can help address these problems.

The availability of a structured plan of actions at the national level is a prerequisite for successful implementation; hence, the development of National Action Plans for ESD is a priority for member States.

ESD implementation should focus not only on further strengthening of policy and institutional mechanisms and tools, but also on developing competences, content, teaching tools and materials. A more integrative conceptualization is needed to better integrate sustainable development with the environmental education. This could only be achieved with the promotion of stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships with both the education and environment sectors.

Orienting education towards ESD requires a corresponding shift in the competences of educators themselves. Some of these competences are already recognized, while others will need an innovative approach. Hopefully, this new combination of competences will provide the necessary educational setting for effective ESD to emerge. The UNECE Strategy for ESD calls specifically for the development of educators' competences to engage in ESD. The first reporting exercise clearly identified the need to further define the nature of ESD competences and the ways these might be developed. Furthermore, an enabling policy environment for this work needs to be supported and applied in each member State, and made a priority in the region's ESD activities. The Steering Committee has established an Expert Group to work on developing a range of core competences in ESD for educators and general recommendations for policymakers. The Expert Group will present the results of its work to the next session of the Steering Committee in April 2011.

⁵ Learning from each other: achievements, challenges and the way forward - Report on progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3 - ECE/CEP/AC.13/2007/2); and Addendum on Conclusions on the reporting process and on the use of indicators (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/INF/3/Add.1 - ECE/CEP/AC.13/2007/2/Add.1), available on the website (<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/belgrade.htm>).

Challenges ahead

The Strategy is now at the end of its second phase of implementation and a review of progress achieved is being carried out to be presented to the Steering Committee in April 2011. As of 2011 the Strategy is entering its third phase of implementation, which will focus on furthering ESD implementation through needs-driven activities oriented towards responding to country-specific challenges with a view to assisting countries to achieve considerable progress in embracing ESD by the end of 2015.

ESD should be promoted through capacity-building, disseminating of good practices and exchanging positive experiences. Partnerships with the private sector, in particular with local businesses, should be further enhanced. Stronger links with economic issues, including through exploring economic incentives and "greening" procurement, should be promoted. More attention should be given to raising awareness of the potential contribution of indigenous and other traditional and local knowledge with respect to sustainability.

ESD has gained in prominence in recent years and many organizations and institutions are carrying out activities related to ESD. It is therefore very important to enhance cooperation and coordination between all ESD stakeholders so as to achieve mutual benefits and synergies and jointly advance ESD. In this respect, a coordination mechanism has been established under the auspices of the Steering Committee, bringing together the ESD stakeholders active in the region with a view to coordinating on-going and planned activities.

To conclude, there is no stronger catalyst to achieve sustainable development than the good will and active contribution of citizens. The knowledge and awareness that education for sustainable development promotes will help change people's mindsets, and in so doing will enable us to make this world safer, healthier and more prosperous.



GENDER

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: an unfinished agenda

2010 was a year of anniversaries which has drawn particular attention to the unfinished agenda of women's empowerment and gender equality. Fifteen years have passed since the Fourth World Conference on Women, ten years since the Millennium Declaration and the establishment of Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality as one of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and ten years since the Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women was the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review held during the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2010, to which UNECE contributed a regional perspective. Taking stock of achievements worldwide has shown that only partial progress has been achieved and that concerted efforts are needed to create an equal playing field for women and men. UNECE welcomes the establishment of the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) as an important step in this direction.

Women's Economic Empowerment

In line with UNECE's mandate to focus on economic aspects of gender relations, activities in 2010 have focused on ways to advance women's economic empowerment in the UNECE region. UNECE is dedicated to assisting member States in strengthening women's potential and improving the quality of information on gender equality, particularly through capacity building activities in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Member States of the United Nations have reaffirmed their commitment to “develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women’s economic empowerment, including through enhancing their access to full and productive employment and decent work and to equal pay for work of equal value, and at supporting women’s technical, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities and initiatives, with a view to ensuring sustainable and adequate income generation and empowering women as equal partners with men”¹. UNECE is committed to supporting them in these efforts. In 2010, activities have focused on the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship through capacity-building workshops, policy-oriented research on the business environment for entrepreneurs and a forum for women entrepreneurs in South-Eastern Europe.

Women’s Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is an important avenue for women to generate income and to gain economic independence. Self-employed women increase the welfare of their families, create new job opportunities and by that add to growth and sustainable development in their countries. UNECE considers the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship in the region to be an important avenue for women’s economic empowerment.

First Forum for South-Eastern European Women Entrepreneurs

UNECE co-organized, in cooperation with the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development Administration of Turkey and the Regional Cooperation Council, the First Forum for South-Eastern European Women Entrepreneurs in Istanbul on 21 and 22 September 2010. The Forum was held under the auspices of the Turkish Chairman in Office of the South-Eastern European Cooperation Process to promote women’s entrepreneurship in South-Eastern Europe.

Fifty-nine women entrepreneurs, policymakers, representatives from Chambers of Commerce and regional organizations met to discuss the support needed for women entrepreneurs in South-Eastern Europe, ranging from improved access to training, finance, role models and networking opportunities. To address the latter, the Forum marked the first of what is intended to become a regular form of dialogue and interaction among women entrepreneurs, women’s business associations, policymakers, civil society and international organizations in South-Eastern Europe, providing a platform for information exchange, networking and mutual support.

One of the conclusions drawn at the Forum is that a clear policy objective for the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship is of paramount importance. Women’s entrepreneurship can be a job creation engine for South-Eastern Europe. For it to thrive, a gender-sensitive policy environment is needed. Policies for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises should be designed to create an enabling entrepreneurial climate for both women and men.

Assessing gender differences in the business environment for entrepreneurs

With the financial support of the Governments of Finland and Sweden, two assessments of the business environment for women and men entrepreneurs have been brought under way in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in cooperation with the International Labour Organization

¹ Ministerial Declaration on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women”, Outcome document of the 2010 High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, New York, 28 June – 2 July 2010.



(ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, an update of the assessment of the business environment for women and men entrepreneurs in Uzbekistan has been initiated under the same framework. These assessments build on previous research undertaken in cooperation with ILO to analyse the achievements and perspectives of women's entrepreneurship development in pilot countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan). The Assessments will generate new knowledge and improve our understanding of the gender differences in the perception of the business environment and of gender-specific factors and constraints to entrepreneurship development. They will provide the evidence-base for policy recommendations for the improvement and further development of entrepreneurial opportunities for women in the region. First findings will be available in early 2011 and will be discussed at national workshops with a broad range of stakeholders. A subregional forum planned for the summer of 2011 will take stock of the findings in these countries and disseminate lessons learnt from the evidence to a broad range of stakeholders in Central Asia.

*Gender equality
is an important
dimension of
sustainable economic
development*

Building capacity

Two international training workshops organized in 2010 at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre focused on "Support systems for women in small business at national and local levels" (13-29 April 2010) and on "Women entrepreneurs and information communication technologies" (2-19 August 2010). These workshops are the result of continued successful cooperation with the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel and the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre.

These capacity-building workshops, held in Russian, are targeted at women entrepreneurs from various sectors and provide support, guidance and managerial tools on the use of new technologies in the management of small business. They further address government institutions in charge of small and medium-sized enterprise development at national and local levels, women's business associations and other civil society organizations to build their capacity to strengthen the support environment for women entrepreneurs. Over the years, the training scheme has not only played an important role in strengthening the support for women entrepreneurship but has also facilitated networking among women entrepreneurs across Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The biannual workshop series is held under the work programme of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy. In 2010, 53 participants received training.



National Mechanisms for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

New research completed by UNECE in 2010 draws a comprehensive picture of the diversity of types, mandates, roles and functions of national mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The two regional studies:

- focusing mainly on the European Union and the other on South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- identify major trends in the institutional developments for gender equality which have taken place since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.

They enhance our understanding of both the enabling and constraining factors experienced by national mechanisms for the achievement of gender equality goals. Widespread legal reforms for gender equality are among the key achievements over the past fifteen years, but many hurdles remain. Among the key challenges for national mechanisms for gender equality is the need for a clear and strong mandate, sufficient resources and enhanced synergies among the diversity of mechanisms now in place.

Women's entrepreneurship can be a job creation engine for South-Eastern Europe

National mechanisms for gender equality include bodies and institutions within different branches of the State (legislative, executive and judicial branches) as well as independent, accountability and advisory bodies. They include, but are not limited to, the national machinery for the advancement of women within Government, inter-ministerial bodies (e.g. task forces/working groups or similar arrangements), advisory and consultative bodies with multi-stakeholder participation, gender equality ombudspersons, parliamentary committees and gender equality observatories.

The studies are part of the project “Strengthening national mechanisms for gender equality and women’s empowerment” which is led by the Division for the Advancement of Women (now part of UN Women) and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions with financial support from the Government of Italy. It aims to strengthen the collaboration and synergies between the different mechanisms at national level to facilitate achievement of the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In the second phase of the project (2010-2011), training manuals will be developed to address the key challenges identified in the regional studies.

Widespread legal reforms for gender equality are among the key achievements over the past fifteen years, but many hurdles remain

Challenges for 2011

Looking ahead, the key challenges for 2011 are to:

- Strengthen the skills of national mechanisms for gender equality to collaborate at national and regional level through the development and wide dissemination of a training manual.
- Encourage the creation of a more enabling business environment for women entrepreneurs in Central Asia through the formulation of concrete, evidence-based and policy-oriented recommendations drawn from the country assessments and stakeholder consultations at national workshops.
- Create synergies through enhanced regional collaboration between United Nations Agencies and regional organizations through the establishment of an inter-agency working group on gender equality under the Regional Coordination Mechanism.



HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Promoting policy reforms in the housing sector

Achievements in 2010

The work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and its Working Party on Land Administration in 2010 addressed several challenging issues that countries in the UNECE region have faced in recent years.

Promoting policy reforms in the housing sector. Given the importance of effective housing policy formulation and implementation for the success of economic and social reforms, the Committee and the Working Party assisted countries in transition in assessing their institutional, legal and financial frameworks for the housing and land management sectors and provided specific recommendations to Governments through the project on the Country Profiles on the Housing Sector. The Country Profile of Azerbaijan was finalized and the official launching event was held in Baku in November 2010. The Government of Azerbaijan expressed interest in developing an action plan to facilitate the implementation of recommendations contained in the study. As a follow up to the Country Profile of Georgia, a training workshop was co-organized with UNDP to strengthen the capacity of national policymakers and practitioners on the legal aspects of housing and land management policies (Tbilisi, November 2010). The Country Profile on the Housing Sector of Tajikistan, developed jointly with the Land Administration

The Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region provides guidance to accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality in cities



Review of this country, is under preparation. The study will provide recommendations on housing and land management policies, with a particular focus on challenges connected to infrastructure and settlements in disaster-prone areas. Albania, Belarus, Serbia and Slovakia continued to incorporate recommendations from their country profile studies in the reform of national legislation on urban planning and new spatial development strategies, as well as on social housing and condominium management.

Energy efficiency in housing. In the UNECE region, buildings are responsible for over a third of total final energy consumption. It is widely acknowledged that improving energy efficiency in the housing sector brings better and quicker results than increasing capacities for energy supply. While available technology provides a potential to reduce energy demand in housing, the sector generally maintains inefficient practices, leading to even higher levels of energy demand. To address these challenges, the Committee at its seventy-first session adopted an Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region. The Action Plan offers a framework for the member States to raise energy efficiency in the housing sector and provides guidance on 12 policy goals to accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality in cities. It also lists a range of targets and measures aimed at removing barriers to energy efficiency and moving towards a low-energy and carbon-neutral housing sector in the UNECE region by the year 2020.

Climate neutrality in cities. Improvement of urban environmental performance is vital both for promoting sustainable quality of life and for reducing carbon emissions. Urban areas are not only the main contributor to climate change; they are also themselves vulnerable to its adverse effects. To promote sustainable use of energy, water and land in cities, the Committee is developing a comprehensive study on climate neutral cities aimed at providing policy recommendations and guidance on how to apply an integrated cross-sectoral approach to urban development that includes housing, land use management, energy efficiency, transportation, waste management and green areas. An in-depth discussion of the extended outline of the study, held at the Committee's seventy-first session, highlighted the urgency of tackling climate change in cities and considered the case studies and best practices in the implementation of policies for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The study will be finalized and submitted to the Committee's seventy-second session for endorsement.

The issue of improving urban performance was also the focus of a UNECE workshop held in Prague in May 2010. The workshop reviewed best practices of successful integrative approaches to urban planning, and contributed to increased knowledge and understanding by policymakers and experts of such issues as the role of urban planning in achieving sustainable development; the application of a comprehensive approach to spatial planning, energy efficiency and affordable housing; and strengthening social cohesion.



Strengthening the real estate sector. The recent sub-prime mortgage crisis damaged financial institutions globally and sparked the financial and economic crisis. For the countries with economies in transition, financial volatility was further triggered by the lack of transparent regulatory frameworks in their real estate sector. To address this challenge, in April 2010 the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group published a *Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets: Principles and guidance for the development of a country's real estate sector*,

which defines key rules and principles for the development of sound real estate markets. To promote the principles contained in the publication, the Advisory Group organized a launching event and round table in Ukraine in June 2010. As a follow-up, the Ukrainian Government established a task force to implement institutional reforms in the real estate sector based on the guidance contained in the Policy Framework. Through the international forum on Greening Real Estate Markets organized in cooperation with the Federal Environmental Agency of Germany (Dessau, November 2010), the REM Advisory Group also addressed the potential of real estate markets to contribute to the consolidation of a green global economy. In addition, workshops will be organized by the Working Party in Italy to discuss the importance of transparency of economic information for real estate markets and in the Netherlands (autumn 2011) to discuss the implications of the "network society" for land administration authorities.

The Working Party on Land Administration analysed ways to prevent fraud in real property registration and conveyance

Improving land registration and land markets. To address challenges faced by countries in transition in the areas of land registration and land markets, the Working Party on Land Administration organized workshops on efficient and transparent land management (Baku, March 2010); on the impact of e-government reforms for real property cadastre and registration services in the UNECE region (Minsk, June 2010); and on the role of spatial planning in improving security of tenure in the UNECE region (Antalya, October 2010). In addition, a study analysing various approaches to cope with the challenge of fraud in real property registration and conveyance in UNECE member States was finalized by the Working Party.

Construction and building safety. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in political will in the region to address disaster prevention, across both developed nations and countries in transition. Recognizing the link between strengthening disaster preparedness and improving security in building construction, the Committee organized an International Forum on Natural Disasters and Building and Construction Safety (Baku, November 2010). The Forum considered a number of case studies on disaster preparedness and reconstruction and discussed relevant policy solutions.

Finally, with a view to increasing the visibility of the Committee's work, a video on the role of UNECE in making cities more sustainable and climate neutral was developed in cooperation with United Nations Television and presented at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen and the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum in Brazil, and was posted on the UNECE website and on YouTube.



