



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

# REPORT 2010





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# Abbreviations and **acronyms**

ADB	Asian Development Bank
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
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APA	Almaty Programme of Action
CAIT	Climate Analysis Indicators Tool
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
CCL	Core Component Library
CEB	Chief Executives Board
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMM	Coal Mine Methane
CROs	Common Regulatory Objectives
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
EATL	Euro-Asian Transport Links
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ECEF	European Clean Energy Fund
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDB	Eurasian Development Bank
EECCA	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
EfE	Environment for Europe
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
ESD	Education for sustainable development
EU	European Union
EurAsEC	Eurasian Economic Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
GGP	Generations and Gender Programme
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GHS	Globally Harmonized System
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICT	Information and communication technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IFAS	International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITS	Intelligent Transport Systems
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LNG	Liquefied natural gas

MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
MCTC	Mount Carmel International Training Center
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NGV	Natural Gas Vehicle
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public-private partnership
PRTR	Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
REM	Real Estate Market
RENEUER	Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy Resources
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SEE	South-East Europe
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPECA	United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia
TEM	Trans-European Motorway
TER	Trans-European Railway
THE PEP	Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
TPMS	Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
UN/EDIFACT	United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFC	United Nations Framework Classification
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WRI	World Resource Institute
WTO	World Trade Organization

Note: \$ are US dollars

## the Chairman of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Two issues dominated the international agenda in 2009: the effects of the economic and financial crisis, which pushed many countries in our region into the most severe recession since the 1930s, and the challenges posed by global warming. Quite naturally, both were at the heart of the debates of the 63rd session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) held on 30 March-1 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations.

The Commission recommitted the renewed support of its member States to the work of UNECE and confirmed that UNECE facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-six member States and promotes sustainable development. Member States also noted the pragmatic results of UNECE's work that have an impact not only in the UNECE region but also in other parts of the world.

For the past 62 years, UNECE's strength and added value for its member States has always derived from its ability to adjust to the changing needs of its member States and to produce concrete products and results that impact on the lives of people, both within the region and beyond. Under the firm leadership of the new Executive Secretary, Ján Kubiš, who brings to UNECE his profound knowledge of the region, 2009 was no exception.

Among many other examples of successful outcome of UNECE's work in 2009, October saw the entry into force of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) to the UNECE Aarhus Convention. These registers oblige firms to publish their releases of 86 pollutants into the environment, thus encouraging them to take action to gradually reduce them. At the same time they offer the public the means to exert pressure on those firms and on public authorities to request reductions of emissions. Finally, they offer member States a solid base to calculate their emissions and thus a valuable tool to both fulfil their reporting obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and monitor the effectiveness of their policies.

Achieving these three objectives in one go is but one good example of the concrete impact that UNECE's work can have for the benefit of its member States, 22 of which have already published registers on the internet.

Building on its strengthened governance structure and the strong partnership between member States and the secretariat, I am confident that UNECE will be in a good position to continue to actively contribute to the economic integration of the pan-European region.

**Alex Van Meeuwen**  
**Ambassador**

Permanent Representative of Belgium





## the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



The year 2009 brought many challenges for UNECE. In these difficult times of economic and financial crisis marked by severe recession, massive loss of jobs and mounting public debt on the one hand, and the rising awareness of the need to take action for climate change mitigation and adaptation on the other, our member States were expecting concrete initiatives to help them find responses to these two major defining developments.

The Commission session held on 30 March-1 April 2009 was the opportunity to address these two major challenges by articulating the global and regional perspectives and discussing concrete actions and responses in our fields of activities.

The debates highlighted inter alia the need to reduce technical barriers to trade in order to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis and stressed the role that UNECE can play in promoting trade facilitation and the use of international standards in order to foster intraregional trade, and thus contribute to reducing the risk of new protectionism. The role of the transport sector in contributing to faster recovery was also widely acknowledged, both via public investment in infrastructures and an increase in regional trade. In this context, UNECE's transport legal instruments, technical norms and standards were found to provide an effective framework to remove bottlenecks and promote interoperability in the region.

As regards global warming, the debates showed that UNECE is well equipped, within its mandate, to be a significant player in addressing the challenge of climate change in our region, via its environmental conventions, its vehicle construction regulations, its initiatives to foster financing and use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, its forestry and timber programme, its initiatives to promote green housing and to improve the indicators measuring natural capital and sustainable development.

I am particularly satisfied that the Commission recommitted the renewed support of its member States to the work of UNECE. This strong political support forms the sound basis on which UNECE can develop its work over the next two years.

With Commission sessions now held every second year, the involvement of member States in the Executive Committee (EXCOM) is of an increased importance since EXCOM provides guidance to UNECE and its committees in the intersessional period. In this context, decisions on the Committee on Trade and UN/CEFACT will be a key focus of our attention in 2010.

2009 was rich in accomplishments, which are presented at length in this yearly report. Taking a cross-sectoral perspective, I would like to come back to three important moments of the past year.

First, following the reform of the Environment for Europe (EfE) process in 2008, the Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the two main themes of the seventh Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in autumn 2011. These will be: *Sustainable Management of Water and Water-related Ecosystems* and *Greening the Economy: Mainstreaming the Environment into Economic Development*. I am confident that UNECE will be in a good position to facilitate the debate amongst all its member States and other stakeholders in the region for addressing these two important challenges.

Second, the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women (Beijing+15) was held on 2-3 November. It gathered over 350 representatives, including at ministerial level, from our 56 member States as well as from NGOs and international organizations to review the progress made during the past five years in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995. Debates focused on actions to take to increase women's economic empowerment in the context of the crisis. On this occasion, member States renewed their commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and reaffirmed the centrality of gender equality for the universal achievement of all Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, the 4th UNECE Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development held on 1–2 December brought together more than 220 delegates to discuss progress made in achieving sustainable development goals in transport, chemicals and waste management as well as in changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The meeting's key messages and policy recommendations will feed the debates of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which will meet in May 2010 in New York.

From a subregional perspective, I would like to stress the increasing number of projects implemented under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which is supported jointly by UNECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). At its session held on 13 November in Bishkek, the SPECA Governing Council expressed its satisfaction for the Programme's effectiveness and impact. It also endorsed the launch of a "Road map on the initiative on aid for trade for SPECA member countries", an activity strongly supported by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). All SPECA countries are *landlocked developing countries*. In addition, with the exception of Kazakhstan, they are also classified by FAO as *low income food deficit countries*. These countries thus face specific constraints in their development and need our special attention. Unsurprisingly, the bulk of our technical cooperation activities in 2009 was concentrated in Central Asia and South–Eastern Europe.

Increased cooperation with partners from the United Nations family and other regional institutions, a key call from our member States, was at the core of our activities in 2009. Cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions gained new impetus when UNECE assumed the coordination of the five United Nations regional commissions on 1 August. Joint activities with them range from our Global Energy Efficiency 21 programme to road safety and gender statistics. Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for our

activities on water and energy in Central Asia has also been reinforced. At the country level, this cooperation has been strengthened with the involvement of UNECE in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process in most countries with economies in transition.

