

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

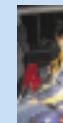
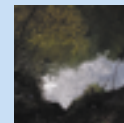
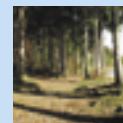
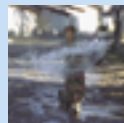
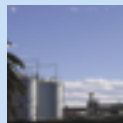
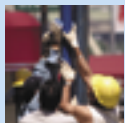
UNECE



UNITED NATIONS

Why?
Who benefits?
Who does what?

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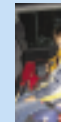
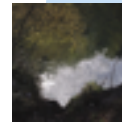
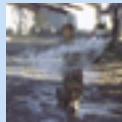
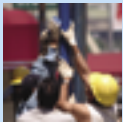


Why?

- UNECE is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. It was set up in 1947 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to develop economic activity and strengthen economic relations within the UNECE region and between this region and the rest of the world.
- UNECE provides a regional forum for governments to develop conventions, norms and standards with the aim of harmonizing action and facilitating exchanges between member States. As such, UNECE provides consumer guarantees of safety and quality, helps protect the environment, facilitates trade and the greater integration of member States at the regional level and also with the global economy.
- The UNECE's main areas of activity are: environment, transport, statistics, sustainable energy, trade, timber and forests, housing and land management, population, and economic cooperation and integration.

Who benefits?

- Due to their extremely varied nature, the UNECE activities affect not only the daily life of people living in the region, but also that of people in other parts of the world in those fields where its work has worldwide application. Their impact is thus of benefit to the whole of society.
- These numerous activities, whether in the areas of energy efficiency, transport, international trade, statistics or timber, directly affect the level of economic integration between the UNECE member States.
- UNECE's work provides consumers with guarantees of safety and quality through the establishment of norms and standards in areas as diverse as road vehicle regulations or fruit and vegetables.
- UNECE helps to protect and preserve the environment through the establishment of a regional legislative framework to combat pollution and facilitate cooperation in prevention and damage limitation.
- It facilitates and promotes international trade by improving the ability of enterprises to exchange products and services.
- UNECE activities in gender equality mainly revolve around promoting women's role in economic growth and equal opportunities in access to employment.
- Transition economies and subregional groupings are provided with technical assistance essentially aimed at supporting the application of norms and conventions developed by UNECE. These countries are thus enabled to fully benefit from UNECE's analytical, statistical and normative work.
- UNECE also handles the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), jointly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), promoting economic cooperation between the seven member countries of the Programme.

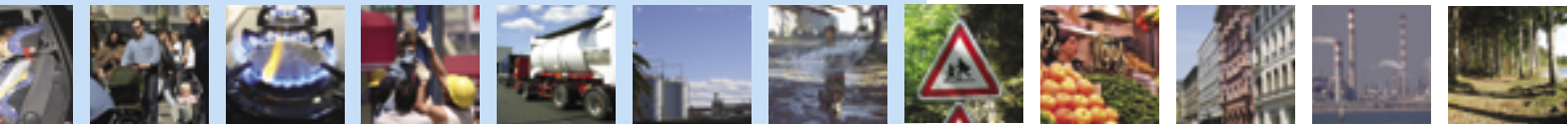


Who does what?

- UNECE holds a biennial formal session. During this session, the Commission takes decisions on its activities for the coming years and on recommendations it will be submitting to its parent body ECOSOC.
- UNECE has seven sectoral committees: the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Inland Transport Committee, the Conference of European Statisticians, the Committee on Sustainable Energy, the Committee on Trade, the Timber Committee, the Committee on Housing and Land Management, and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.
- The UNECE's secretariat is based in Geneva. It consists of approximately 220 staff members and is headed by an Executive Secretary and a Deputy Executive Secretary. The secretariat is essentially composed of economists, but also of lawyers, engineers, statisticians and computer technicians. Its role is to provide the Commission with the administrative support needed to achieve the goals that have been set.

Relations with other bodies

- Since 1975, UNECE has been the economic partner of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As such, it regularly prepares background documentation for the annual meetings of the Economic Forum and other seminars organized by OSCE. The OSCE has almost identical membership as UNECE.
- UNECE's cooperation with the European Union (EU) has been extremely profitable to both institutions with numerous norms developed under the auspices of UNECE being adopted by the EU as directives.
- UNECE has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with other organizations such as the Council of Europe or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Cooperation with these organizations takes numerous forms and allows duplication to be avoided while complementing each other's work with the respective fields of expertise.
- UNECE works in close collaboration with other United Nations organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and brings a regional dimension to the global summits and conferences organized by the United Nations.
- Enterprises, local communities, professional associations and other non-governmental organizations are also involved in the UNECE's activities. They seek to be informed, at times consulted, and to actively participate in certain activities.



A brief historical journey through UNECE

Inception

In 1947 the Economic and Social Council sets up the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Its original mandate is to assist the reconstruction and economic development of Europe.

Cold War

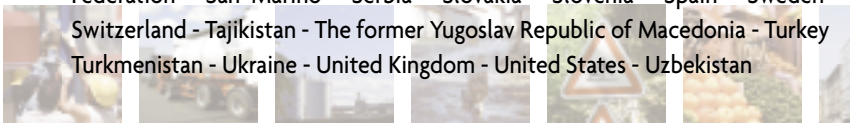
For more than 40 years, the UNECE is the only instrument of dialogue and economic cooperation between the two sides of the Iron Curtain.

Post-Cold War

The end of the Cold War shakes the global order. The UNECE, with its wealth of experience of cooperation between East and West, becomes a key organization in facilitating the integration of Central and East European countries in the region and in the global economy, and thus in maintaining cohesion of the continent. In many of its activities, the UNECE remains a primary driving force for further cooperation not only among its member States and but also with the rest of the world.

UNECE MEMBER STATES

Albania - Andorra - Armenia - Austria - Azerbaijan - Belarus - Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina - Bulgaria - Canada - Croatia - Cyprus - Czech
Republic - Denmark - Estonia - Finland - France - Georgia - Germany
Greece - Hungary - Iceland - Ireland - Israel - Italy - Kazakhstan - Kyrgyzstan
Latvia - Liechtenstein - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Malta - Moldova - Monaco
Montenegro - Netherlands - Norway - Poland - Portugal - Romania - Russian
Federation - San Marino - Serbia - Slovakia - Slovenia - Spain - Sweden
Switzerland - Tajikistan - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Turkey
Turkmenistan - Ukraine - United Kingdom - United States - Uzbekistan



For more information...

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