Challenges for 2011

In 2011, the Committee will further address major housing challenges in the region by tackling the topic of affordable, healthy and ecological housing and exploring the added value of developing a UNECE-wide comprehensive policy framework in these areas. This task will be carried out by the Working Group on a possible legally binding instrument on affordable, healthy and ecological housing established by the Committee's seventy-first session.

When it adopted the Action Plan for Energy-efficient Housing in the UNECE Region, the Committee recommended UNECE member States to adapt it to their local conditions and to implement respective policies with a view to removing barriers to energy efficiency in the housing sector. To facilitate this work, the Committee will be organizing capacity-building activities in 2011 to assist countries with economies in transition in the implementation of the goals and targets contained in the Action Plan.

The Committee will continue to prepare country profiles on the housing sector. In that connection, the secretariat will finalize the country profile on housing and land administration of Tajikistan and start the preparation of a pre-mission for the development of the country profile of Ukraine. As a follow up to the country profile study on the housing sector and at the request of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction of Belarus, a training course for CIS officials on policy frameworks for affordable housing will be organized by UNECE in cooperation with UN-Habitat in Minsk (Belarus) in March 2011.

In June 2011, the Working Party on Land Administration will hold its seventh session. It will discuss the final version of the study on fraud in real property registration and conveyance to be endorsed by member States. It will also analyse a concept note for a study on benchmarking of land administration systems. For its part, the REM Advisory Group will prepare a study on real estate rating, which will further develop specific guidelines and recommendations contained in the Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets.



POPULATION

Mainstreaming ageing into all policy areas

The important demographic transformations under way in many UNECE countries with developed and emerging market economies have resulted in the number of older persons exceeding the number of children and in fertility rates falling well below replacement levels. Population ageing issues have thus continued to be the focus of the UNECE Population Unit's work in 2010–2011, with activities in this area guided by the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). The UNECE Working Group on Ageing leads and assists countries in implementing RIS/MIPAA and continued this work over the course of the year through, inter alia, the development and publication of policy briefs; monitoring of indicators; capacity-building; and in-depth discussion on intergenerational relationships.

POLICY BRIEFS

To facilitate exchange of examples of good practice among the UNECE countries on the policy areas affected by demographic change, the Working Group has initiated a series of policy briefs. These briefs provide information on the state of the art of policy discourse, as well as demonstrating successful examples of policies and programmes aimed at implementing the 10 commitments of RIS/MIPAA. The UNECE secretariat has been compiling and publishing the policy briefs based on contributions from member States.

In 2010, four policy briefs were published: on life-long learning; health promotion and disease prevention; community long-term care; and intergenerational family solidarity. Two further policy briefs — addressing policies and practices related to age-friendly employment: and tapping the potential of volunteering — were presented and discussed at the Working Group's annual meeting in November 2010 and will be further developed for publication.



ROAD MAPS FOR MAINSTREAMING AGEING

In 2010 UNECE has moved forward with a new project: “Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing”, conceived by the Working Group in 2009. This project aims to assist countries in devising comprehensive strategies and concrete actions to mainstream ageing into all policy areas, helping countries to both tackle the challenges and capitalize upon the opportunities of rapid population ageing. The challenges are particularly salient in many of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in which the effects of increased longevity and reduced fertility are compounded by large-scale emigration of the working-age population and the impacts of the economic crisis. At the same time, many of these countries are in need of assistance to build capacities for effective policy formulation.

The first country to engage in the Road Map project was Armenia, where the work has now been completed and ready to be implemented in concert with the country’s National Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing. In the Republic of Moldova the process is currently under way, with wide-ranging desk reviews and field studies completed, and a report of the process drafted. Owing to the participatory approach employed in the Road Maps, stakeholders from all areas were consulted, and Moldovan experts continue to be involved as the final project report is produced. UNECE plans to continue this project with a third country in 2011, employing lessons learned during the process in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova.

In addition to the Road Map project in Armenia, in 2010 UNECE also captured the experiences of older persons in Armenia on film, producing a television documentary in cooperation with United Nations Television. The film covers the often difficult circumstances of older people living alone and in care homes, the work of local non-governmental organizations, the changes in family formation brought about by demographic ageing and emigration, and the positive contributions being made by the Armenian Government and UNECE. As part of the project “UN in action”, the documentary will be shown on news media, and after the launch of the Armenian Road map it will be disseminated more broadly.

In some UNECE countries, older persons outnumber children and fertility rates have fallen well below replacement levels



UNECE efforts to enhance national capacities in the area of mainstreaming ageing also included involvement in a number of expert meetings and training workshops, such as a United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Population Fund workshop in the Republic of Moldova in October 2010, in which participants from 11 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia exchanged information on a variety of national surveys on ageing, sharing experiences including the successes and challenges faced in implementing such surveys.

GENERATIONS AND GENDER PROGRAMME

Throughout the past year, UNECE continued to coordinate the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) of data collection and research, which helps to understand the causes and consequences of the demographic developments and provides the basis for informed responses to policy challenges. The GGP looks into issues of low fertility, the reconciliation of career and family, the integration of young people in society, inter- and intra-generational solidarity, and gender equality.

Road Maps for Mainstreaming Ageing aim at helping countries to both tackle the challenges and capitalize upon the opportunities of rapid population ageing



SPECA

Fostering regional integration

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was founded by the Presidents of four Central Asian States and the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration. Today it counts seven members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNECE and ESCAP provide support to SPECA.

The Programme has six Project Working Groups (Water and Energy, Transport and Border Crossing, Trade, Statistics, Knowledge-based Development, and Gender and Economy). Its highest decision-making body, the Governing Council, consisting of SPECA National Coordinators, meets annually. It adopts biannual work plans and discusses and approves annual progress reports by the Project Working Groups. SPECA Economic Forums are organized in conjunction with the sessions of the Governing Council, where strategic issues of regional cooperation are discussed and recommendations for further work are made.

Most SPECA projects aim at strengthening the capacity of member countries to accede to and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards



SPECA member countries welcomed the upcoming opening of the UNECE-ESCAP SPECA Regional Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan

The SPECA Work Plan for 2010-2011 approved by the 2009 session of the Governing Council in Bishkek contains 54 projects, of which 35 have secured or expected funding. The total budget of projects with secured or expected funding is around \$10 million, more than twice the amount for the previous biennium. In 2010, programme implementation by the six SPECA Project Working Groups proceeded in accordance with the Work Plan. High-level events supported by SPECA Project Working Groups included the "Aid for Trade Roadmap for SPECA" Ministerial Meeting on 1 and 2 December in Baku and the Donors Conference organized by the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea on 9 December in Almaty. The Donors Conference in Almaty adopted the Third Aral Sea Basin Programme, a five-year programme of action to improve the socio-economic situation

and achieve environmental sustainability in the Aral Sea Basin which was elaborated with the assistance of UNECE within the framework of the Programme "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia". The same Programme continued to support in 2010 the modernization of institutional and legal frameworks for regional water resources management in Central Asia: an expert group to review existing legal instruments and elaborate proposals for their modernization held its first meeting on 23 October 2010.

The 2010 SPECA Economic Forum entitled "Strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia: a contribution to long-term stability and sustainable development of Afghanistan" was held on 18 and 19 October in Geneva. In addition to the high-level delegations of SPECA member countries, representatives of UNECE and ESCAP Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral donors and NGOs also participated in the Forum.



The SPECA Governing Council on 19 October appreciated highly the substantive discussions at the SPECA Economic Forum. It approved the progress reports by the Project Working Groups for 2010. High-level representatives of SPECA member countries expressed satisfaction with programme implementation and the impact of SPECA on regional economic cooperation. The majority of SPECA projects build the capacity of member countries to accede to and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards, and as a rule are funded by extrabudgetary contributions. SPECA projects mostly rely on the in-house expertise of the two regional commissions and a solid network of local policymakers and experts.

Representatives of SPECA member countries welcomed the upcoming opening of the UNECE-ESCAP SPECA Regional Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Office is expected

to further strengthen SPECA by improving liaison with the Governments of member countries, including more thorough needs assessment as well as coordination and cooperation with partner organizations. It is expected to work closely with the regional offices of multilateral and bilateral donors, thus increasing the flow of extrabudgetary contributions to projects implemented within the SPECA framework.

The Governing Council elected Turkmenistan as the next Chair of SPECA.

In 2010, SPECA continued to strengthen cooperation with United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations and international and bilateral donors. At the fourth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) held in Istanbul on 2 and 3 November 2010, SPECA was invited to join the Core Group of RECCA and establish a partnership with the Secretariat of RECCA at the Center for regional Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



STATISTICS

Better evidence for better decisions

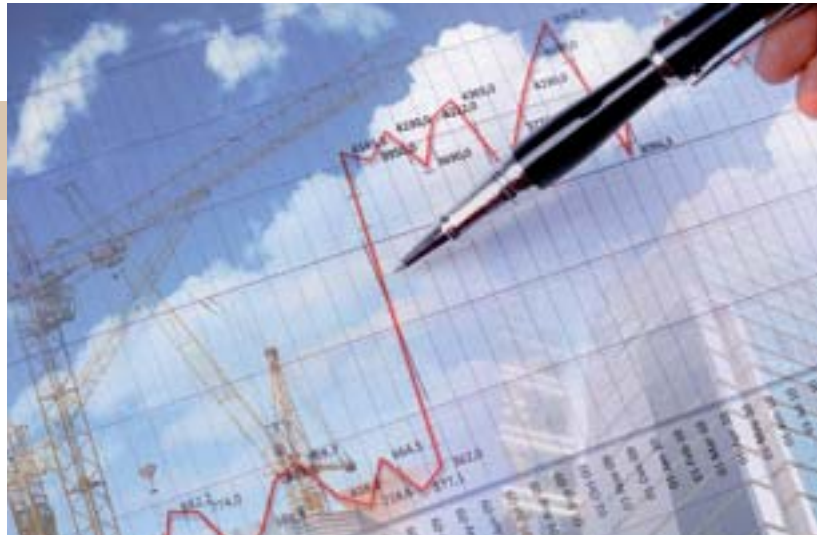
Coherent, reliable and internationally comparable statistics are crucial for the monitoring of social and economic progress of countries in the UNECE region. Official statistics provide national and international decision-makers with a picture of the economy, the environment and society, enabling them to formulate policies and to monitor and evaluate their delivery.

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau play an important role in **coordinating the international statistical activities** in the UNECE region. Some of their main objectives are to improve the quality and comparability of statistics, achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions, respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation and promote statistical standards. The participation of the major international organizations (Eurostat, OECD, United Nations Statistical Division, Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, IMF, World Bank, etc.) is important to avoid duplication of work and ensure the efficient use of resources of the various international agencies.

During the plenary sessions, the CES holds every year two one-day **seminars** that provide a forum for top-level management of statistical offices to explore the fundamental issues of statistical systems and leading-edge emerging topics. The seminars in 2010 were devoted to the **impact of the global crisis on statistical systems** and to the **role of the spatial dimension in official statistics**.

In 2011, one of the seminars will deal with the **organization of data collection and sharing, and the management challenges for the implementation of the SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange) standard**. The seminar will allow the exchange of

experiences in the management of data collection and sharing in national statistical organizations. It will focus specifically on the strategic challenges related to the implementation of SDMX standards from a management perspective.



The second seminar will be devoted to **measuring human capital**. This seminar will discuss the economic importance of knowledge and skills in the context of labour economics, growth theory, business economics, sustainable development, and in particular in relation to the demographic change. The personal and social well-being effects of learning are seen as being as important as the economic ones. Statisticians are in the early stages of work in this area and are trying to reach common views on why and how to measure human capital.

A key tool of the Conference and its Bureau for coordination of the international statistical work is the **Database of International Statistical Activities**, maintained by the UNECE secretariat. The database (<http://unece.unog.ch/disa>) informs users about the statistical activities carried out by about 30 international organizations in the UNECE region. Recently, the statistical classification used by the database has been adopted for various other purposes. For example, it is used for reporting on technical assistance activities by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century - PARIS 21 Consortium. The first three domains of this classification have also been adopted as part of the SDMX standard.

Economic statistics

The UNECE secretariat actively supports the **implementation of the updated global standard on national accounting, the 2008 System of National Accounts (2008 SNA)** in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and in South-East Europe.

The Conference of European Statisticians plays an important role in coordinating the international statistical activities in the UNECE region

In early 2010 the UNECE secretariat conducted a workshop on the main challenges and priorities for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in these countries in order to identify areas where support in terms of regional meetings and technical assistance is needed. The initiatives were well received by countries and partner international organizations. A second workshop is planned in 2011.

The **impact of globalization on statistics**, and in particular on national accounts, is a widely debated issue in the international statistical community. Distortions in statistics emerge when accounting for cross border operations of multinational companies, international transactions in intellectual property, remittances, foreign direct investments, transit trade and re-export, labour mobility, e-commerce, etc. A group of experts

worked successfully during the year to develop a practical guidance and recommendations on how to deal with these distortions and improve the quality of economic statistics. The work of the group, which benefited from the contributions of experts from Eurostat, OECD, IMF and the World Trade Organization (WTO), has progressed well. A publication entitled *Impact of Globalization on National Accounts* is expected to be finalized in 2011.

The Conference also supports other areas of economic statistics. UNECE chairs the Intersecretariat Working Group on **Price Statistics** which coordinates international activities on price statistics. Currently, a new *Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices* is being drafted under the auspices of the Intersecretariat Group and is scheduled to be published by Eurostat in 2011.

A task force is currently working to reflect the developments over the last decade in data sources and methods, and to provide the latest practical and quality assurance guidelines to national statistical offices in relation to household income statistics. In that context the update of the internationally recognized *Canberra Group Handbook* has progressed according to plan. A new capacity building programme on **short-term economic statistics** in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has been developed with the financial support from the World Bank. A number of regional workshops will be organized in 2011 and training materials and guidelines will be produced in English and Russian. In the area of **business statistics** the secretariat continues to participate in the international work on business registers.

The impact of globalization on statistics, and in particular on national accounts, is a widely debated issue

Social and demographic statistics

UNECE plays a leading role (often jointly with other organizations) in selected areas of **social and demographic statistics**, such as population and housing censuses, migration, gender statistics and crime statistics. A number of task forces created by the Bureau of the Conference have successfully continued their work to develop methodological guidelines and recommendations.

The *Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses* developed under the auspices of the CES are widely accepted as an international standard. In 2010, the UNECE secretariat helped countries in the region implementing the Recommendations. The secretariat, in cooperation with Eurostat and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized two expert meetings and one training workshop to address issues related to the upcoming censuses. UNECE also participated in the international monitoring of the population and housing census in the United Nations Administered Region of Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Migration statistics are high on the agenda for most countries in the UNECE region. As a result, a work session and two training workshops were held in 2010 to facilitate progress in the production and comparability of international migration statistics. A task force has been analysing the impact of the different definitions of the length of stay of migrants on migration estimates. In addition, a new initiative was launched to improve the measurement of socio-economic conditions of migrants.