One important element of this enhanced cooperation was the relaunch of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, a forum established by ECOSOC and gathering the heads of the regional offices of the United Nations Funds, Programmes and specialized agencies. After a gap of some five years, a high-level interagency meeting was held on 8 October, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro. It re-established UNECE's role as a platform to foster coordination among all the United Nations entities active in our region and resulted, among other decisions, in the creation of a thematic working group on climate change and the drawing of a chart of capabilities available across agencies at the regional level for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Outside the United Nations family, we have worked on further strengthening ties with, among others, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Since the adoption of the UNECE reform in 2005, member States have repeatedly called for an increased visibility of the work of UNECE. This has been and will continue to be a challenge given the technical nature of UNECE and its diversity. Defining UNECE in a nutshell is not easy. However, I believe that much can be done to improve its status as an important partner and together with my colleagues in the UNECE secretariat I intend to pursue this in the coming year.

Efforts to upgrade UNECE's Internet site have continued and new efforts to reach out to the media have resulted in a significant increase in the coverage of our activities. Finally, a series of films aimed at presenting the various aspects of UNECE's work was initiated, and the first two films, depicting UNECE's initiatives to foster energy efficiency in housing, were broadcast in November and December.

Over the past year, UNECE was able to highlight its work by participating actively in a variety of high-level international events, including: the Astana Economic Forum in March; the St. Petersburg Economic Forum and the World Grain Forum Summit, in Moscow, in June; the World Water Week in Stockholm in August; the Connect CIS summit in Minsk, and the first Global Ministerial Conference on road safety, in Moscow, in November; and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, in December, in a series of side events.

It goes without saying that I will make it my priority to ensure that all UNECE activities will continue to be carried out efficiently in the coming year, so as to best benefit member States of our region and even beyond for those having a global outreach.

**Ján Kubiš**  
**Executive Secretary**  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe





## ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

### Strengthening capacities for regional cooperation

The work under the subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration, created in 2006 as a result of the UNECE reform, developed further its mandate in 2009 with an emphasis on two main directions:

- Increased orientation towards capacity-building activities
- Closer integration between the different thematic areas of its programme of work.

The approach to activities remains:

- **Comparative:** Identifying good practices and lessons learned on the basis of the wealth of experience available in our member States
- **Inclusive:** Using the inputs provided by different types of stakeholders, so as to better understand the issues and involve all the relevant actors in any action required, and increasingly
- **Practical:** Providing specific guidance that can be used to design and implement concrete policies.

The key policy-oriented event in 2009 was the *International Conference on Promoting Innovation-based Entrepreneurial Opportunities in the UNECE Region* which took place in Geneva in September. The Conference was held in the framework of the fourth session of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (September 2009) and constituted its Policy Discussion Segment. It attracted a large number of participants including high-level policymakers, senior corporate executives, top academics and other distinguished experts from the UNECE region. The Conference provided a platform for joint reflection on the implications of the global economic and financial crisis for innovation policies and

the consequences of a changed financial landscape for the activities of innovation stakeholders. These discussions built on the results of an opinion survey circulated among the networks of experts to assess the fallout from the crisis and the range of policy responses adopted in innovation-related issues. The Conference contributed to the policy debates seeking to identify, on the one hand, new and more efficient policies and business practices to promote innovation and knowledge-based development and, on the other, ways and means of integrating these policies and practices into anti-crisis responses by Governments and firms, which bolster the effectiveness of these responses. It identified a number of key policy issues and conclusions that merit being brought to the attention of national and international policymakers.

*Field activities have served to disseminate the results of previous normative work and to provide a platform for knowledge-sharing among participants.*

Field activities have served to disseminate the results of previous normative work and to provide a platform for knowledge-sharing among participants. The *International Conference on Knowledge-based Development*, which took place in Minsk in June, gathered together experts and policy practitioners active in all the thematic areas of work of the subprogramme (innovation and competitiveness policies, intellectual property rights commercialization and protection, public and private partnerships, financing for innovative development and entrepreneurship). The Conference, jointly organized by UNECE and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Belarus and the Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information

Support of the Scientific and Technical Sphere, was a good example of institutional cooperation, cross-thematic synergies and subregional orientation in the organization of capacity-building activities. The proceedings of the Conference were published by the State Committee on Science and Technology, thus facilitating further the dissemination of the rich experiences presented in this event.

The collaboration between various thematic areas to deliver integrated solutions that reflect the demands of member States was a main principle in the organization of the *International Conference on Ways and Means of Attracting External Finance for New Innovative Enterprises*, Astana, May 2009. This was the second event in a series of capacity-building activities that covers different aspects of the interface between entrepreneurship and financing. The Conference, jointly organized by UNECE and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Budget Planning of Kazakhstan, discussed major issues concerning the financing of innovative enterprises throughout their life cycle, in particular the potential role of intellectual property rights in strengthening the capacity of innovative enterprises to attract external funding.

In the area of intellectual property rights, two subregional seminars were organized with different territorial and thematic focus: on *Commercialization and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights* in Skopje in April and on the *Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Technology Transfer – Problems-Solutions, Examples from Turkey and World*, held in Ankara in March.





The *International Conference on Technological Readiness for Innovation-based Competitiveness: Promoting an Enabling Information and Communication Technology Policy and Regulatory Framework* (Geneva, June) focused on the contribution that ICT can make to different areas of the programme of work, including fostering innovation and competitiveness and promoting entrepreneurship. This sectoral approach combined with the thematic orientation to provide further insights into the ways in which various components of the innovation process interact and how these can be influenced by relevant policies, in particular in view of the new realities and challenges created by the crisis.

The work carried out in the area of public-private partnerships contributed to further progress on the elaboration of training materials that will serve to address the strong demand for capacity building activities on these topics. This included an expert meeting in London in May on the preparation and implementation of the training toolkit on “How to do PPPs”.

A new development in the area of advisory services was the consultative meeting between the Government of Kazakhstan and the UNECE Business Advisory Board on Public-Private Partnerships which took place in Astana in March following a special session on PPPs under the aegis of the Second Astana Economic Forum. The consultative meeting exchanged views between the Board members and high-level policymakers to elaborate national PPP policy and assess the attractiveness of the proposed PPP project pipeline.

The Team of Specialists on PPP, established in 2008, held its second session in December. The other two Teams of Specialists (on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies and on Intellectual Property Rights) held a joint meeting within the fourth session of the Committee. The absence of formal sessions in 2009 and its temporary replacement by this common meeting reflected an early decision to reduce the amount of policy-oriented and normative work in view of the increased focus on capacity building activities. Moreover, the joint meeting was also an expression of the desire to encourage members of these Teams to work closely together on issues of common interest in order to develop a joint approach to policy issues and further improve synergies.