In 2010, the Conference endorsed the Manual on **Gender Statistics**. The Manual was published in English, and a Russian version should be ready in early 2011. Importantly enough, the World Bank is planning to have the Manual translated into other languages so that it may be used as a training material outside the UNECE region. Recently, a task force started working to improve the monitoring of gender equality by using gender-relevant statistical indicators and data. Furthermore, two subregional and two national training workshops on gender statistics were conducted in cooperation with the World Bank.



In response to the General Assembly resolutions on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (Resolutions 61/143, 62/133, 63/155 and 64/137), a questionnaire was developed to collect data on globally agreed indicators on **violence against women**. This questionnaire is currently tested in countries in various parts of the world and is expected to become a standard data collection tool to be recommended to national statistical offices globally. An expert group meeting and a regional training workshop were conducted on this topic. This UNECE work is closely linked to the development of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women undertaken by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Important work was undertaken to develop indicators to facilitate understanding of the **quality aspects of employment** from the point of view of the individual employee. This issue goes beyond aspects of work that are legal or regulated to cover, for example, safety and ethics of employment, balancing work and non-working life, security of employment, skills development and training, workplace relationships and work motivation. A task force was asked to prepare a publication on Measuring Quality of Employment that contains country pilot reports. The work was conducted in close cooperation with the ILO project on measuring decent work and the European Commission's quality of work indicators.

In the area of **crime statistics**, UNECE, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, continues to promote the dissemination of the Manual on victimization surveys that was published in 2010. Work was undertaken to produce versions of the Manual in Russian, French and Spanish. In addition, a new task force was created to analyse methodological issues related to the development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes.

Another task force has worked to develop guidelines for measuring **health status**. The work is conducted in close coordination with other initiatives in this field undertaken by Eurostat and the World Health Organization. The task force is also finalizing a new questionnaire for collecting data on health status.

Finally, a new activity is launched to develop common guidelines and good practices in implementing **time-use surveys**. These surveys are an important source of information on social behaviour of the members of society, shedding light on unpaid work, quality of life, living conditions, gender equality, etc.

Environment and sustainable development statistics

Close attention to environmental and climate change issues have increased the demand for high quality statistics in this field.

In 2010, the work on improving environmental data production, environmental reporting and comparability of environmental statistics in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe made good progress. A task force was established jointly by the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Conference of European Statisticians. Its work was also sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division in New York. The task force reviewed about half of the **environmental indicators** recommended by the *Guidelines on Environmental Indicators*, which was endorsed by the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in 2007. The task force will contribute to the preparation of the next Ministerial Meeting in 2011. It provides a unique opportunity for **environmental experts** and **statisticians** from various countries to come together, sometimes for the first time, and exchange experience and share knowledge. The mandate of this task force was recently extended by both the CES Bureau and the Committee on Environmental Policy so that it may review the remaining indicators of the Guidelines.

An important feature of UNECE's online statistical database is the gender breakdown

In response to an increasing demand for statistics related to **climate change**, the CES Bureau asked the UNECE secretariat to explore the degree to which national statistical offices are involved in climate change related work and in compiling greenhouse gas inventories. The secretariat developed a questionnaire for this purpose and will carry out the survey in close collaboration with Eurostat and the United Nations Statistics Division in New York.

Substantial progress has been made in developing a framework to measure **sustainable development**. A task force was established as a follow-up to earlier work published in 2009 to further advance the conceptual framework of the capital approach and less developed areas like measuring human and social capital. The conceptual work will also be broadened to cover the quality of life. This activity is strongly linked to the work undertaken by other institutions, such as the Stiglitz Report, the European Commission's initiative “GDP and Beyond”, and the OECD project on Measuring the Progress of Societies.

UNECE will also continue to provide statistical support to the countries in the region in **monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). UNECE has established a network of national MDG focal points in statistical offices and has organized a number of capacity development workshops in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division in New York.

Management of statistical information

The Conference and its Bureau are involved in various activities related to the management of statistical information systems, statistical methodology and statistical dissemination and communication. UNECE provides **information systems managers, methodologists and communication experts** from national and international statistical organizations with a unique forum to share experiences. Recently, a High-level Group for Strategic Developments in Business Architecture in Statistics was created to oversee this work.



Different teams of specialists are currently preparing guidelines and recommendations to improve the processing and dissemination of data in statistical organizations. The generic statistical business process model developed by the group on statistical metadata is becoming a *de facto* global standard for describing the organization of a statistical production process. Cooperation with other international statistical organizations remains strong, particularly in the field of statistical data and metadata exchange standards. Further steps will be taken to facilitate the sharing of software, ideas and experiences between statistical organizations to encourage more efficient and sustainable national statistical production systems.

Annual expert meetings on the **dissemination and communication of statistics** are organized by UNECE to share experiences and promote good practices in communicating with data users. A new guide to communicating with the media has just been released as part of the very popular *Making Data Meaningful* series. The first issue in the series, a *guide to writing stories about numbers*, is currently in its third print run to meet the demand for this widely used publication.

UNECE has a long and successful history of involvement in efforts to enhance the capacity of countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to meet international statistical standards

UNECE Statistical Database

UNECE maintains a **free online statistical database** (www.unece.org/stats/data) available in English and Russian, covering its member countries. The database includes **macro-economic, social, demographic, forestry and transport** indicators. An important feature is the **gender** breakdown, which is included where possible. The database will be further enhanced by the addition of data **on progress towards the MDGs**. A major update of forestry data will be made in cooperation with the Trade and Timber Division and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The annual survey of external database users will be supplemented with a new survey of UNECE staff to evaluate how the database could better meet their needs.

Technical assistance

The UNECE Statistical Division has a long and successful history of involvement in efforts to **enhance the capacity of countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia** to meet international standards and guidelines in the collection, production and dissemination of official statistics. UNECE also helps these countries to strengthen their statistical legislation and to implement the **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, a standard that was adopted by UNECE in 1992 and at the global level in 1994.



In order to support the development of national statistical capacities, UNECE, in cooperation with other national and international donors, organizes regular seminars, training workshops and advisory services on various statistical domains related to population censuses and migration statistics, economic development, monitoring the achievement of MDGs, gender and violence against women, sustainable development, statistical quality, statistical literacy, and communication with users.

UNECE, together with Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), is involved in **conducting global assessments (GA)** of the national statistical systems in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The purpose of a GA is to provide a clear picture of the state of development of official statistics in a country. It helps national authorities to better programme the long-term development of statistics, and international donors to have a deep knowledge of their institutional and administrative framework for the programming of statistical cooperation. GAs were carried out in Armenia and Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine also requested a GA of their respective national statistical systems and some preparatory work is underway.

Despite significant improvements in the capacity to produce official statistics in recent years, timely and reliable official statistics are often not available for some countries in the UNECE region. Recent global assessments and other reviews carried out by UNECE show that the global crisis and its impact on public finance have further reduced their capacity to produce high quality statistical information.

In that context, technical assistance provided to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and in South-East Europe will also focus on **streamlining the production processes of official statistics from the collection of raw data to the dissemination and communication of the results**. Keywords are efficiency, comparability and sustainability with a special focus on economic and social statistics. This will be done by promoting the exchange at subregional level of national good practices, undertaking benchmark studies and stimulating the foundation of an active network of competences.

Documents and presentations from all meetings, seminars and training workshops organized can be found on the Statistical Division's website at:

<http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/docs.date.e.htm>



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Integrating security and sustainability

During 2010, the effects of the global economic crisis of 2008-2009 continued to be felt in the energy sector in the UNECE region. Not only was the detrimental impact of the crisis visible on the operations of many energy companies causing changes in their business strategy and infrastructure investment plans, but the ongoing volatility of energy prices also had a negative impact on energy efficiency and renewable energy investments and energy efficiency market formation. In this context, the Sustainable Energy Division maintained, and where possible strengthened, the focus of its work on energy security, and energy efficiency, with a view to responding to the ongoing challenge of mitigating the environmental consequences of energy production and consumption.

In the light of the necessary role of natural gas for securing affordable and sustainable energy in the region, its low environmental impact relative to other fossil fuels, combined with the continued strong growth in unconventional gas production in the United States and the potential for unconventional gas development in Europe, in 2010 the Committee on Sustainable Energy focused the attention of its expert dialogue on energy security on the theme “**Energy Security and Gas Infrastructure**”. The uncertainty on demand recovery and infrastructure investments affects energy security in the region. The measures discussed in the energy security dialogue promoted the further integration of energy security and sustainable energy in the Committee’s work programme with new projects and activities being undertaken by its subsidiary bodies.

The Committee continued to assess the perceptions of energy security risks, to analyse the impact of sustainable energy policies on such risks, and to study the potential role that international cooperation can play in meeting the energy security goals of UNECE



countries. A key achievement of the Committee and all its subsidiary bodies was the strengthened level of cooperation and collaboration with partners in and beyond the UNECE region.

Major Achievements in 2010

Energy Security

In addition to energy security and gas infrastructure issues, the session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy considered major issues of **international energy cooperation for producer, consumer and transit countries**. The session discussed the possible development of new or modified agreements and institutional arrangements for international energy cooperation and the role that UNECE could play in this context.

In 2010, the effects of the global economic crisis of 2008-2009 continued to be felt in the energy sector in the UNECE region

2010 also saw the completion of the last phase of the three-year project on “**Sustainable Energy Policies to Mitigate Energy Security Risks**”. This project has delivered an overview of the institutional aspect of international cooperation on energy; an extensive on-line facility on identification of energy security risk perceptions, which was successfully tested with a sample of senior representatives from Governments, the energy sector and financial institutions; and the initial version of the Delphi study exercise on energy risk scenarios. This study identified suitable methodological approaches for the identification of individual energy security risk perceptions in the UNECE region, together with the tools for building high-

risk, low-probability and high-damage energy scenarios of interest to UNECE member countries. These tools include the design of appropriate energy risk mitigating policies in the UNECE region.

Other activities in this area included the development of the energy security components of the projects on underground gas storage, liquefied natural gas and liberalization of the natural gas markets.

Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels

The main ongoing task of the UNECE Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels in 2010 was fostering investment in cleaner electricity production. This aims at facilitating the move to a more sustainable energy and economic development process in economies in transition and emerging market economies in the UNECE region. The Group of Experts has focused its efforts on enhancing the ability of Governments to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) in advanced fossil fuel technologies for electricity production. Two events were held in this respect: the “High-Level Dialogue” in Montreal, Canada, on 14 September 2010 and the “Cleaner Electricity Forum” held in Geneva on 22-24 November 2010. These events were organized jointly with e8, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Energy Council.

Finally, the Group of Experts began preparations for implementation of the project “**Mitigating Climate Change through attracting Foreign Direct Investment in Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies**”, which is financed by the United Nations Development Account. The project, to be executed in close cooperation with UNDESA, ESCAP and UNCTAD, focuses on facilitating the increased mobilization of financial resources for the cleaner power sector in nine countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC) was published in 2010

Resource Classification

A revised and simplified version of the **United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009** (UNFC) was approved by the Committee on Sustainable Energy at the end of 2009. UNFC-2009 is the only Classification in the world that applies to minerals, petroleum and uranium. It will thus significantly facilitate the availability of relevant and reliable information on energy reserves and resources in support of international and national resources management,

The adoption of UNFC-2009 represented a significant milestone for UNECE, since the final text is the result of years of negotiation, cooperation and collaboration with UNECE and non-UNECE member countries, other United Nations agencies and international organizations, intergovernmental bodies, professional associations, the private sector and many individual experts.

In 2010, work was undertaken to prepare UNFC-2009 for publication in all six United Nations languages. The Expert Group on Resource Classification met for its first session in April, at which it was noted that substantial progress had been made to promote the Classification worldwide, particularly beyond the UNECE region. This has resulted in additional participation and interest in the work of the Expert Group, including from a wide range of non-UNECE member States. Workshops to build capacity on UNFC-2009 were held in Almaty and Warsaw.



A key focus of the Expert Group on Resource Classification in 2010 was to commence developing generic specifications (secondary rules) for UNFC-2009. A unique piece of research was undertaken to identify the views of stakeholders on what specifications, if any, they considered necessary. The agreement of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the Committee for Minerals Reserves International Reporting Standards to develop the commodity specific specifications – petroleum and minerals respectively – for the UNFC was a significant outcome.

Energy Efficiency 21 promotes the formation of an energy efficiency market in Eastern Europe

Energy Efficiency

Through its Energy Efficiency 21 (EE21) Programme, UNECE promotes the formation of an energy efficiency market in Eastern Europe so that cost-effective investments can provide a self-financing method of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. Dedicated financial instruments have been promoted, such as the European Clean Energy Fund (ECEP) raised by SwissRe/Conning Asset Management under a mandate of the EE21 Programme. By the end of 2010, over 90 per cent of the ECEF had been committed to clean energy investment projects in Europe. A project of the EE21

Programme on Financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation (FEEI), supported by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GEF), Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial and the European Business Congress, advanced significantly during 2010.

The study **Regional Analysis of Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments** was completed in April and its findings and recommendations were presented to the project stakeholders. The **International Energy Efficiency Forum and the Workshop on Investments into Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects** was held in Astana in September. It was organized jointly by the Government of Kazakhstan, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNEP, and UNDP. At the Seminar on **Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Policymakers** in October in Geneva, delegates from participating countries reported on progress achieved in implementing recommendations for policy reforms identified in the Regional Analysis Study.

The FEEI regional website, which constitutes an on-line communications network of energy efficiency managers in Eastern Europe, is now fully operational and includes dedicated national websites. The potential lead investor and fund manager for the project's public-private equity and mezzanine fund for twelve countries in Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Central Asia for energy efficiency and renewable investment were identified. The EE21 Programme also continued the implementation of nine other projects, including "Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and in countries of the CIS: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation" and the Global Energy Efficiency 21 (GEE21) project.

Global Energy Efficiency

GEE21, led by UNECE and jointly implemented by the other United Nations regional commissions aims to develop a **systematic exchange of experience** on capacity building, policy reforms and investment project finance among countries of all regions of the world through the regional commissions in order to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements.

The first collaborative outcome of GEE21 was the publication "Financing Global Climate Change Mitigation" (UNECE Energy Series No. 37, ECE/ENERGY/81), which includes: a wide-ranging review of 22 selected energy efficiency financing mechanisms from countries and institutions in all regions of the world; an assessment of the relevance of the carbon market for energy efficiency financing; a discussion of the purposes and sources of capacity building and technical assistance for energy efficiency financing; a collection of existing energy efficiency programmes, sources of financing and national legislative frameworks; and five overviews of the energy situation and climate for energy efficiency investment in each region provided by the respective regional commission.