Activities carried out under the *United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)* also built on and developed further synergies under various areas of the subprogramme. The second session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, held in Bishkek in November, was followed by a *Regional Capacity-Building Seminar in the area of Financing on Innovative Enterprises, Commercialization of Intellectual Property and Public-Private Partnerships*. The seminar involved both learning components and elements of knowledge sharing and discussion of good practices among participants.

*The work carried out in the area of public-private partnerships contributed to further progress on the elaboration of training materials that will serve to address the strong demand for capacity building activities on these topics.*





The *SPECA Economic Forum on the Role of Subregional Cooperation in Mitigating the Consequences of the Global Economic Crisis* considered the impact of the crisis in the region, the different policy responses adopted and the importance of knowledge and innovation for a successful economic recovery.

Work continued in 2009 under the project on the development of sustainable biomass trade and export opportunities for selected regions of the Russian Federation, which promotes innovative solutions to address energy challenges through the development of enterprises that tap into the potential of alternative sources of renewables. Various capacity building activities were organized in a number of Russian regions under this project, which is linked with the broader work on innovation and enterprise development.

As part of the programme of publications, two new titles were added to its growing series of comparative reviews, compilations of good practices and guidebooks:

- *Enhancing the Innovative Performance of Firms. Policy Options and Practical Instruments*
- *Policy Options and Instruments for Financing Innovation. A Practical Guide to Early-Stage Financing.*

As in the past, these publications were prepared with the support of Teams of Specialists and networks of experts who contributed a wealth of national policy experiences to make possible the comparative approach that underpins the subprogramme's publications. In comparison with previous works, these new issues put a particular emphasis on practical aspects in a format that facilitates the consideration of options and the adoption of decisions by policymakers and other stakeholders.

## **The road ahead**

The teams of specialists and networks of experts will continue to identify good practices and policies in their respective areas. Increasingly this normative activity will have a more focused character and will be more closely connected with the production of training materials that can serve to facilitate capacity-building activities.

In the last year, the expansion of capacity-building activities has been made possible thanks to generous extrabudgetary support by donors, including from the private sector. Interagency cooperation and backing from private sector organizations have also been instrumental in organizing successful capacity-building events. The UNECE secretariat will develop further the partnerships that have emerged and explore new forms of collaboration with stakeholders to deliver high-quality capacity building activities that address the demands of member States.



# ENVIRONMENT

## Advancing environmental governance

The **Committee on Environmental Policy** has played a key role in responding to the main challenge in the region, namely improving environmental management, through the **Environmental Performance Review (EPR) programme**.

The EPR programme, now pursuing its second cycle of reviews, is currently focusing on UNECE member countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Uzbekistan was reviewed in spring 2009 for the second time and the report was peer-reviewed in autumn 2009. The final report, available in three languages (English, Russian and Uzbek), will be officially launched in 2010. Georgia was also reviewed in 2009; its report will be peer-reviewed in early 2010. Azerbaijan comes next: work was initiated with a pre-mission to the country by the secretariat in November 2009. The launch of the EPR of Kyrgyzstan took place in November 2009 and benefited from a broad audience comprising representatives of ministries, international organizations and NGOs.

The Ad Hoc Expert Group on EPR met twice in 2008 and was transformed into an open-ended working group to participate in the reviews of Committee members. The Committee also decided that interim reporting on the implementation of the recommendations by reviewed countries should be compulsory between the two reviews.

The **“Environment for Europe” (EfE) process** underwent a reform following a decision by its Sixth Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, October 2007). The Reform Plan was developed and approved by the Committee on Environmental Policy (January 2009) and subsequently endorsed by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-third session (March–April 2009). The reform’s main objectives are to strengthen the process’ effectiveness and to



ensure that it remains appropriate for and fully aligned with the environmental priorities, evolving political and economic landscape, and changing needs of the UNECE region. According to the adopted Reform Plan, the EfE process will continue to serve as a mechanism for: (a) improving the environment throughout the region; (b) enhancing the implementation of national environmental policies; (c) supporting the convergence of environmental policies and approaches with the prioritization of environmental objectives; (d) encouraging the participation of civil society and the private sector; and (e) promoting broad horizontal environmental cooperation.

The Committee on Environmental Policy commenced preparations for the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference (Astana, September–October 2011) on the basis of the agreed reform. At its sixteenth session (October 2009), the Committee decided on the two themes for the Conference agenda: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems; and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. The Committee agreed to establish a Steering Group to guide the preparation for the Astana Conference of a new assessment report that will mainly focus on gaps in existing environmental assessments and emerging needs and options for the future. During 2010, the Committee will develop and agree a detailed draft of the Conference agenda, as well as consider substantive and organizational matters related to the Conference.

## Improving environmental monitoring and assessment

At its tenth session (September 2009), the **Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment** held a round-table discussion on the latest developments in environmental monitoring and assessment. It also considered a number of issues related to the better sharing and use of environmental information and data. The Working Group will continue to focus on helping countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to strengthen their environmental information and observation capacities. In particular, it will accomplish this by (a) helping to develop national strategies that use air-quality monitoring as an environmental policy tool; (b) providing countries with practical guidance for effective monitoring and information management through the EPRs; (c) training monitoring experts and statisticians in indicator production; and (d) developing practical guidance on model enterprise monitoring programmes and

corporate environmental reports. An intersectoral Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators was established with the Conference of European Statisticians to examine methodological issues, with the main objective of training country state-of-the-environment experts and statisticians in using the Indicator Guidelines endorsed by the Fifth EfE Ministerial Conference (Kiev, May 2003). The Task Force held its first meeting in August–September 2009 and will meet twice more in 2010 to achieve its mandate.

## Implementing the multilateral environmental agreements


The **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)** continued to grow in 2009 with the accession of Montenegro, as well as numerous ratifications of the Convention's two amendments and of its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Protocol is expected to enter into force in 2010. But 2009 has been marked by the growing activity of the Convention's Implementation Committee, responsible for the review of Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention. The Committee has followed up on earlier decisions by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding compliance by Armenia and Ukraine. At the same time, the Committee has overseen an independent review of legal, administrative and other measures by Ukraine to implement the Convention's provisions.

The Committee has contacted a further nine Parties regarding information presented in the Convention's review of implementation; this has led to a Committee initiative to offer advice to Azerbaijan on how to implement the Convention in its national legislation. The newest approach available to the Committee for the compliance review is to investigate information from sources other than Parties, which it has now chosen to do on five occasions.

Work under the Convention is not limited to examining legal implementation, however. A task force has been established to examine the Convention's practical application in large-scale transboundary projects, building on States' rich experiences in applying the Convention to planned gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea. Also in 2009, a pilot project was initiated regarding a hydropower project in Belarus, with Lithuania as an affected Party, and an earlier pilot project involving Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan came to a successful close.

The **Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)** saw the entry into force of its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) on 8 October 2009. By the end of the year, a total of 21 countries were set to become Parties to the treaty. The Protocol requires firms to report annually on releases into the environment and transfers off-site of 86 pollutants, including greenhouse gases, dioxins and heavy metals such as mercury. The information will then be placed on a public register accessible through the Internet. Smaller, widespread sources such as traffic, agriculture and small- and medium-sized enterprises will also be captured in the national pollutant registers. Where registers already exist, public disclosure of information about pollutant releases has led companies to improve their environmental performance.

*The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) to the Aarhus Convention entered into force on 8 October 2009.*



In other areas of work under the Convention, the first meeting of a new Expert Group on Public Participation was held to exchange information and experience on implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation, as well as to advise on draft terms of reference of a future Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making. The Working Group of the Parties subsequently agreed on the draft terms of reference and established an expert group to draft a communication strategy for the Convention and the PRTR Protocol. The Task Forces on Public Participation in International Forums and on Access to Justice each held further meetings focused on promoting the Convention's objectives within their respective mandates. Work on compliance continued with the quarterly meetings of the Convention's Compliance Committee. The Committee reviewed an increasing number of communications regarding alleged non-compliance by Parties. It formulated findings and, where relevant, recommendations aimed to support efforts by the Parties in question to achieve full compliance.

*A revised POPs Protocol was adopted by the Convention's Executive Body in December 2009.*

**The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution** continued work on revising three of its protocols: the Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol. Negotiations advanced the furthest for the POPs Protocol: seven new pollutants will be added and targets for all of them renegotiated. A revised POPs Protocol was adopted by the Convention's Executive Body in December 2009. Revision of the two other protocols is slated for 2010 and 2011–2012. Studies by the Convention's scientific bodies are under way to produce the scientific basis needed

for policymaking decisions during the negotiations. 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 ratification. These more flexible mechanisms will aim at helping them to comply with the obligations and new targets, and also introducing best available technology to replace obsolete but still operational equipment. In 2009, a number of concrete assistance projects helped build the capacity of countries in transition; these were sponsored by donor countries in the region.

The Convention is working to revise its overall strategic framework. The strategies for the next 10 years of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, the Convention's two main scientific subsidiary bodies, were revised. At the same time, the Convention developed its own long-term strategy, which takes account of the many important developments at the regional and global scales that have occurred since the Convention was established 30 years ago. This required the Convention to reassess its position in a number of ways. The long-term strategy reaffirms the Convention's main priorities but also identifies the important emerging issues for the years to come. For instance, the fight against acidification is still relevant, as effects on lakes and rivers and their ecosystems are



still severe at many sites in Europe. Meanwhile, the continuing accumulation of nutrient nitrogen is causing serious eutrophication, leading to harmful changes to vegetation as well as reducing species richness. The detrimental effects of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and ozone emissions on human health are now proven. In particular, PM resulting from the burning of biomass, encouraged in Europe as an alternative energy resource, is significantly reducing life expectancy due to respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Reactive nitrogen, with its severe impacts on vegetation, is also a growing concern. A workshop on the links between air pollution and climate change (Gothenburg, Sweden, October 2009) identified a set of actions for the Convention to undertake, and drafted recommendations to the Executive Body to consider at its December 2009 session.

The Convention is also working to improve the implementation of its protocols. The Implementation Committee regularly reviews the Parties' compliance with their protocol obligations. These reviews are based on the emissions inventories that Parties regularly report to the EMEP Steering Body. The Implementation Committee verifies whether the targets are being met and helps non-compliant countries identify the reasons for their non-compliance and ways to correct the situation. This is done through a joint in-depth review of the country in question; for instance, in 2009 Spain underwent such a review.

Transboundary water cooperation in the UNECE region took a significant step forward at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** (Geneva, November 2009). The Meeting adopted the *Guide to Implementing the Convention*, a detailed commentary on the Convention that also features examples of good practices. The Guide is expected to be an important reference for Parties, non-Parties, partners and stakeholders, including those outside the UNECE region. The Meeting of the Parties decided to explore options for a mechanism to support implementation and compliance, to help Parties prevent or settle differences in interpretation and application of the Convention. The Meeting also adopted the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*, which describes step by step how to develop an adaptation strategy with a focus on the transboundary context. The Guidance will be put into practice through a programme of projects on the ground and the creation of a platform for exchanging experience.

*The Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change describes step by step how to develop an adaptation strategy.*



Parties also agreed on the workplan for 2010–2012 based on the three cornerstones of the Convention: compliance and implementation, assessment of progress, and capacity development and action on the ground, with activities at different levels (national, subregional and regional) and links with other water-related policy sectors (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, forests and wetlands management, energy and security). Finally, the Meeting of the Parties showed the firm intention to see that the 2003 amendments enter into force

by 2012 so that the Water Convention can be open to accession by any United Nations Member State. The participation of Mongolia and Afghanistan in the Meeting of the Parties demonstrated the interest present outside the region.

Work under the **Protocol on Water and Health** continued to focus on supporting Parties' implementation of the Protocol's core obligations, namely setting national-level targets in the areas of water supply and sanitation, health protection, and water management as well as establishing surveillance, early warning and response systems to outbreaks of water-related disease. Besides developing guidelines on these issues, a number of regional and subregional events helped to build countries' capacity. These included workshops on setting targets and reporting and on water safety in small-scale water supplies. Remarkable progress was also made with the Protocol's Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism, which coordinates international aid with project formulation.

The **Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** initiated its workplan for 2009–2010, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, November 2008). In January 2009, a task force was established to evaluate and revise the reporting format used under the Convention. The Bureau approved the new reporting format and the fifth reporting round was officially launched in September. Parties were requested to submit their reports by 31 January 2010. Work began on the development of indicators and criteria for the Assistance Programme's strategic approach. These indicators and criteria will enable the EECCA and SEE countries to make the strategic approach operational and to use it to implement the Convention. A specially designated task force started drafting a new long-term strategy for the Convention to be presented at the sixth Conference of the Parties in November 2010. Several activities under the Convention's Assistance Programme for countries in transition were successfully completed: (a) a training session on integrated approaches to major hazard prevention (February 2009) for all the countries participating in the Programme's implementation phase, and (b) a project on the joint management of transboundary emergencies involving spills of hazardous substances into the Danube, for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia. The latter included three workshops and a field exercise. Two awareness-raising missions took place under the Programme's preparatory phase: to Albania in May and to Bosnia and Herzegovina in September. In addition, Germany and Poland co-organized a field exercise on the Odra River. This was combined with a technical workshop on joint management of transboundary emergencies involving international watercourses in September 2009. Future work under the Convention will strengthen cooperation between UNECE countries prior, during and after crisis situations on waters resulting from industrial accidents.