The Group of Experts on Global Energy Efficiency 21, which met for its first session in June 2010, will focus on four key elements until end 2011: **establish a network of elected officers of intergovernmental bodies** working on energy efficiency and climate change and the respective secretariats of the regional commissions; **review the energy efficiency and climate change work programmes** with respect to capacity building, energy policy reforms and investment project finance; **determine common priorities and synergies** of the member States and the work programmes they pursue through their United Nations intergovernmental bodies among the regional commissions; and **develop a Global Strategy** for the adoption of regional commissions' work programmes to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements.

The network was strengthened through the election of a Bureau that will follow more closely the developments of the project. The Extended Bureau met in Geneva in October 2010 and agreed to pool each region's expertise and set up a task force to **develop a Global Strategy** for Energy Efficiency Market Formation, which the Group of Experts should review during its second meeting, scheduled for April 2011.

Natural Gas

The twentieth jubilee session of the Working Party on Gas was held in January 2010 with more than 110 participants from 30 countries. UNECE member States and representatives of the corporate sector addressed a number of major issues such as lessons learnt during the liberalization of the gas industry, the current status and progress in the underground



The UNECE study on Gas Market Liberalization will be published in the first half of 2011

gas storage industry in the UNECE region and the developments and prospects for liquefied natural gas (LNG). In addition, sixteen national reports on the state of the natural gas market were delivered, together with interventions by the International Energy Agency, IHS-CERA and Gazprom. The bottom line that emerged from these in-depth market insights confirmed very dynamic industry developments with a rapidly changing landscape towards more supply flexibility and uncertainty on the price front.

The UNECE member States approved two new studies entitled: **Use of Gas in Transport** and **Development of Efficient Mechanisms for Natural Gas Regulation in the UNECE Region** and launched an invitation to all interested to contribute to the projects. Initial meetings on the launch of the projects were held in Moscow and hosted by Gazprom.

An important milestone in this field was the finalization in the first quarter of 2010 of the UNECE study on **Gas Market Liberalization**. After clearance by the Bureau of the Working Party in the second half of 2010 and the addition of a short LNG chapter in October 2010, it is anticipated that the study will be published during the first half of 2011.

Significant progress on the UNECE LNG and Underground Gas Storage studies was also achieved in 2010.

Gas Centre

The UNECE Gas Centre, which was launched in 1994 as a technical cooperation programme "Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition - the Gas Centre", continued its work to assist governments and gas companies in Central and Eastern Europe in their efforts to create more decentralized and market-based gas industries. The Gas Centre programme is supported financially by major gas companies, state-owned and private, from Europe and the Mediterranean Basin. The Gas Centre offers a neutral platform for discussion amongst natural gas companies in the region. Its activities stimulate contacts between natural gas companies from UNECE member countries and from other relevant countries.

During 2010, member companies launched new activities such as the Gas Centre Industry Forum to address topical problems of the gas industry and markets in the UNECE region. At the same time, the Gas Centre Bureau is exploring with member companies a new orientation for the Work Programme for 2011 which would involve widening the scope of membership to include gas companies located in Central Asia and North Africa.

The Task Force on Supply, Infrastructure and Market met in Lucerne (Switzerland) and in Cairo. The latter meeting focused on development of infrastructure in the Mediterranean Basin and Middle East with a special highlight on the LNG business in this region. **The Task Force on the Implementation of the EU Gas Directives** held its first meeting for 2010 in Istanbul and the second in Brussels in November, where a range of topics was discussed,



UNECE member countries account for 40% of the world's coal mine methane production



including Third Package, Unbundling, TPA (including tariffs), Regulator competencies and responsibilities (national-European) and regulation development. The Technical Database Committees took place twice in 2010 in order to update the database of the Gas Centre and to discuss its further evolution. The fifteenth UNECE Gas Centre High Level Conference on the “Gas Industry in South-Eastern Europe” was held in June in Zagreb. The Industry Forum on Long Term Contracts took place in Geneva in March.

Coal Mine Methane

The capture and use of **coal mine methane (CMM)** improves mine safety and provides an additional energy source for power or heat needed to run mining operations. Methane is a greenhouse gas 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Avoiding methane emissions therefore also contributes to mitigating

climate change. There are many opportunities for CMM capture and use in the UNECE region, which accounts for 40 per cent of global CMM production.

In 2010, the Group of Experts on CMM promoted CMM development in the region and beyond and worked on identifying the key barriers limiting the implementation of CMM projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS. The Group of Experts started work to analyse country-specific laws and regulations that could impact implementation of gas drainage and utilization.

The Group of Expert continued its close and fruitful cooperation with the Methane to Markets Partnership. A result of this collaboration was the publication, “**Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines**” (UNECE Energy Series 31 and ECE/ENERGY/73). This report, the issuing of which was an important landmark for UNECE’s work on CMM, details the benefits, objectives, and principles of coal mine methane drainage and utilization in order to reduce fatalities and injuries of mine workers, protect property, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and efficiently utilize a valuable energy resource. The Group of Experts took an active role in the 2010 Methane to Markets Partnership Expo held in India, where the Best Practice Guidance was launched. In October 2010, UNECE organized a workshop in China, financed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, to further promote the publication.

UNECE facilitated the launch of the International Energy Center in Minsk in October 2010

The Group of Experts has become a recognized source of expertise on CMM worldwide.

Regional Advisory Services

In 2010, the **regional advisory services on energy** included the continued provision of assistance to member States with economies in transition on energy efficiency and sustainable energy development. A special focus was given to the promotion of subregional cooperation and the strengthening of inter-state partnerships, particularly among countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. In these countries, the Regional Adviser assisted national officials and experts to develop programmes



and projects to facilitate implementation of energy policies and strategies; assisted in the planning and implementation of programmes for capacity and institution-building; participated in visits to understand the training and capacity-building needs, in particular for sustainable energy market formation, energy efficiency project development and access to financing.

Oil and natural gas are subject to greater energy security risks than renewable sources of energy, nuclear power or coal

Within the framework of the Energy Efficiency 21 Programme, the Regional Adviser organized three international workshops (in Minsk, Astana and Geneva) under the Project “Development of Renewable Energy in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation”. This Project has produced a renewable energy strategy for the ten participating countries, as well as recommendations to promote an enhanced investment climate for renewable energy.

The Regional Adviser also contributed to the organization of a High-level Dialogue on Fostering Investment in Electricity Generation in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia during the 21st World Energy Congress in Montreal as well as the SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy Meeting in Astana, both of which were held in September 2010.

Advisory services additionally facilitated the launch of the International Energy Center in Minsk in October 2010. The Center is designed to foster energy efficiency market formation and Public Private Partnerships in Belarus; to contribute to the introduction of best practices, technologies and energy efficiency measures; and to enhance energy efficiency and renewable energy regional cooperation.

Cooperation with Other Organizations

The review of the UNECE reform carried out by the Commission in the first half of 2009, while acknowledging that previous requests to the Committee on Sustainable Energy for cooperation with other organizations (in particular the International Energy Agency and the Energy Charter Secretariat) were successfully accomplished, stated that "this cooperation could be accelerated through the participation of representatives of these organizations in the energy security dialogue during the annual sessions of the Committee on Sustainable Energy."



Engagement of and consultations with the Energy Charter Secretariat have continued throughout 2010 on issues related to both energy security and energy efficiency. UNECE participated as observer in the work of the Energy Charter Strategy Group. Cooperation and collaboration with the International Energy Agency has also been strengthened not only within the work of the Committee, but also within its subsidiary bodies. Efforts have been made to ensure that the programmes of work are complementary and reinforcing.

In addition, the Sustainable Energy Division has further strengthened cooperation within the United Nations system, in particular with the other regional commissions. In this context, UNECE participated in various energy-related side events at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 16) in Cancun.

Major Challenges for 2011

The programme of work in energy will continue to face the challenge of delivering on energy security, whilst addressing the need to reduce energy-related health and environmental impacts and, most notably, emissions of greenhouse gases. The Committee on Sustainable Energy and its subsidiary bodies will need to work with Governments and other stakeholders to ensure that concerns over energy security and energy sustainability can be mitigated simultaneously.

In 2011, the work on energy efficiency will continue with vigour. The FEEI project is expecting to launch an investment fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; to submit a pipeline of potential investment projects to the fund; and for initial investments to be made.

The work on gas will also continue to deliver tangible results in at least four key areas, in particular on the use of gas in transport and the market regulation, where the work of the UNECE member countries will gain momentum while the implementation of the United Nations Development Account project "Mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies" will be among the key priorities of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels.

The UNECE Gas Centre will work to enhance its cooperation with all natural gas companies on Long Term Contracts, security of supply and development of infrastructure in the Mediterranean Basin. Emphasis will be placed on cooperation with European organizations focusing on Transport System Operators, as well as the consequences of the EU Directives.

Two workshops to disseminate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines are planned in 2011, in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. It is expected that the contact initiated by the Group of Experts on CCM with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will deliver results in 2011. The focus of the collaboration will be on methodologies for methane capture and use for power and various economic incentives, including those provided by the Clean Development Mechanism process, designed to stimulate the development of CMM projects that reduce methane emissions.

The promotion and further development of UNFC-2009 will also continue, with a number of workshops planned and a challenging timetable for the development of specifications for the Classification. It is critical for this work to progress as rapidly as possible since UNFC-2009 will significantly facilitate the availability of relevant and reliable information on energy reserves and resources.

With regard to the Regional Advisory Services, a key challenge will be the implementation of the recommendations prepared under the project "Development of the Renewable Energy Sector in the Russian Federation and CIS Countries: Prospects for Interregional Cooperation". Regional renewable energy projects in participating countries were identified, however the continued economic downturn in many of these countries could make implementation much more difficult.

UNECE countries are increasingly shifting their energy demand towards energy sources that are low in carbon and more environmentally sustainable. However, despite this encouraging trend, the region will still have to rely on fossil fuels and other conventional sources of energy (e.g., nuclear power) for its energy needs for the foreseeable future. A number of these energy sources are vulnerable to supply disruptions and other risks. Oil and natural gas in particular are subject to greater energy security risks than renewable sources of energy, nuclear power or coal. The Committee on Sustainable Energy is well placed to address the challenges faced by the energy sector in the UNECE region, notably through the engagement of committed local experts, the interest of the energy industry, governmental and financial sector decision-makers, and with significant extrabudgetary resources to complement the United Nations regular budget.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Delivering as one

UNECE's technical cooperation is the extension of its normative work. It is aimed at assisting countries of the region to accede to, adopt and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, as a means of their integration in the regional and global economy. All UNECE technical cooperation activities (advisory services, capacity building and field projects) have a strong regional/subregional dimension and seek to provide common solutions to transboundary problems.

*UNECE delivered
102 capacity building
activities*

During the reporting period, UNECE carried out 75 advisory missions, delivered 102 capacity building activities (workshops, trainings and seminars) and implemented 35 various projects, including 5 projects funded from the United Nations Development Account (UNDA). Technical cooperation activities were related to the areas of economic cooperation and integration, environment, housing and land management, population, statistics, sustainable energy, trade and trade facilitation and transport. These were the areas where the countries needed assistance most and where UNECE has strong comparative advantage over other organizations to respond.

Countries with economies in transition, particularly low income and landlocked, were the major beneficiaries, accounting for almost 90 per cent of activities. Among subregions, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe accounted for 30 per cent and 14 per cent of UNECE's technical cooperation activities, respectively. They were followed by Eastern Europe (13 per cent) and the Caucasus (5 per cent), while 38 per cent of the activities were of a regional nature, involving two or more subregions. Both subregional and regional projects facilitated sharing experience, lessons learnt and best practices among countries.



This regional/subregional approach to technical cooperation also enabled UNECE to make optimal use of its resources, increase cost-effectiveness, and enhance its impact. Mindful of the importance of sustainability, UNECE had been increasingly relying on local expertise and using local contractual services in delivery of its TC services. In 2009, the UNECE Grant Committee approved 45 grants to various non-profit organizations. Almost 70 per cent of consultants used by the UNECE were national consultants.

Furthermore, to maximize the effectiveness of its operations, UNECE strengthened its partnerships. Internally, more emphasis was put on strengthening collaboration among the UNECE divisions and strengthening synergies in their work with respect to subregional and intersectoral initiatives. Externally, UNECE strengthened its cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the region; in particular with other United Nations entities such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNCTAD, FAO, WIPO and the regional commissions;

international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank. A large number of activities were implemented in partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

Countries with economies in transition accounted for 90% of activities

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, adopted in the follow-up to the World Summit in 2005, and the subsequent resolution on System Wide Coherence "Delivering as One", UNECE actively supported country led development efforts through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). At the regional level, UNECE ensured coordination of its activities through the United Nations Development Group, Europe and Central Asia. At

the global level, it coordinated its operational activities with the Chiefs Executive Board (CEB) Inter-agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacities which includes 14 United Nations entities and international organizations. Participation of UNECE in UNDAF, RDT and CEB Cluster contributed to greater coherence of the United Nations operational activities at the country, regional and global levels. It enhanced UNECE cooperation with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams. It made UNECE more visible at the country level as a partner organization in the national development process.

Nearly 86.6 per cent of UNECE's technical cooperation activities were funded from extrabudgetary resources. The remaining activities were funded from the regular budget, in particular from the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation and UNDA, which accounted for 10.3 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively. Despite the economic crisis, extrabudgetary resources have increased by 32 per cent since 2008 and reached US\$ 15.1 million in 2009. Much of this increase was due to the UNECE member States, which contributed 77.2 per cent of extrabudgetary resources. Compared to 2008, their voluntary contributions to UNECE Trust funds increased by 60 per cent in 2009 and have more than doubled since 2006.