## Promoting sustainable development

The **Fourth Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development** (Geneva, December 2009) discussed the progress made in the UNECE region with respect to implementing sustainable development goals in the areas of transport, waste and chemicals management, mining and the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns. It also addressed linkages between these thematic areas and a number of cross-cutting issues, and reviewed progress made with implementing the outcomes of the seventeenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 17). The Co-Chairs' summary of the meeting will serve as the regional input to the global review of progress in the above areas at CSD 18 (New York, May 2010).

The second phase of the **UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development** (2008–2010) is focusing on national activities in education for sustainable development (ESD), on reviewing progress made with implementation, and on developing educators' competences in ESD. At its fourth meeting in February 2009, the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD endorsed the indicator-based guidance on reporting by member States. The first mandatory reporting will take place in 2010 and is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of progress achieved and the challenges countries in the region face when implementing the Strategy at the national level. As educators' competence to introduce and deliver ESD is one of the major challenges identified by countries, the Steering Committee established an Expert Group on Competences in ESD. Over two years, the Group will develop a set of recommendations for policymakers and a range of core competences in ESD for educators. To continue the sharing of practical experience among countries, a new collection of good practices in addressing sustainable consumption, production and transportation through ESD was carried out, with over 50 such practices identified and made available on the website. On the administrative side, delays and the unpredictability of the programme's funding through voluntary contributions continue to pose challenges for the Strategy's regional activities. A joint fund-raising effort by member States and other stakeholders will therefore be crucial to ensuring the successful completion of the Strategy's second phase and the effective planning and implementation of its third phase.

The highlight of The Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was the Third High Level Meeting. Held in Amsterdam at the end of January 2009, its theme was "Making the link: transport choices for our health environment and prosperity" (see page 92).

*Educators' competence to introduce and deliver ESD is one of the major challenges identified by countries.*







# GENDER

## Working for gender equality

2009 has been an important and active year for gender activities at UNECE, both in terms of strengthening gender activities in the work of the Divisions and in terms of promoting gender mainstreaming in economic policies in the region. In addition, UNECE has continued to fulfil its role in advancing, within the region, the global agenda for gender equality by participating in interregional projects and activities in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women (UN-DESA), and other regional commissions, and by organizing and hosting a high-level conference for the 15-year regional review of the Beijing Platform for Action, held on 2-3 November.

### **Mainstreaming gender across UNECE areas of work**

A gender perspective has been introduced or further strengthened across UNECE areas of work, ranging from population ageing to transport, timber, land management, housing, and statistics.

#### *Gender statistics manual*

The Statistical Division launched a manual *Developing Gender Statistics: A Practical Tool* as part of the UNECE and World Bank Institute project on engendering national statistical systems. A draft version is available for comments on <http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/manual>. The manual will be available in print in English and Russian in 2010.

The manual contains an overview of the cross-cutting field of gender statistics and gender analysis and explains why we need gender statistics. The production, dissemination and use of gender statistics is described, including a close look at selected topics such as time

use, informal employment, unpaid work, decision-making, access to assets, gender-based violence and social exclusion

### *Combating violence against women*

In May 2009, a new project on “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities” was launched. Coordinated by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) the project aims to strengthen national and regional capacity to act on the prevention, sanction and eradication of violence against women through the use of enhanced statistical data and indicators of violence against women and increased knowledge-sharing at the regional and interregional levels. The Statistical Division is leading a project to develop and test a short module to enable the comparative measurement of violence against women.

### *Regional initiatives*

Much of 2009 was dedicated to the preparations for and the follow-up of the Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting.

#### **Beijing+15 Regional Review Meeting Geneva, 2-3 November 2009**

The UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+15) brought together over 350 representatives, including at ministerial level, from the 56 UNECE member States as well as from NGOs and international organizations to review the progress made during the past years in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women adopted in 1995.

It addressed new opportunities and challenges for gender equality in the UNECE region in the context of the economic crisis as well as longer term challenges faced by countries in the region. In particular, the following agenda items were discussed:

- Regional review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- Gender-sensitive economic policies in the context of the economic and financial crisis;
- Gender and the corporate sector; and
- New partnerships, networks and alliances for gender equality.

Based on national reports submitted by over 90 per cent of the UNECE member States in response to a Beijing+15 Questionnaire, the secretariat prepared a Regional Synthesis of progress and remaining challenges for gender equality in the region. The synthesis and additional background papers of the conference are available at: <http://www.unece.org/gender/Beijing15.html>.

The Meeting showed that while some progress has been achieved, especially regarding the criminalization of violence against women, significant challenges remain in all countries and areas of concern, notably with respect to the implementation of existing legislation. On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UNECE member States renewed their commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls that restrict their full participation in development processes. Participants emphasized that the achievement of gender equality is an essential condition for sustainable economic growth, and reaffirmed the centrality of gender equality for the universal achievement of all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this context, conference participants welcomed the forthcoming United Nations gender entity and called for its prompt establishment at both international and country level.

### *Strengthening national mechanisms for gender equality*

In May 2009 UNECE hosted the launch meeting of the UN-DESA coordinated project on Strengthening national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The project, which is implemented in cooperation with all regional commissions, aims at strengthening the collaboration and synergies between mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment across regions, and at increasing the capacity (skills and tools) of national mechanisms to collaborate at national and regional levels. Two expert group meetings were held in Geneva in May and November 2009 for the



first phase of the project, which aimed at establishing regional reports giving an overview on the diversity and functioning of national mechanisms for gender equality in each region. The two UNECE studies covering the Eastern and Western part of the UNECE region will be available in early 2010 and feed into a global synthesis report to be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women during the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary in 2010 of the adoption of the Platform for Action.

### *Measuring gender equality in the economy*

As part of the Interregional Development Account project on strengthening social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the MDGs, UNECE issued a report on "Measuring gender equality in the economy". This report looks at a number of different subject areas, ranging from poverty and access to resources to the labour market, education and social protection, and makes suggestions about possible indicators for each of these areas. In the light of this, it provides policymakers with a better understanding of progress towards equality between women and men.

### *A comprehensive platform for information and policy exchange – Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender*

In the framework of the same Development Account Project and in response to a widely expressed interest by policymakers and other stakeholders, UNECE is currently developing a Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender, a web portal dedicated to economic aspects of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in (economic) policies. It is meant to be a platform for exchange of experiences and good practices for our member States as well as a source of information and resources for a variety of interested stakeholders. It contains information by country (for all UNECE member States), by topic, about United Nations global processes such as the Beijing process and a resources section with a virtual library and useful links. The Knowledge Hub will be accessible from the UNECE gender website (<http://www.unece.org/gender>) in early 2010.

*The Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender will be a platform to exchange information, experiences and good practices.*



## Subregional initiatives

### *Enhancing women's entrepreneurship in South-East Europe and Central Asia*

In the first part of 2009 UNECE developed, in collaboration with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), a project proposal aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs in South-East European countries who intend to expand their activities and look for regional cooperation in order to mitigate the risks put by the latest economic and financial crisis. The project tackles three main obstacles faced by women entrepreneurs of this region: lack of networking opportunities, difficult access to credit, and lack of specific knowledge and skills. In October 2009 the project proposal was presented at the RCC regional kick-off meeting in Sarajevo where it was agreed that UNECE would support the Turkish Government in organizing a Forum on Women Entrepreneurship in the first part of 2010 under Turkey's chairmanship of the South-East European Cooperation Process.

In addition, in 2009 UNECE has continued the successful cooperation with the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) in Haifa and the Center for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV) in providing capacity-building training workshops for women entrepreneurs in Central Asia. As part of our activities in support of women's entrepreneurship in the region, two workshops were held in 2009, the last in December 2009 on "Women Entrepreneurs and ICTs". Workshops are designed for professional women in the field of management, marketing, promotion, training and supervision, as well as for women working in NGOs or women's organizations for business support and development, and women running small businesses.

### *Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia*

To strengthen mainstreaming gender in the subregional cooperation, a meeting of the Working Group on Gender and Economy within SPECA was held in November. Participants discussed national experiences in gender-sensitive economic policies, focusing on the

impact of the global financial and economic crisis on their economies and in particular on gender equality. They also reviewed some of the main findings of the Development Account Project on gender-sensitive statistics and a presentation of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender. The key priorities identified for 2010-2011 include raising awareness among all stakeholders on gender and economy issues including advocacy campaigns and exchanging good practices in mainstreaming gender into economic policies; further development of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender and the methodology and application of gender-disaggregated data; support of women's entrepreneurship through training and capacity-building seminars.

## Challenges for 2010

The activities on gender and economy will continue to focus on mainstreaming gender in UNECE activities through strengthening gender aspects in the work of the sectoral committees as well as broadening the scope of the regional dialogue. Other key challenges include:

- further development and launch of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender;
- establishment/continuation of cooperation with other institutions, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), OSCE, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNDP;
- continued engagement in interregional cooperation;
- reactivation of the SPECA Working Group on Gender and the Economy through capacity-building activities in gender-responsive budgeting and economic literacy as well as support to national statistical offices for developing gender-sensitive indicators;
- promotion of women's entrepreneurship in South-East Europe; and
- continued development of the UNECE gender website.





# HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

## Rethinking housing supply and land development

The work of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and its Working Party on Land Administration focused on a number of topics of particular relevance to the region's socio-economic and environmental agenda. These included energy efficiency in housing, climate neutrality in cities and the global financial crisis as it relates to the real estate sector.

One key issue for the Committee was the potential for energy savings and reduced carbon emissions offered by the housing sector. The building sector is responsible for over one third of the region's total final energy consumption. Much of this energy is used by the residential sector (according to some estimates, an average of 40 per cent of total final consumption). Demographic, economic and cultural changes are further increasing housing's pressure on energy use and are accompanied by even higher levels of related greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is the building sector – and particularly the residential sector – that can generate some of the greatest energy savings compared with other energy uses. A seminar on Energy Efficiency in Housing (Sofia, spring 2009) discussed the importance of energy efficiency in housing and its connections with contemporary socio-economic and environmental challenges, summarizing the benefits offered by effective policy. These included improved policies on energy availability, energy security and political stability; savings on operating costs for the tenants; the regeneration of the built environment; and social and health measures to mitigate social exclusion and inequality.

*The building sector, responsible for over 1/3 of the region's energy consumption, can generate some of the greatest energy savings.*





In line with the work on energy efficiency, a seminar on Climate Neutral Cities was held at the Committee's seventieth session. Delegates emphasized how important the building sector is to the reduction of carbon emissions, which merits inclusion in national plans. Successful attempts to reduce carbon emissions in cities through adequate and sustainable transport, urban planning and urban forests were also discussed. The Committee agreed to develop a study to identify means and tools for climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities. The study will develop recommendations and guidelines for policymakers, practitioners and the general public. It will cover the whole topic of "urban systems", including housing, buildings and land use management, and will also touch upon transportation, waste management and green areas.

The publication *Green Homes: Towards energy-efficient housing in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region* was published after the seminar and launched during the UNECE international forum on energy efficiency (Vienna, November 2009). The study argues that diffusion of energy-efficient technology in housing is low and that much of the related business potential remains untapped. Rationalizing energy use in housing, however, could contribute to resolving today's global problems of climate change, energy security and fuel poverty. The Vienna forum also considered possible measures to enhance energy efficiency in the region and contributed to an Action Plan on the topic, to be adopted by member States.

The work of the Committee and the Working Party on Land Administration focused on global challenges related to the current world financial crisis. According to experts, the origins of the crisis are linked to speculative behaviour in the real estate sector. The financial crisis has created real output loss in many countries and affected the well-being of millions of families through increased unemployment. Over the last year, the newly established Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) has developed a series of principles for sustainable real estate markets, with a focus on transparency and the harmonization of valuation standards and risk assessment techniques. The Advisory Group organized an international forum (Rome, spring 2009) where these principles were discussed.

The effects of rapid and uncontrolled urbanization were highlighted in a joint publication by the Committee and the Working Party: *Self-Made Cities*, the first comprehensive study of the phenomenon of informal settlements in the UNECE region. It is estimated that more than 50 million people in over 15 countries live in informal settlements. Residents of informal settlements generally lack legal rights to land and the homes in which they live. Units often lack basic facilities such as running water and sanitation. The study addresses the question of informal settlements as a multi-faceted challenge that calls

for cross-sectoral cooperation among government authorities. Some general guidelines are proposed which include proactive housing national policies that address social inequalities, easier access to housing financing, and improved coordination between land administration and planning authorities. The Committee addressed other issues related to housing affordability and social exclusion in a workshop on homelessness (Oslo, spring 2009) hosted by the Norwegian State Housing Bank.

Policy advice on issues such as informal settlements, housing affordability, urban planning, and land management and administration continues to be provided to individual member States through the Land Administration Reviews and the Country Profiles on the Housing Sector. These studies have successfully helped countries develop adequate legislation, initiate projects, provide background information for urban development, analyse the real estate sector and develop adequate financial tools. In particular, a Land Administration Review of Bulgaria was finalized and launched during a workshop on data management in Sofia in spring 2009. Country Profiles on the housing sectors of Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan are currently being finalized; the next profile will be undertaken in Tajikistan in 2010, in conjunction with a Land Administration Review of that country.

*Country Profiles on the Housing Sector have helped countries develop adequate legislation, initiate projects and develop adequate financial tools.*

Finally, the Committee carried out projects in the areas of outreach and communications. One such project, with United Nations Television, is preparing a short documentary to showcase effective measures to reduce energy consumption in cities.

## **Challenges for 2010**

In 2010, the Committee will address the topic of construction and building safety, including measures to adapt to natural disasters. In spite of the existence of advanced technologies, in many countries weak institutional, legal, and financial frameworks hinder proper application of security norms and techniques in this area. A conference will be held in Baku in spring 2010 to discuss policy solutions.