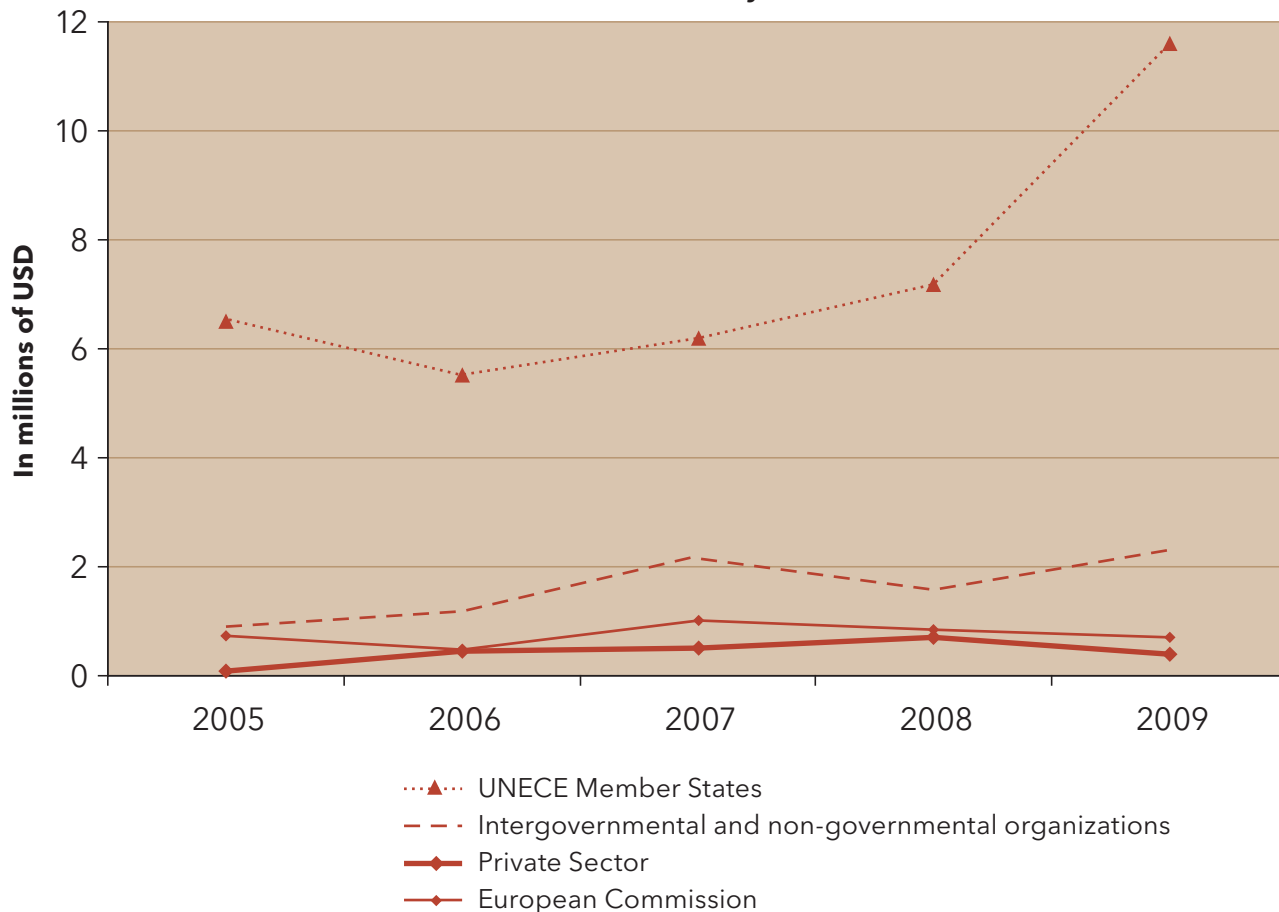
The top ten bilateral donors, by the size of contributions, included Germany, Italy, France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Sweden. These countries accounted for 65 per cent of the total extrabudgetary contributions. Germany was the largest donor country in 2009, providing more than 16 per cent of all voluntary contributions of member States. Most of the German funds were allocated to a 3-year project in Central Asia that aims to improve dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in the region. A number of countries (Turkey, Israel, Slovakia, etc.) also provided in-kind contributions in the form of office space, venue, local staff, conference services (translation/interpretation, documents reproduction, publishing, etc), transportation, lodging, hospitalities, etc.



This increase in the extrabudgetary funding of UNECE's technical cooperation activities in times of crisis suggests a strong support from member States and the relevance of UNECE's work.

86.6% of technical cooperation activities were funded from extrabudgetary resources

Trend in funding from extrabudgetary resources in 2005-2009, by source







TIMBER AND FORESTRY

Towards a greener economy

2009 Achievements

The *UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2009-2010* was a major undertaking with many partners and contributors. The theme this year was “Innovation for structural change recovery.” National statistical correspondents provided the basic statistics, as well as a wealth of insight into the market developments.

Forest Resource Assessment data was collected. This enquiry into the state of forests and forest management in Europe takes place every 3 to 4 years. National correspondents from 46 countries in the pan-European region were invited to provide information on the status of forests, their management and applied policies. Indicators monitored cover forest health and vitality, productive functions, the protection of biodiversity and the protective functions of forests as well as the social and economic dimensions of forest management. The national enquiries include a broad variety of numeric data, both general (e.g. area, growing stock, carbon) and specific (e.g. defoliation, trade, employment etc.), as well as a description of policies, institutions and financial instruments. The results will be analysed and presented in the *State of Europe's Forests* report, which will be launched at the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in June 2011 in Norway.

The Forest Resource Assessment, an enquiry into the state of forests and forest management in Europe, takes place every 3 to 4 years



The work of UNECE/FAO teams of specialists on Forest Fires, Monitoring of Sustainable Forest Management is widely recognized. Recent examples of their work include assistance given by the Team of Specialists on Forest Fire to Russian authorities during the wildfire crisis in the summer of 2010, and the key role played by the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management in the development of a new classification system for European forest types and the harmonization of national, regional and global forest assessments. The mandates of the Teams of Specialists have been reviewed and revised to enhance outreach and cooperation with other sectors by mainstreaming communication activities into their work in particular as the forestry community celebrates the International Year of Forests in 2011.



The current crisis presents a window of opportunity for highlighting the key role of wood and wood products in the transition towards a greener economy

Innovative Wood Product was one focus of the October 2010 Timber Committee session which was held jointly with the international Society of Wood Science and Technology. The session was complemented by *Market discussions* on past and future trends with the theme "Forest products markets rebound in the UNECE region: Innovative wood products lead the way"; and a *UNECE/FAO Policy Forum* (see below). For the first time, the discussions were broadcast live over the Internet enabling remote users to see and hear the session.

Building codes and Standards and their influence on material use and construction practices were the focus of a policy forum which addressed four themes: (a) codes and standards – state of the art and prospects; (b) the role of Life Cycle Assessment in developing building codes and standards; (c) the role of wood products in climate change mitigation; and (d) the impact of users' demands on forest-based sectors. The forum recommended the establishment of a UNECE task force on green building to be composed of experts from the Timber Committee, the Committee on Housing and Land Management, the Committee on Environmental Policy and the Committee on Sustainable Energy, together with partner organizations. The task force, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, will develop a comparative study of the different materials used in buildings and their carbon efficiency.

Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets and their impact are a growing concern, and in response, a workshop on “Emerging Trade Measures in Timber Markets” was organized jointly with the World Trade Organization (WTO). The workshop provided a unique, comprehensive overview of the increasingly complex regulatory framework impacting trade in wood and wood products. Participants discussed the emergence of tariff and non-tariff measures intended to promote the development of domestic markets or to curb illegal logging and trade in illegally harvested forest products. Feedback indicated that the Timber and Forestry programme should continue to follow this issue and monitor developments closely.

Partnership with Forest Europe (the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe) during 2010 was implemented primarily through work on the State of Europe’s Forests and support to the Forest Europe debate on the possibility of starting negotiations on a legally binding agreement on European forests. As part of this support, a seminar was jointly organized with Forest Europe in September 2010 to provide an overview of Conventions hosted by UNECE, as well as other legally binding arrangements. Participants shared experienced gained in the stages leading toward and following negotiation of a convention, as well as compliance mechanisms.

Biodiversity was the subject of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNECE and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), where both parties pledged to strengthen their collaboration through the enhanced exchange of information and use of their expertise to support each other’s mandates in areas of mutual interest. The MoU specifically recognizes the importance and relevance of the work of the Forestry and Timber Section by designating it as the focal point for its implementation.

Challenges in 2011 and beyond

The Timber and Forestry programme works to be flexible in addressing emerging issues and serving new clients as it strives to strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the UNECE region. At the same time, available resources, as well as the need for coordination and cooperation require collaboration with key partners in order to achieve programme goals. These key partners include FAO, Forest Europe, industry and trade associations, academia, non-governmental organizations and other forest sector stakeholders as well as other UNECE programmes (including sustainable energy, environment, housing and land management).

2011 – The International Year of Forests. The forest sector is often taken for granted and, as a result, setbacks in the forest sector may go unnoticed while the future potential of the sector to help tackle some of our most significant political, social and environmental challenges may be overlooked. Stakeholders must work together to raise the profile of the forest sector and teach others about its essential role. The Forestry and Timber programme is preparing to celebrate the International Year of Forests in cooperation with the United



Nations Forum on Forests and relevant stakeholders. Work is being done to enhance the programme's media presence through press releases and the expansion of outreach platforms such as the Forest Communicators Network. In this regard, effective coordination among the teams of specialists, and between them and the secretariat has been identified as a priority. The challenge is to develop engaging communication activities that promote knowledge and understanding of the many roles and functions of forests. To support this effort, preparations are also underway for an exhibition on forest products and a short promotional movie.

The Green Economy. As the forest sector is still reeling from the effects of the global economic crisis, the Timber and Forestry programme is striving to provide assistance on the path to recovery. This recovery should not reduce the commitment to sustainable forest management. On the contrary, the current crisis presents a window of opportunity for highlighting the key role of wood and wood products in the transition towards a greener economy. "Forests in a Green Economy" will thus be the main theme of the joint session of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European

2011 is the International Year of Forests

Forestry Commission (EFC) in 2011. An Action Plan on the Role of the Forest Sector in a Green Economy is being developed for consideration at the session. The Plan is intended to serve as a concrete contribution to the Rio+20 process and its 2012 Conference which has the "Green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" as one of its two main themes. The Action plan will also provide policymakers with ideas for ways and means of improving

and promoting the forest sector's contribution to a green economy. It will address topics such as forest-based products, wood energy, sustainable forest management, valuation of ecosystem services, green building, and institutional and policy incentives. The joint session of the Timber Committee and EFC will provide an opportunity for member States to consider relevant recommendations for action and develop a regional perspective that could facilitate national implementation and global dialogue.

Payment for Ecosystem Services. Natural ecosystems such as forests, wetlands and peat lands are frequently managed for the provision of public goods and services free of charge. Schemes are emerging that reward those whose lands provide these services, with subsidies or market payments from those who benefit. Recent United Nations studies have attempted to shed light on the concept of ecosystem services and possibilities for their valuation, while at the national level, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes are being implemented. The Timber and Forestry programme plans to help governments share experiences and understand which policies and incentives are conducive to implementing PES schemes. A workshop is planned for presenting PES case studies and discussing the role that PES schemes can play in the transition towards a green economy.

Institutional Framework. The pan-European forestry architecture is robust, but at the same time fragmented. Forest policy formation is a complex process with many actors, each having a role. In addition, many considerations other than forest policy affect forest policy decisions. The International Year of Forests offers the opportunity to take stock of the present institutional landscape and identify options for the implementation of specific synergies





at a pan-European level, derived from the mandates and commitments under the different intergovernmental bodies. Synergies, with different actors working together, can add value to existing actions and promote a win-win approach to project design and implementation. A synergistic approach would also contribute to mobilizing diverse sources of funding and encouraging greater involvement by the trade and business communities. With this in mind, proposals are being put forward to strengthen the policy and technical aspects of the work, specifically through the joint programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

Current and Future Trends. Two major studies are being finalized under the programme which aim to assess the current state of Europe's forests, and to forecast future trends for the forest sector in the UNECE region. At the same time, updated data is being collected on the use of wood energy in Europe, as the third edition of the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry has been launched. Meanwhile, the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire will collect data on removals, production and trade of wood and wood products. These statistics are collected annually in cooperation with partners at Eurostat and the International Tropical Timber Organization.

Capacity Building. Activities are being undertaken to strengthen policies and institutions in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in particular through the Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In close collaboration with FAO Headquarters and subregional offices in Budapest and Ankara, the programme facilitates the sharing of experiences and best practices throughout the region on themes including climate change, wood energy and corporate social responsibility. The challenge ahead is to improve links with countries having transition economies through mechanisms such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.



TRADE

Reducing non-tariff barriers to trade

The UNECE region includes a large number of landlocked countries and transition economies that are still struggling to integrate themselves into the world economy.

Through its Trade programme, UNECE works to improve their situation, as well as the world economy, by helping all countries to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade.

To this end, the Committee on Trade undertakes and discusses trade needs assessments while its three subsidiary bodies draw up standards and recommendations on:

- **Trade facilitation and electronic business** - The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) focuses on facilitating national and international trade transactions. It simplifies and harmonizes processes and procedures over the trade-transaction chain by developing electronic business standards and specifications.
- **Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies** - The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) aims at building a shared regulatory framework and at achieving greater security for consumers and workers, better protection for the environment and reduced cost for international trade.
- **Agricultural quality standards** - The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) develops standards for agricultural produce that define minimum quality requirements in order to facilitate the trading process.



Main achievements in 2010

Committee on Trade - Country assessments

Following discussions among UNECE member States on the future direction of the Committee, in February 2010 the Executive Committee (EXCOM) asked the Committee to assess and report on the regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in three countries with economies in transition during 2010-2012.

These reports will serve as a basis for policy discussions at the Committee that should result in recommendations: to individual countries or regional groupings on how they could improve their trading environment; to countries and donors on areas where financial assistance would be most useful; and to UNECE on where it could undertake additional work.

UNECE counts many landlocked countries and transition economies that are still struggling to integrate into the world economy

In response to the EXCOM decision, a methodology was developed for trade needs assessments that is adapted to the transition economies, based on work by the World Bank. A trade needs assessment study based on this methodology was implemented in Belarus. This study takes into account an inventory of existing information and studies, and includes a section on regulatory cooperation and another on trade facilitation related obstacles. Further, the study provides conclusions and recommendations on policy as well as on practical issues related to non-tariff barriers to trade. The full study on Belarus will be completed in early 2011 and will be discussed by the Committee on Trade at its fourth session, in June 2012.

UN/CEFACT - Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

Building upon the success of its Recommendation on Single Windows for import and export clearance, in 2010, UN/CEFACT issued three new, supporting recommendations: Recommendation 35 - Establishing a legal framework for international trade Single Window; Recommendation 34 - Data Simplification and Standardization for International Trade; and Recommendation 37 - Signed Digital Evidence Interoperability

Other recommendations were updated, including: No. 20 - Codes for units of measure used in international trade; No. 21- Codes for passengers, types of cargo, packages and packaging materials; No. 23- Freight Cost Code - FCC Harmonization of the Description of Freight Costs and Other Charges; and No. 28- Codes for types of means of transport.

Other instruments that were also updated or improved included: the Core Components Technical Specification; the Core Components Library, which contains the data structures needed to compose electronic messages; the UN/EDIFACT (United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport) Directory; the electronic Cross Industry Invoice; and other electronic messages and code lists used in international trade.



To improve information sharing and communication and to foster transparency and broader participation, the website was revamped, and now gives more detailed information on projects.

In 2010, the priority work areas were capacity building and increasing the participation of transition economies. Efforts were made to understand the trade facilitation dynamics and needs of member States, and to provide assistance in launching initiatives to address those needs. This included building awareness of international standards and recommendations, developing tools and guides to help implement them, and providing technical training.

UN/CEFACT develops electronic business standards and specifications

Two briefings on UN/CEFACT work were held in Geneva for diplomats from Permanent Missions and for technical experts from transition and developing economies.

The United Nations Network of Experts for Paperless Trade in Asia Pacific (UNNExT) is a joint UNECE/UNESCAP initiative to promote networking, policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building among developing and transition member countries of both regional commissions in order to support the implementation of trade-facilitation instruments and standards.

Under UNNExT, training packages were prepared to support the Network's capacity-building activities related to the Single Window. These included the *Business Process Analysis Guide to Simplifying Trade Documents*. Joint events organized included:

- A technical workshop on Data Harmonization for Paperless Trade (with the World Customs Organization)
- A peer review meeting on the Mongolian Master Plan for implementation of Single Window
- A regional workshop on Single Window interoperability in Azerbaijan
- An Asia Trade Facilitation Forum for knowledge-sharing on trade facilitation implementation in Kuala Lumpur (in collaboration with UNESCAP and the Asian Development Bank).

Under a joint research project funded by the European Union (ITAIDE), UNECE has helped to develop a Single Window Implementation Framework. UNNExT is now developing a customized version of this for Central Asia.

UNECE has also promoted a joint United Nations regional commission approach to trade facilitation, agreed to by the Executive Secretaries of all five commissions, so as to speak with one voice on trade facilitation, especially in the context of WTO discussions. Capacity-building initiatives through the United Nations Development Account are supporting this joint approach.

WP.6 - Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

Risk Management: In 2010, the Working Party created a Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems. The Group will develop best practices and recommendations on how to use risk management tools to mitigate risks that affect society and hamper economic development.

The Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems will develop best practices and recommendations

The Risk Management Group will focus on the activities of technical regulators, conformity assessment bodies, market surveillance authorities, standards development organizations and business operators in order to study risk management within the following processes:

- Planning, developing and implementing technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures
- Designing and carrying out market surveillance activities
- Developing and sustaining cooperation among stakeholders throughout the life-cycle of regulations.

The Group will build on the outcome of the 2009 UNECE Conference on Risk Management, the results of preliminary survey of the needs of stakeholders and a model developed to use risk management tools when designing regulatory systems.

Market surveillance and conformity assessment: Throughout the world, low-quality goods are proliferating, generally in breach of technical regulations and intellectual property rights, and they are being sold at a price that excludes fair competition. These products can pose serious threats to human health and safety as well as generate pollution and environmental degradation.

The policy response of countries to this phenomenon is to strengthen market surveillance: i.e. public authorities act in cooperation with industry to ensure that dangerous and non-compliant goods are removed from the market and the workplace. UNECE's goal is a shared body of best practice in planning and carrying out market surveillance actions worldwide.

In 2010, UNECE further developed a guidance document for market surveillance authorities and produced the second draft of a common terminology for market surveillance.

Capacity building: In 2010 the Working Party organized a session on, "Overcoming Barriers to Trade: Market Surveillance", during the "CEFTA Week", which is held annually by the secretariat to the Central European Free Trade Agreement.

WP.7 - Agricultural quality standards

In partnership with governmental organizations and the private sector, the secretariat organized promotional, capacity building and training workshops in various regions of the world. These outreach events help partners in developing countries and countries in transition to train growers, traders and inspectors and to set up the legal and technical infrastructure needed for the practical application of UNECE agricultural quality standards.

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards adopted the following new and revised texts: 49 new and revised standards for fresh fruit and vegetables (there was such a large number due to alignment with the revised 2010 Standard Layout); 6 standards/recommendations for dry and dried produce; 2 standards for eggs and egg products and 1 standard for seed potatoes. It also revised the list of diseases and pests.

It issued the first UNECE explanatory brochure, on sweet peppers, in English, French and Russian as a United Nations sales publication.

Progress was made in drawing up a Memorandum of Understanding with the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables. This Memorandum relates to cooperation in developing explanatory material for UNECE agricultural quality standards.



Challenges for 2011

Committee on Trade

In 2011 the Committee will need to incorporate the lessons learned from its first trade needs assessment of regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, finalize its second needs assessment and begin the third. Further cooperation with UNDP and other organizations to present and discuss trade-related studies within the Committee on Trade will also be developed.

UN/CEFACT - Trade facilitation and electronic business

In 2011, UN/CEFACT will continue responding in a participatory manner to the trade facilitation and electronic business needs of member States and stakeholders. To be able to do this more efficiently and effectively, the Bureau has submitted proposals to the sixteenth Plenary to revise the UN/CEFACT structure, mandate, terms of reference and procedures. The implementation of approved changes will thus be one of the major challenges of 2011.

The Single Window has become a key catalyst for the adoption and implementation of trade facilitation measures in transition and developing economies. It has also greatly increased the need for regional and interregional collaboration. As a result, 2011 should see a further increase in the use of UN/CEFACT standards for activities such as data harmonization and data modeling. The growing interest of countries in creating a Single Window is also leading to wider implementation of the entire suite of UN/CEFACT trade facilitation instruments. The imminent addition of Recommendations 6 (Annex), 34 and 37 to the existing single window Recommendations 33 and 35 should greatly boost this process.

To address challenges and opportunities in this area, UNECE will continue to develop its standards and recommendations. It will also carry out capacity-building, especially in transition economies and promote the use of UN/CEFACT instruments in these countries, as well as increased participation of experts from these countries in UN/CEFACT's work.

Several publications will be released during the year, including a Core Components Technical Specification Guide and issue, as Internet publications, an enlarged UN/CEFACT Schema Library and Core Components Library. Work will also continue on "Implementation packages" for standards, as well as an online repository of UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations. Focus will be put on increasing the number of documents available in all three official languages.

The Single Window has become a key catalyst for the adoption and implementation of trade facilitation measures in transition and developing economies



Strengthening market surveillance is key to ensuring that dangerous and non-compliant goods are removed from the market and the workplace

A trade facilitation implementation guide and related capacity-building materials will be developed in 2011. In addition seminars will be organized on Data Harmonization, Single Window (including a regional workshop in Central Asia), trade facilitation and other issues. Activities will be undertaken to strengthen existing collaboration with ESCAP, but also collaboration with all other United Nations regional commissions on trade facilitation and Single Windows for export and import, thus supporting, on a global level, a smooth, electronic flow of trade information that mirrors the flow of goods along the international supply chain. This will involve adopting and adapting components of UNNEXt for a wider United Nations regional commission approach. An international symposium on Single Window and Cross Border Data Exchange will also be organized in 2011.

WP.6 - Regulatory cooperation and standardization policies

A major challenge for the Working Party will be to raise extrabudgetary funds for implementing the results achieved in 2010, in particular to sustain the activities of the Group of Experts on Risk Management, to further develop the various sectoral initiatives and to undertake capacity building activities.

During 2011 an online database will also be implemented to encourage greater cooperation between market surveillance authorities in the UNECE region, and worldwide, by providing information on the sectors they are responsible for, their legislative mandate and contact details.

WP.7 - Agricultural quality standards

Demand remains high for UNECE agricultural quality standards, as well as for related capacity building and technical assistance. To meet this demand the Working Party and the secretariat will continue their promotional and capacity building programme, with the financial support of the United Nations Development Account and the Voluntary Russian Contribution Fund.



The Working Party will also be asked to produce more explanatory material for the interpretation and application of its standards. The secretariat will issue publications on several meat standards in the three official languages. The most important challenge for this work area will be to meet increased user demands and maintain the high quality of the outputs within existing resources.

The first UNECE explanatory brochure, on sweet peppers, was published in English, French and Russian



TRANSPORT

Fostering sustainable transport development

During 2010, the Transport Division continued to service six Administrative Committees which govern a number of UNECE legal instruments. The work associated with further development and promotion of a pan-European inland transport regulatory framework was aimed at facilitating the international movement of persons and goods. Further improvement of the road traffic safety in the UNECE region continued to be one of the top agenda items of the division. Furthermore, development of clean vehicles' technologies and more energy efficient vehicles, intelligent transport systems and transport security were in focus as they were perceived to be important contributors to sustainable transport development.

The work in the past year concentrated mainly on facilitating negotiations and managing international agreements, conventions, norms and standards, with the objective of further promoting their implementation and, through this, strengthening subregional cooperation. Through its programmes and capacity building activities, promotion of transport methodologies and collection of relevant statistics, the Transport Division continued to contribute to further developing safer, more secure and efficient transport operations, safer and less polluting vehicles, as well as simplified border crossing procedures. The Transport Division, interacting with other international bodies, governments, private sector and civil society, made further efforts to jointly address horizontal and cross-sectoral issues such as climate change, health and environment.

Further improvement of road safety in the region continued to be high on the agenda



In 2010, ten new Contracting Parties adhered to the UNECE international transport agreements and conventions, one of which was not a member State of UNECE. This may be attributed to further efforts to promote implementation of the regulatory framework through a growing number of capacity building and advisory activities which were carried out in collaboration with member Governments and which involved a large number of experts from both the public and private sectors.

Major achievements in 2010

Euro Asian Transport Links

UNECE continued to work closely with Governments of the Euro-Asian region to develop Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL). The EATL Expert Group, created in 2008, assists in developing efficient, safe and secure Euro-Asian connections that could provide additional inland transport options for trade flows between Europe and Asia. In 2010, the EATL Expert Group held two sessions and organized two technical field visits to the International Intermodal Logistics Centre and Free Industrial Economic Zone at Navoi in Uzbekistan and the port of Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan. The Navoi Centre is strategically positioned between China and Europe and is competing to become an important Central Asia transit hub, while the port of Turkmenbashi is one of the key locations linking Central Asia and the Caucasus.

More than 110 amendments to vehicle regulations were adopted in 2010

Throughout 2010, the Expert Group continued to elaborate studies concerning key Euro-Asian transport issues related to EATL Strengths - Weaknesses - Opportunities – Threats. Experts and consultants were also engaged in identifying infrastructure road, rail and inland waterway routes; in prioritizing infrastructure investment; in estimating transport volumes along the EATL routes; in studying the economic viability of maritime and inland transport options between Asia and Europe; in describing and analysing non-physical obstacles to international transport and in developing a geographic information system (GIS) internet application to present the collected transport data. Upon the completion of these studies, a unique EATL research database will be produced containing internationally agreed EATL routes, a list of priority infrastructure investments, data on obstacles to transport and the GIS internet application to display this database. In addition, the work of the EATL Expert Groupe made it possible to develop and pursue a “North-South demonstration block train proposal (Mumbai-Bandar Abbas-St. Petersburg)” which will aim at promoting regular and commercially viable inter-modal transport operations along that route.

Harmonization of vehicle regulations

During 2010, the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) adopted new regulations aimed at improving vehicles' safety and their environmental performance and continued to update the existing regulations. More than 110 amendments were adopted in 2010, bringing the existing vehicle regulations to the adequate level of technical progress and introducing more severe limits. Among them, provisions to prevent fire risks on buses and coaches, the introduction of new provisions for the rolling resistance of tyres which could reduce CO₂ emissions by 5 per cent, and lower noise limit values for tyres were introduced. Furthermore, the World Forum agreed to globally harmonize the test procedures for measuring the emissions of heavy duty vehicles and to insert in the existing regulations the new Euro 5/6 emission requirements reducing further the emissions of gaseous pollutants and particulates for passenger cars and light duty vehicles that entered into force in December 2010.



In 2010, the World Forum updated several Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement to protect passengers against electric shocks not only in normal service but also in the case of frontal and lateral impacts. These updated Regulations have been considered as the first international regulations on safety for hybrid and electric vehicles. These landmark provisions will facilitate the early introduction of safe and clean electric vehicles worldwide. According to the programme of work of the World Forum, this set of requirements will be followed by new Regulations and other improvements on existing ones to be completed by the end of 2011 with regard to hydrogen and fuel cells technologies.

Moreover, new provisions for safer child-restraint systems, such as the protection against lateral impacts, are expected to be completed in mid 2011. In addition, the World Forum is considering the possibility of incorporating into its programme of work the development of a global technical regulation on motorcycle helmets that would take into account both safety and comfort in order to encourage a broader use of helmets.

The World Forum continued to develop its policy segment brief on key issues such as the possible strategies for climate change mitigation and especially the reduction of CO₂ emissions. In this respect, the World Forum organized a round table on Climate Change and Transport to identify potential scenarios and most needed actions and measures to which it could contribute in its future work. The following ongoing activities of the World Forum were identified to reduce CO₂ emissions: Worldwide harmonized Light vehicles emissions Test Procedure, Mobile Air Conditioner Test Procedure, Heavy Duty Hybrids, Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Vehicles, Electric Vehicles Safety, Market Fuel Quality and Environmentally Friendly Vehicles.

*UNECE will publish
its road map for
promoting Intelligent
Transport Systems
in 2011*



The round table listed short-term actions for all stakeholders involved in inland transport: (a) improved energy efficiency of all inland transport modes; (b) broader use of sustainable biofuels and hydrogen as well as sustainable generation of electricity; (c) better traffic flow and transport infrastructure, including intermodal transport, to avoid congestion; (d) broader information campaign and in-depth education for consumers on measures to reduce CO₂ emissions. The round table also listed the measures to be taken by the different stakeholders, i.e. intergovernmental and international organizations, Governments, road users, operators and consumer associations, automotive manufacturers and their suppliers, research and development, and finally mass media. The conclusions and recommendations of the round table will be formally approved in March 2011.

Further improvements in the safety and environmental performance of transport in general and of vehicles in particular could be fostered if Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) applications are further streamlined. To this end, the Transport Division finalized – in cooperation with the Italian government and a partner from the private sector – its strategy package on ITS including a background document and strategic note that were made available for a web-based public consultation launched in late 2010. As an outcome of this consultation, UNECE will publish its road map for promoting ITS in 2011 laying down concrete actions to be carried out within its global mandate to facilitate the movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes.

In this context, UNECE hosted a side event on the future deployment of ITS at the annual session of the International Transport Forum (ITF) in Leipzig, in May 2010, which focused on “Transport and Innovation”. The side event was a great success, particularly because it raised concrete questions and tackled issues with the intention of promoting the dialogue among key stakeholders and facilitating an early solution to current obstacles.

Crash-avoidance systems were implemented in the regulatory framework of WP.29 in 2010, while others, such as those designed to reduce glare caused by main beam, Automatic Emergency Braking and Lane Departure Warning Systems are expected to be incorporated in the vehicle regulations by the end of 2011.

Transport of dangerous goods

The secretariat published revised editions of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2011) and European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN 2011) for application as from 1 January 2011.

These publications incorporate the amendments adopted by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) and its joint meetings with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (WP.15/AC.1) and with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (WP.15/AC.2) and deemed accepted by parties on 10 October 2010, for entry into force on 1 January 2011.

The accession of Turkey to the ADR raised the number of its Contracting Parties to 46 while the ADN counts 14 Contracting Parties following accession of Poland and Ukraine and ratification by Slovakia.

Also, as part of the secretariat services provided to ECOSOC bodies, the secretariat prepared amendments to the sixteenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations; the fifth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria; and the third revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), to be considered by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification of Labelling of Chemicals at its fifth session (10 December 2010).