The REM Advisory Group will address the potential of real estate markets to contribute to the consolidation of a green global economy. Policy alternatives will be discussed by the Advisory Group at an event in spring 2010 in Dessau, Germany, to be hosted by the Federal Environmental Agency of Germany.

The Working Party on Land Administration will organize several workshops in 2010: in Baku, to address transparency and public access to information on land and real estate; in Minsk, to examine e-government reforms of land administration systems; and in Antalya, Turkey, on the role of spatial planning to promote security of tenure. The Committee will also tackle issues related to spatial planning at an event to be hosted by the Czech Republic in late spring 2010.

Given the relevance of the issues covered by the Committee and the Working Party to a number of regional and global challenges, the Committee's next session (September 2010) will include a ministerial segment. Ministers will be called upon to adopt the UNECE Action Plan on energy efficiency in housing and to decide upon the future work of the Committee.



## Climate neutral cities: An oxymoron or an opportunity to enhance urban sustainability?<sup>1</sup>

While cities are responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimates vary widely as to their share, from approximately 20 per cent (with roads accounting for 9.9 per cent and residential buildings for another 9.9 per cent<sup>2</sup>) to 40 per cent<sup>3</sup>. Other estimates range as high as 75–80 per cent<sup>4</sup>.

In the long run, it is also estimated that economic losses will result from increased heat waves, floods, storms and coastal erosion in many urban areas. Many organizations, scholars and climate change experts agree that the potential economic loss could be around 5–10 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>5</sup>, with poor countries suffering the most. In general, across the UNECE region infrastructure damage costs, for instance, will increase substantially due to climate change mitigation and adaptation (Deda and Georgiadis 2009).

<sup>1</sup> By Paola Deda and Marco Keiner. Based on documents prepared by the authors for the seventieth session of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.

<sup>2</sup> World Resource Institute (WRI)-Climate Analysis Indicators Tools (CAIT).

<sup>3</sup> According to recent estimates by the International Institute for Environment and Development. See Satterthwaite 2008.

<sup>4</sup> See the Clinton Climate Initiative estimates as well as the data reported by the Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in her speech to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, Paul Dickinson, the Carbon Disclosure Project.

<sup>5</sup> Stern 2007.

Despite the differing estimates on contributions to GHG emissions, authors concur both that cities will be heavily impacted by the consequences of climate change and that they are an important part of the solution. The climate, energy and financial crises may offer opportunities to rethink current development patterns and building practices.

As of today, “climate neutral cities” sounds more like an oxymoron than an achievable goal. However, certain steps have been taken by several cities (London, Paris, Moscow and Frankfurt, among others) to reduce GHG emissions, and mechanisms are being identified at the urban scale to offset currently unavoidable emissions. Being climate neutral is the goal to which all urban areas should aspire, including the identification of trade-off mechanisms that, even if some emissions would remain unavoidable, would bring the final overall balance to zero.

Climate neutrality, however, is not simply a means to reduce global warming, it is also a way to address some of those environmental, economic and social challenges that are part of the broader sustainability agenda for urban areas. This will make individual benefits obtainable, such as reduced costs, increased living comfort and improved health.

The sustainable development agenda, as agreed in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992, was translated by local authorities and guided by the Local Agenda 21 document in a range of different actions globally to enhance economic, social and/or environmental performance of urban areas. Since the release of the Bruntland report<sup>6</sup>, however, sustainable development has been interpreted by many according to their own specific interests. As a result, while the term has become widely recognized, acceptable and used, it has also lost its integrity as a political concept (Keiner 2005). This has also resulted in a lack of clear indicators for measuring sustainable goals and a lack of clear targets for action.

Despite the associated lengthy negotiations to agree on commitments, the scenario at the international level and the collective global goals are quite clear: the overall reduction of GHG emissions is necessary to halt global warming.

The clear target of climate neutrality therefore must be pursued within a framework of balanced actions that also address economic, social and development problems and do not simply “relocate” the problem elsewhere. Thus climate neutrality in cities should be seen as a strategic goal whose tools and actions will trigger beneficial effects for several sectors, and for the community as a whole as well as for individuals. Efforts should be geographically focused, allowing for a local balance of emissions and their management.



*Cities will be heavily impacted by the consequences of climate change but are also an important part of the solution.*

<sup>6</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987.

GHG emission reductions will have to be made in key sectors, including building and spatial planning, transport planning and infrastructure. The sectors that could most contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions are found in the urban sphere. For instance, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)<sup>7</sup> estimates that there is a potential to reduce approximately 29 per cent of the projected baseline emissions by 2020 in the residential and commercial sectors.

### *The benefits of going climate neutral in cities*

In the context of the contemporary crises the world is facing, the transition to reduced emissions could bring benefits in three basic ways:

- Direct benefits to climate, by reducing GHG emissions;
- Direct and indirect economic, ecological and collective benefits to society and the overall sustainability of the city (the right mix of policy actions can at the same time stimulate economic recovery and improve the sustainability of the environment). In particular, in developed countries there are major economic policies emerging that seek to improve energy efficiency and conservation, to increase the use of cleaner energy, to make the transport sector more efficient and environmentally sound, and to create new jobs and boost certain economic sectors in the short term (UNEP 2009);
- Direct and indirect benefits to the individual citizens and their welfare. For instance, enhanced energy performance in homes results in reduced bills and increased comfort for households, with direct benefits on the overall income and indirect benefits on health and living conditions (see table).

*There is a potential to reduce approximately 29% of the projected emissions by 2020 in the residential and commercial sectors.*

At the same time, in the UNECE region there are considerable disparities that need to be addressed. Given these disparities, there is no “one size fits all” solution, but rather a range of possibilities for UNECE member States that need to be adapted to countries’ specific stages of socio-economic development as well as to their political and cultural heritage.

Although much progress has been made recently in terms of energy efficiency, the existing situation in all UNECE countries leaves much room for improvement. Even those member States that are considered to be advanced in terms of building standards are far from fully realizing the sector’s potential. Transition countries in particular lag behind, with their housing being characterized by low energy efficiency (especially the panel-built houses dating from the 1960s–1980s). A specific

challenge for these countries is overcoming the “energy efficiency trap”, the situation in which countries with lower energy efficiency are unable to change due to the lack of funds, experience, technology, adequate institutions and initiative (UNECE 2009a).

<sup>7</sup> IPCC 2007.