Regarding the implementation of the legal instruments and recommendations related to the transport of dangerous goods prepared by the UNECE secretariat, and pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2009/19, the provisions of the sixteenth revised edition of the United Nations Model Regulations were incorporated, inter alia, into the following international instruments for application as from 1 January 2011:

Regarding the implementation of the legal instruments and recommendations related to the transport of dangerous goods prepared by the UNECE secretariat, and pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2009/19, the provisions of the sixteenth revised edition of the United Nations Model Regulations were incorporated, inter alia, into the following international instruments for application as from 1 January 2011:

- The International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code prepared by the International Maritime Organization (mandatory for the 159 contracting parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea).
- 2011-2012 edition of the Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air, prepared by the International Civil Aviation Organization (mandatory for the 190 contracting parties to the Convention on Civil Aviation).
- The 2011 edition of the Dangerous Goods Regulations prepared by the International Air Transport Association.
- The Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID) prepared by the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (mandatory for the 43 contracting parties to the Convention concerning the International Carriage by Rail).
- ADR: 46 Contracting Parties.
- ADN: 14 Contracting Parties.

The accession of Turkey to the ADR raised the number of its Contracting Parties to 46

In the European Union, the provisions of the 2011 edition of ADR, RID and ADN were implemented for domestic traffic through Commission Directive 2010/6/EC of 2 September 2010 adapting for the first time the Annexes to Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the inland transport of dangerous goods to scientific and technical progress.



As regards the classification and labelling of chemicals, some of the major achievements in relation to the implementation of the Globally Harmonized of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (developed by an ECOSOC subsidiary body to which the UNECE secretariat provides secretariat services), were:

- The publication by the Department of Labor of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States of America, of a proposed rule to modify its existing hazard communication standard in accordance with the provisions of the third revised edition of the GHS.
- The updating, adoption, revision or development of national legislation or standards based on the GHS in countries such as: Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Russian Federation and Vietnam.
- The publication of Commission Regulation (EC) 790/2009, amending the European Regulation implementing the GHS in all countries member of the EU and the European Economic Area, for the purposes of its adaptation to technical and scientific progress (i.e. to align its provisions with those of the second revised edition of the GHS).



In the area of the transport of perishable foodstuffs, the secretariat published a new consolidated version of the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for such Carriage (ATP), containing a revised Annex 1, which will enter into force on 2 January 2011.

Road traffic safety

In 2010, UNECE celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of road safety activities through the organization of a joint meeting of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) and the Working Party of Road Transport (SC.1), held in Geneva, on 29 September 2010. The coming seventh decade 2011-2020, coincides with the Decade of Action for Road Safety proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 64/255 in March 2010, with the goal of reducing the level of road fatalities around the world by increasing activities at the national, regional and global levels. The resolution recognized the work of the United Nations regional commissions in increasing their road safety activities and welcomed the conclusions and recommendations of their project "Improving road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets". It also invited the regional commissions and the main road safety stakeholders to prepare the Plan of Action.



UNECE pioneered road safety activities in the United Nations system with the establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on the prevention of road accidents in 1950. In 1988, WP.1, an intergovernmental body, was established. Today, UNECE's WP.1 is the only permanent body in the United Nations system that focuses on improving road safety. Its primary function is to serve as guardian of the United Nations legal instruments aimed at harmonizing traffic rules. The Conventions on Road Traffic and on Roads Signs and Signals of 1968, and other UNECE legal instruments addressing the main factors of road crashes i.e. road user behaviour, the vehicle and the infrastructure, are real contributors to improved road safety. Many countries around the world have become Contracting Parties to them and benefit from their implementation. These Contracting Parties are also the key driving forces to keeping these international road safety conventions up-to-date. UNECE also supports the development and promotion of best road safety practices and the organization of road safety weeks and other awareness raising events.

Following a successful partnership with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and FIBA Europe reflected in the "EuroBasket 2009 Declaration for Road Safety", UNECE and FIBA launched a new road safety information campaign in 2010 to coincide with the Basketball World Championship held in Turkey. The campaign's motto "We play and drive by the rules" was developed to inform people around the world – especially the young people who are basketball fans or play basketball themselves – to encourage respect for the rules, on the road as well as on the court. This campaign was organized with the support of the Turkish Basketball Federation, the Spanish Basketball Federation and the Turkish National Police.

In November 2010, UNECE and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) co-organized under the Greek Chairmanship-in-office of BSEC and the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, the "Conference on Improving Road Safety in the BSEC Region". The Conference, held in Ioannina, Greece, provided an effective platform for experts to discuss measures for improving road safety and for sharing best practices. The Conference participants endorsed the "Ioannina Declaration", reaffirming

UNECE partnered with FIBA to launch the "We play and drive by the rules" road safety information campaign to coincide with the 2010 Basketball World Championship



the importance of addressing the road safety issue as a matter of urgency, at national and regional levels and inviting the BSEC countries to set national casualty reduction targets for the Decade and the BSEC bodies to consider setting a regional casualty reduction target of halving the overall number of road deaths in the region by 2020 (compared with 2010), and setting appropriate implementation monitoring mechanisms. At its twenty-third meeting, on 26 November 2010, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States commended the organizers of the conference for this initiative and recommended the relevant BSEC Working Groups to consider the conference conclusions.

In 2010, modernized versions of the consolidated resolutions on road traffic (R.E.1) and on road signs and signals (R.E.2) were published.

Road Transport

The issue of driving and rest periods of professional drivers is a key aspect of road safety but also of social welfare and fair competition. This is regulated by the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) which stipulates the use of the digital tachograph device to monitor the driving and rest periods of professional drivers. Under the AETR and relevant EU Regulations, the device became mandatory for EU member States in June 2006 and to non EU-AETR Contracting Parties on 16 June 2010 (following a four-year transition period). In spite of efforts made and measured progress achieved towards implementing the digital tachograph, some of the non-EU Contracting Parties appeared not to be ready to meet the 16 June deadline. The secretariat therefore convened an extraordinary session of UNECE's Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) in April 2010 to seek practical solutions. The Contracting Parties

reached an agreement for a package of measures and the six-month tolerance period ending on 31 December 2010. This "tolerance package" defines the conditions to be adhered to by the drivers of vehicles registered in countries that failed to observe the deadline in order to be allowed to enter the territory of complying States until the end of the year without being subject to fines or denial of entry.

Important amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) were approved in 2010: the Contracting Parties will soon endeavour to establish and implement procedures relating to road safety impact

assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety and safety inspections for the roads of the international E-road network. The Working Party started negotiations of a new, promising proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS).

UNECE finalized a White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe



Rail Transport

The Working Party on Rail Transport has prepared a road map and strategy towards unification of railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors with the objective of allowing direct carriage of cargo by rail under a single regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific. All other transport modes (road, inland water, sea and air) have operated already for many years under such standard rules. This new railway strategy of UNECE foresees a gradual step-by-step approach starting with the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding that provides the necessary Governmental framework and support for the application of general terms and conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts prepared in parallel by the industry.



Inland Water Transport

The Working Party on Inland Water Transport has finalized the UNECE White Paper on Efficient and Sustainable Inland Water Transport in Europe. The White Paper provides a pan-European vision on the future development of inland navigation in the UNECE region, 15 years after the issuance of the first UNECE White Paper on this subject.

The White Paper analyses the development of the inland waterway network under the framework of the European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways of International Importance (AGN) and describes the current institutional and regulatory setting for inland navigation in the region. Based on this assessment, the paper identifies six key areas for pan-European cooperation to promote the use of inland water transport and puts forward policy recommendations.

Inland Transport Security

Inland transport is the weakest link in global supply chains and, compared to other modes of transport, inland transport security does not receive adequate attention. Following the Inland Transport Security endorsement of recommendations made by the UNECE Multidisciplinary Inland Transport Security Expert Group on how to enhance inland transport security in the UNECE region, the secretariat prepared a two-day "Inland Transport Security Discussion Forum" in January 2010, in partnership with the Service Public Fédéral Mobilité et Transports of Belgium, the International Road Transport Union, the International Union of Railways and the Transported Asset Protection Association.

The security challenges facing inland transport range from terrorism, smuggling and trafficking to organized crime, petty theft and vandalism. To combat these problems, participants highlighted the need for freight security standards, driver training on security matters, government legislation and cooperation and the sharing of best practices across borders. The two-day meeting brought together about 100 representatives of Governments, international organizations and the private sector to raise awareness on the issues, share experiences and discuss risk assessment and cost-benefit challenges.

Trans-European Motorways and Trans-European Railways projects

Revision of the original Trans-European Motorways (TEM)/Trans-European Railways (TER) Master Plan which was published in 2005 was initiated in 2008. Member countries involved in both projects, supported by the Project Manager, consultants and the secretariat, completed the revision process by the end of 2010. This was a remarkable achievement considering the fact that the revision has been extended from 21 countries in 2005 to 25 countries in 2008. This reflects, inter alia, the increased interest and awareness of UNECE member countries for the implementation of the TEM and TER Master Plan. The revised Master Plan will be completed and published by the end of February 2011 and will be submitted to the session of the Inland Transport Committee for consideration.

Financing aspects of new projects identified through the elaboration of the revised Master Plan were considered to be of a particular importance not only to the involved countries but also to all other UNECE member countries, in particular those in Central Asia. This consideration prompted the secretariat to organize a conference on financing development of road and rail transport infrastructures in Vienna on 17 November 2010. More than 90 participants from most UNECE member countries, including policymakers, international financial institutions, academia and road and rail sectors and experts, discussed solutions for financing of road and rail transport infrastructure in the period characterized by the widespread financial crisis. The conference was supported by the OSCE/Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Ministry of Transport of Austria.



The Islamic Republic of Iran acceded to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982, bringing the number of Contracting Parties to 55

Transport, health and environment

The Steering Committee of the Pan-European Programme on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) organized on 8 December 2010, as part of a new initiative to further engage the three sectors, a symposium on "Green and Health-friendly Investments and Jobs in Transport" in line with priority goal No. 1 of the Amsterdam Declaration adopted by the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment (January 2009).

In 2010 two capacity building workshops were organized under THE PEP, jointly serviced by the UNECE Transport and Environment Divisions and by World Health Organization (WHO)/Europe. One workshop "Working together to make things happen" was held in Skopje on 7-8 June 2010 focusing on integrated policy approaches to sustainable urban transport. Another workshop was held in Batumi (Georgia) (30 September - 1 October 2010) under the topic "Safe and healthy walking and cycling in urban areas". Both workshops were supported by renowned experts from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands and WHO.

Transport Trends and Economics

In 2010, UNECE published a report on hinterland connections of seaports, based on the work of an expert group of the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics. The report provides member States with a number of topical recommendations with the aim of improving the availability of data and enhancing the performance of hinterland connections of seaports.



In 2010, UNECE organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a successful Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks. The high quality of expert contributions was appreciated by a number of government representatives of the UNECE and UNCTAD member States.

Border crossing facilitation and the TIR Convention

The accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention) brought the number of Contracting Parties to 55. The secretariat has continued its efforts to monitor the implementation of the Convention and conducted a survey of Contracting Parties with regard to the application at the national level of the new Annex 8 on road transport. This Annex covers a wide range of measures to facilitate road transport operations, including facilitation of visa procedures for professional drivers, standardized weighing operations and vehicle weight certificate, minimum infrastructure requirements for efficient border crossing points and provisions to monitor the border crossing performance.

*The revised
Trans-European
Motorways (TEM)/
Trans-European
Railways (TER)
Master Plan will be
published in early 2011*

The Administrative Committee of the Harmonization Convention (WP.30/AC.3), at its session on 27 May 2010, adopted the amendment proposal with regard to the introduction of a new Annex 9 on rail border crossing to the Harmonization Convention. On 31 August 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, acting in his capacity as depositary, issued a Depositary Notification to inform the Contracting Parties of the adoption of the new Annex 9. It will enter into force on 30 November 2011 unless objections are transmitted by Contracting Parties to the Secretary-General before 31 August 2011.

The secretariat has prepared an additional protocol to the International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Passengers and Baggage carried by Rail of 1952, with the aim of introducing in the Convention a standard amendment clause which, if signed by all Contracting Parties to the Convention, would allow further amendments in order to bring the Convention in line with modern requirements.

The Informal Ad hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure (GE.1) has made further progress in the technical aspects of the computerization of the TIR procedure (eTIR project), including the finalization of Chapter 3 of the eTIR Reference Model, preliminary work on Chapter 4 and the establishment of a network of eTIR focal points and of an eTIR website to ensure a broader participation of Contracting Parties in the eTIR project. WP.30 and GE.1 have also started consideration of the financial implications and legal implications of eTIR.



Concerning the TIR Convention, the Working Party has finalized an extensive package of amendment proposals which has been brought for adoption to the TIR Administrative Committee. These amendments would clearly define responsibilities of the major players in the TIR system (Customs, operators and guarantors). The TIR Executive Board has developed several examples of best practice in the application of various aspects of the TIR procedure at the national level. Such examples are indispensable for capacity-building and training activities. Meanwhile, the secretariat has prepared and published a new edition of the TIR Handbook in all United Nations official languages. The Handbook includes not only the full text of the TIR Convention, but also comments, recommendations and numerous examples of best practices.

Technical cooperation

In order to overcome difficulties in collecting transport statistics from some member countries, the UNECE Working Party on Transport Statistics invited the Inter-Secretariat Working Group (EUROSTAT/ITF/UNECE) to organize a workshop focusing on countries in Central Asia. Most of these countries are having problems with completing the web-based Common Questionnaire on Transport Statistics used by the three partner organizations for transport data collection. Following this initiative, a workshop on the use of the Common Questionnaire with a special focus on methodology and road accident statistics was organized in September 2010 in Kazakhstan. It was an opportunity for transport statisticians of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to become more familiar with the online UNECE tools for gathering transport statistics. This capacity building activity, organized together

with the Regional Adviser for Transport, aimed at facilitating the use of the Common Questionnaire and reducing the rate of non-response from these countries.

The financial and legal implications of eTIR are being assessed

The main capacity building activities in transport, within the UNECE region, remain nevertheless focused on providing advisory services, strategic guidance and administrative support for technical cooperation projects designed to

develop coherent pan-European transport networks, corridors and areas, and Euro-Asian transport links. In addition, those advisory services are intended to strengthen national legal and regulatory frameworks on road safety and capacity-building projects, workshops, seminars and training courses aimed at assisting countries in acceding to and implementing UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards, transferring know-how and sharing best practices, as well as implementing global commitments in transport. In this respect technical cooperation focused this year on Turkey, Ukraine and Serbia through activities managed by their respective United Nations country resident, either by participating in country retreats for United Nations agencies or providing inputs for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) programmes set out for these countries.

Cooperation with the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asian countries was also assured by the regular support to transport initiatives and projects carried out by subregional groupings in particular, in the framework of SPECA and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization.

For technical cooperation purposes, UNECE also works in close cooperation with the other four regional commissions of the United Nations.



Cooperation with other organizations

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

The close working relationship between UNECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is particularly visible in the field of international transport. In 2010, the UNECE Transport Division took an active part in the process leading to the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum. In high-level meetings in Astana and Vienna, UNECE staff delivered presentations promoting accession to and more effective implementation of UNECE legal instruments in the area of transport infrastructure and border crossing facilitation. Particular attention was paid to promoting the enhanced monitoring of implementation of conventions and international agreements. UNECE undertook a significant review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the area of transport and presented its findings at the Economic and Environmental Forum in Prague. The Transport Division also supported the newly established OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. The College provides training programmes to high-level customs, border and transport officials. The first training session was scheduled to take place in November 2010 and its curriculum includes courses on trade and transport facilitation. UNECE trainers will deliver some of the College courses.

International Transport Forum

Since the first annual meeting of the International Transport Forum in 2008, the Transport Division has been substantively contributing to the agenda of the meetings of Ministers of Transport of the ITF countries which are also, by large, UNECE member countries. The Transport Division attended several sessions of the Forum and presented the work of the Division, its participation in various panels, and organization of special events, like the one on Intelligent Transport Systems during the 2010 Forum. For many years, the Transport Division has collaborated with the International Transport Forum in many areas of work. This cooperation benefits both organizations and will be further strengthened in the coming years.

Major challenges for 2011

The secretariat will publish the seventeenth revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations, the amendments to the fifth revised edition of its related "Manual of Tests and Criteria", and the fourth revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.



The major challenge for the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods will be to prepare and adopt amendments to ADR, RID and ADN to reflect the provisions contained in these new United Nations recommendations. The catalogue of questions related to the training and examination of experts required to be on board inland navigation vessels carrying dangerous goods, still under development, should be finalized.

In the area of the transport of perishable foodstuffs, challenges will include reaching agreement on testing procedures for multi-temperature transport equipment.

UNECE trainers will deliver some of the courses of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe

In order to raise awareness about the importance and usefulness of transport statistics among SPECA countries, another capacity building event is planned, possibly as a one-day Conference on Transport Statistics, which could be held back-to-back with the next regular SPECA Working Group on Transport Border Crossing due to take place in March or April 2011. This Conference would be a direct follow-up to the Workshop held in 2010.

In 2011, one of the challenges facing UNECE will be to take advantage of the momentum from the 2010 joint UNECE-UNCTAD Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks while establishing an expert group that would develop relevant policy recommendations in this area. The UNECE work on climate change adaptation would complement its ongoing involvement in climate change mitigation, resulting in a comprehensive contribution to its activities in the area of sustainable development.

A major challenge for TEM and TER projects will be to ensure the proper follow-up activities and monitoring of the implementation of the revised TEM/TER Master Plan in 2011. Another challenge will be to ensure the momentum of work and activities and broaden the coverage of both projects by possibly involving other interested UNECE member countries.

A major challenge for the Transport Division in cooperation with the International Transport Forum will be to continue contributing and ensure high-quality inputs to future annual sessions of the Forum. In addition, close working collaboration will have to be maintained so that the two institutions avoid duplication and overlap in their activities and build on synergies developed over the past years.

Major challenges for the TIR Convention in 2011 will be to improve good governance and financial transparency of the TIR system by means of introduction in the text of the TIR Convention of audit requirements for the authorized international organization, to study the financial implications of the eTIR project and to draft legal provisions aimed at the introduction of eTIR.



In the area of **road safety**, UNECE will work towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 64/255. More specifically, UNECE will contribute to the preparation and implementation of a Plan of Action of the Decade and encourage governments to set their own road traffic casualty reduction targets and will contribute to their monitoring. UNECE will also encourage its members to implement road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behaviour and post-crash care. Emerging issues such as safety at rail and road interfaces (eg. level crossings), multidisciplinary crash investigation, proposals to amend the Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968) to include Variable Message Signs and to the Convention on Road Traffic, 1968, to incorporate the positive effect of technical progress contained in corresponding vehicle technical regulations, will also be among the targeted activities.

Regarding **road transport**, UNECE will strive to ensure the full implementation of the digital tachograph in all non-EU Contracting Parties to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). Following the expected entry into force of amendments to the European Agreement on Main International Arteries (AGR), UNECE will encourage the establishment and implementation of procedures relating to road safety impact assessments, road safety audits, the management of road network safety and safety inspections for the roads of the international e-road network. UNECE will work towards finalizing a proposal for a global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS) and will promote further ratifications of the Additional Protocol to the CMR concerning the Electronic Consignment Note to ensure its entry into force.

The Group of Experts on **Euro-Asian Transport Links** will continue its work in further developing the EATL Project Phase II aiming at coordinating infrastructure planning, evaluating and prioritizing of infrastructure projects; studying and analysing economically viable inland transport options, examining non-physical obstacles and collecting transport flows data in the EATL region; strengthening national capacities; sharing experience and best practices along the Euro-Asian transport routes; and further developing the GIS database.

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Mr. François ROUX (*Belgium, as of 01.02.2011*)

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Mr. Victor GUZUN (*Republic of Moldova*)

Mr. Sergei NEGREI (*Belarus*)

Mr. Björn ORIWOHL (*Germany*)

Mr. Bob OUDSHOORN (*Netherlands*)

Mr. Jean-Claude SCHNEUWLY (*Switzerland*)

Conference of European Statisticians

Chairperson:

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Members:

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Ms. Katherine WALLMAN (*United States of America*)

Mr. Gerry O'HANLON (*Ireland*)

Mr. Oystein OLSEN (*Norway*)

Ms. Irena KRIZMAN (*Slovenia*)

Mr. Oleksandr OSAULENKO (*Ukraine*)

Observers to the CES Bureau:

Mr. Walter RADERMACHER (*Eurostat, Statistical Office of the European Union*)

Ms. Martine DURAND (*OECD*)

Ms. Adelheid BÜRGI-SCHMELZ (*IMF*)

Mr. Vladimir SOKOLIN (*Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States*)

Ms. Shaida BADIEE (*World Bank*)

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Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Environmental Policy

Conference of Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents ^{1/}

Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ^{1/}

Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context ^{1/}

Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution ^{1/}

Meeting of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes ^{1/}

Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development ^{4/}

Steering Committee on Transport, Health and Environment ^{3/}

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Road Transport

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)

- Pollution and Energy
- General Safety Provisions
- Brakes and Running Gear
- Lighting and Light-Signalling
- Noise
- Passive Safety

Working Party on Rail Transport

Working Party on Inland Water Transport

Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics

Working Party on Transport Statistics

Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport

Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics

Conference of European Statisticians

^{1/} Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention (Various Working Groups are established under these Bodies).

^{2/} Subsidiary body of ECOSOC serviced by UNECE secretariat.

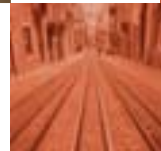
^{3/} Established by an open-ended tripartite High-level Meeting of Transport, Health and Environment sectors of the region, in 2002. The Committee is serviced by the Environment Division and the Transport Division in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and by the World Health Organization/EURO Secretariat. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

^{4/} Established by the High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, in 2005, the Committee is serviced by the Environment Division. It reports to the High-level Meeting.

Economic and Social Council:
Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals ^{2/}

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods ^{2/}

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals ^{2/}



Executive Committee

Working Group on Ageing

Committee on Trade

Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Sections on Standardization of

- Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
- Dry and Dried Produce
- Seed Potatoes
- Meat

Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

Timber Committee

Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Working Party on Land Administration

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Working Party on Gas

Gas Centre

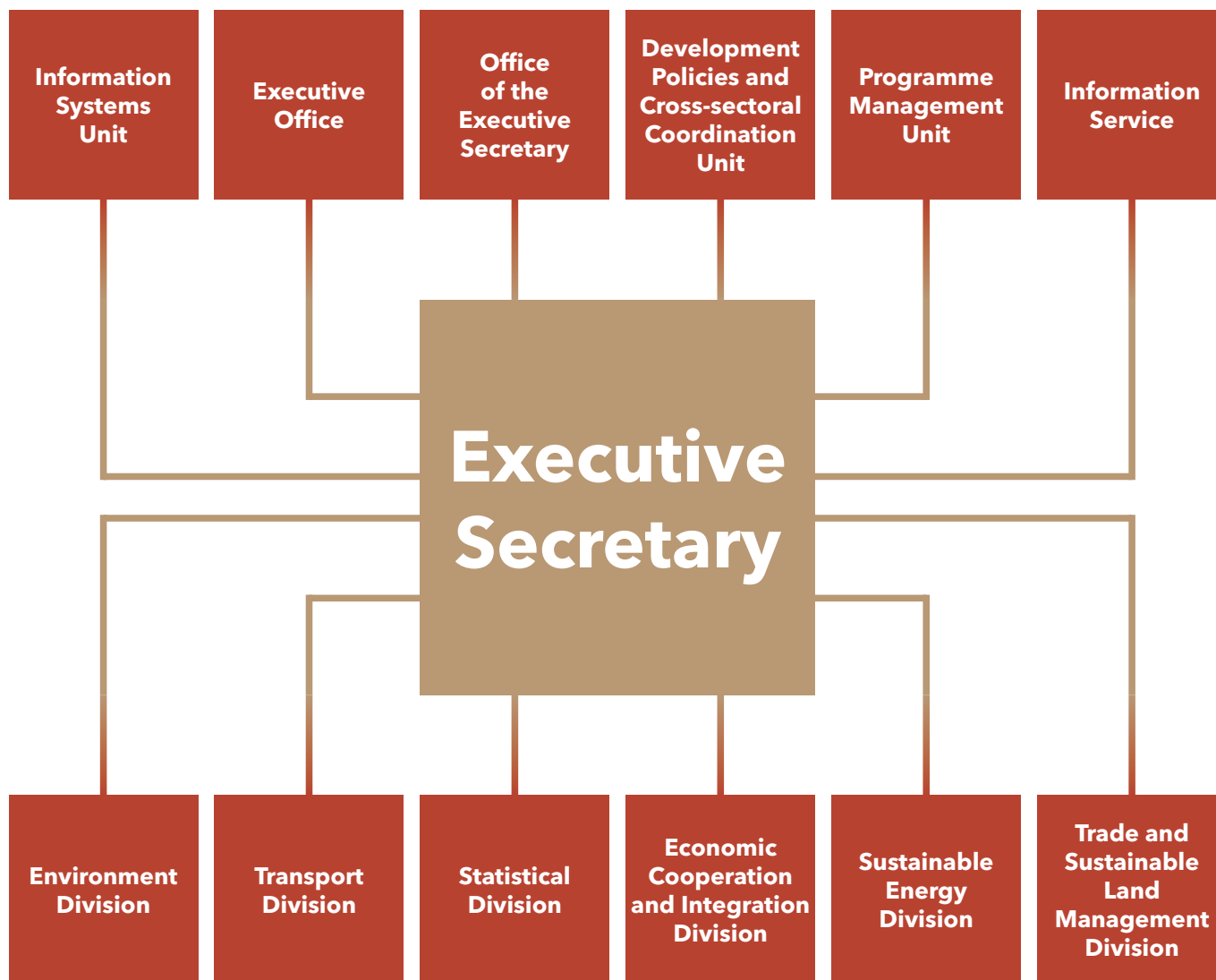
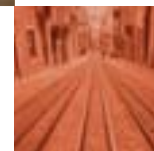
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Member States and member States representatives*

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Andorra	H.E. Mr. Lluís VIU TORRES
Armenia	Mr. Charles AZNAVOUR
Austria	H.E. Mr. Christian STROHAL
Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Murad NAJAFBAYLI
Belarus	H.E. Mr. Mikhail KHVOSTOV
Belgium	H.E. Mr. François ROUX
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Bulgaria	H.E. Mr. Gancho GANEV
Canada	H.E. Mr. Marius GRINIUS
Croatia	H.E. Mrs. Vesna VUKOVIĆ
Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Andreas HADJICHRYSANTHOU
Czech Republic	H.E. Mr. Tomáš HUSÁK
Denmark	H.E. Mr. Steffen SMIDT
Estonia	H.E. Mr. Jüri SEILENTHAL
Finland	H.E. Mr. Hannu HIMANEN
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Georgia	H.E. Mr. Zurab TCHIABERASHVILI
Germany	H.E. Mr. Reinhard SCHWEPPE
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Hungary	H.E. Mr. Istvan MAJOR
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Ireland	H.E. Mr. Gerard CORR
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Kyrgyzstan	Mrs. Gulnara ISKAKOVA
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Romania	H.E. Mrs. Maria CIOBANU
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United States of America	H.E. Mrs. Betty E. KING
Uzbekistan	H.E. Mrs. Goulнора KARIMOVA

*Permanent Mission in Vienna.



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE	
STAFF RESOURCES	
TYPE OF BUDGET	2010-2011
	(Total number of staff)
Regular budget staff	200
Regular programme of technical cooperation staff *	6
Extrabudgetary staff	25
Total:	231

* Six Regional Advisers

Management



Ján KUBIŠ
Executive Secretary

Office of the Executive Secretary



Andrey Vasilyev
Deputy Executive Secretary



Parisudhi Kalamasut
*Chef de Cabinet and
Secretary of the Commission*



Patrice Robineau
*Senior Adviser
to the Executive Secretary*



Environment Division
Marco Keiner
Director



Transport Division
Eva Molnar
Director



**Economic Cooperation
and Integration Division**
Rumen Dobrinsky
Director



**Trade and Sustainable Land
Management Division**
Virginia Cram-Martos
Director



Sustainable Energy Division
Scott Foster
Director



Statistical Division
Lidia Bratanova
Director



Programme Management Unit
Zamira Eshmambetova
Director

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)			
TYPE OF BUDGET	2010 Allotment	2011 Allotment	2010-2011 Total Allotment
Regular Budget (Section 19)			
Post items	31'741.7	29'039.4	60'781.1
Non-Post items	2'231.3	2'214.6	4'445.9
Total:	33'973.0	31'254.0	65'227.0

B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)			
TYPE OF FUND	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Estimated Expenditures	2010-2011 Estimated Expenditures
Extrabudgetary			
General Trust Funds	4'022.5	4'605.0	8'627.5
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	8'532.9	12'961.5	21'494.4
Total:	12'555.4	17'566.5	30'121.9

C. OTHER REGULAR BUDGET FUNDING (in thousands of US dollars)			
Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 22)	2010 Allotment	2011 Allotment	2010-2011 Total Allotment
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	1'278.9	1'460.0	2'738.9
Other non-post items	459.2	296.8	756.0
Total:	1'738.1	1'756.8	3'494.9

United Nations Development Account (Section 35)	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Estimated Expenditures	2010-2011 Estimated Expenditures
Non-Post items	579.8	2'000.5	2'580.3
Total:	579.8	2'000.5	2'580.3

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