Policy	Tools	Environmental sustainability	Overall sustainability (including welfare and health gains)
<b>Energy efficiency in building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low-energy appliances</li> <li>Use of sustainable construction materials and construction methods</li> <li>Better insulation</li> <li>Use of renewable energy sources</li> <li>Effective heating/cooling system (including passive housing)</li> <li>Optimize the life cycle of buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing GHG emissions from buildings: 29 per cent estimate by IPCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced use of energy consumption</li> <li>Better living conditions: increased housing comfort and better air quality</li> <li>Substitution of fossil fuel energy sources by renewables</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase public transport opportunities</li> <li>Encourage investment in renewable fuels</li> <li>Promote cycling and walking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less GHG emissions from reduced traffic</li> <li>Reduced pollution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competitive gain from reduced expenditures and time in transport</li> <li>Less money spent on transport</li> <li>Health gains from healthier lifestyles</li> <li>Time-saving: better quality of mobility</li> </ul>
<b>Urban greenspace</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban forest/urban agriculture</li> <li>Greening roofs in areas with a high proportion of buildings</li> <li>Green public space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absorb emissions of carbon dioxide</li> <li>Enable evaporative cooling</li> <li>Increase biodiversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better living conditions: increased recreational opportunities and a healthier environment</li> <li>Reduced heat island effect</li> <li>Conserve natural ecosystem value and biodiversity</li> </ul>
<b>Reduce urban sprawl (neighbourhood planning)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected open space</li> <li>Smart growth</li> <li>Greenbelts</li> <li>Densification: encourage polycentrism</li> <li>Mixed land use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce emission from buildings</li> <li>Diminish the need for individual transport</li> <li>Preserve green areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve city "efficiency" and competitive gain</li> <li>Reduce the formation of unsustainable informal settlements</li> <li>Socially functional city: encourage social integration</li> <li>Create living communities</li> </ul>
<b>Manage urban infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control waste management: create waste-to-energy systems at landfills</li> <li>Improve water distribution systems and leak management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect water sources from pollution</li> <li>Reduce pollution from waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better water for human consumption</li> <li>Improved living and sanitary conditions</li> <li>Save money</li> </ul>
<b>Adaptation to climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovation of buildings to increase their resilience to natural events and isolation from heat</li> <li>Extensive use of land management tools and urban planning to avoid/limit effects of natural disasters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased resilience to impacts of climate (natural disasters, storms, floods)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety of citizens</li> <li>Reduced costs of impacts (prevention) for reconstruction</li> </ul>

## *Planning for the climate neutral city.*

Most existing programmes and projects to reduce emissions in urban areas have been developed at the local level. Local authorities have a clear understanding of local needs and opportunities and can facilitate the implementation of small-scale projects as well as lobby national Governments to implement projects at the national scale<sup>8</sup>.

Land-use planning for climate neutral cities includes policies, projects and plans for urban green space<sup>9</sup>, natural areas and biodiversity to mitigate climate change in urban areas. The need for a healthy balance between the built and natural environments has noble historical precedents, already being formalized in the nineteenth century (e.g. the London greenbelt). Green infrastructures have, however, assumed added value in the planning practice as tools to reduce carbon dependency and provide ecosystem services such as cooler microclimates and the reduction of surface water run-off, thereby increasing cities' potential to adapt to climate change. Green roofs have been shown to reduce the urban heat island phenomenon and to help mitigate climate change by sinking carbon and providing cooler indoor temperatures, thus necessitating less artificial cooling<sup>10</sup>. Urban forests are also considered one of the key instruments to curb the effects of GHGs, and an increasing number of cities are launching plans and actions to enhance the size of the urban canopy and to introduce urban agriculture.

*“Smart growth” policies have been identified as a solution to optimize city density and reduce urban sprawl, thus reducing emissions.*

“Smart growth” policies have also been identified as a solution to optimize city density and forms to reduce urban sprawl, thus contributing to reduced GHGs. Again, policies to increase urban densities and to make cities more compact are not a direct result of the climate quest. They predate the international attention to global warming and were initiated as part of the larger sustainability agenda, to make urban spaces socially cohesive and to combat the uncontrolled urbanization of city boundaries that leads to long commutes to city centres and consequent exponential increases in urban traffic and the use of cars. “Smart growth” policies do respond effectively to the current need to reduce emissions, however, as they prevent urban sprawl and promote efficient public transport systems as well as pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly urban design, in turn reducing the need for cars and thus emissions from transport<sup>11</sup>.

Measures to reduce unsustainable uses of land, including the formation of informal settlements, support the rationale of “smart growth” and also address specific problems related to development in the region. As a recent UNECE study<sup>12</sup> has highlighted, the rapid urban growth of many post-socialist countries has led to the low-density urbanization of suburbs. This is coupled with a tendency of all urban areas in the region to develop residential areas at the outskirts of cities, where affordable land is available. The rapid and often illegal “colonization” of peri-urban areas has led in some cases to a complete lack of infrastructure, low-quality settlements and poor living conditions. City governments often decide to “upgrade” new settlements and to include them in the urban tissue, thus

<sup>8</sup> Bukeley and Betsill 2005.

<sup>9</sup> Gill et al. 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Laukkonen et al. 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Chatterjee 2009.

<sup>12</sup> UNECE 2009b.





extending urban boundaries well beyond the central areas where urban life usually takes place. Whether these phenomena are the outcome of legalization processes of poor informal settlements or the authorized and planned construction of suburban middle-class villages, they result in the increased use of land, deforestation and unsustainable mobility patterns, all contributing to increased emissions. Land use policies to limit land use change, both at the urban and regional scales, should be developed and mutually coordinated.

Infrastructure planning is another strategic component of urban performance: one of the key elements is the choice of transport means and modalities. Transport planning for climate neutral cities includes interconnected steps. The first key step is the development of alternative solutions such as non-motorized transport systems, the increased use of public transport and incentives for the decreased use of cars, the main emitters of carbon dioxide. Numerous initiatives exist at the urban scale in many UNECE countries to reduce the use of the private automobile, or if its use is indispensable, to make it more efficient (e.g. through carpooling, park and ride, etc.). The use of alternative means of transport will have immediate and quantifiable effects on urban pollution and GHG emissions. Alternative transport systems, however, go hand in hand with supporting city planning strategies, promoting cycling and making space for increased public transport.

The second step is the use of clean energies and hybrid technologies for city buses and municipal vehicles. While planning can make the case for alternative and additional transport modes, technology can pave the way for less polluting vehicles. This step is strictly interrelated with the previous one, for if clean energies are not part of the increased fleet of public (and private) vehicles, urban planning alone cannot reduce the contribution of traffic to emissions. While in many western countries in the UNECE region – in particular due to European Union (EU) regulations – vehicles are following agreed energy standards, both the public and private vehicle fleets in several countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe are still characterized by poor performance, highly polluting engines and obsolescence.

Traffic can also be reduced through urban design that encourages more sustainable choices. Measures in this direction, strictly linked to “smart growth” theories, promote an increase in, inter alia, public spaces that are pedestrian-friendly as well as making different services available around main neighbourhood centres and nodes of public transport. Disincentives to car use (e.g. traffic calming or deviations) can also discourage cars in the proximity of urban centres when the same locations can be reached via public transport or walking/cycling.

*Traffic in cities can be reduced through urban designs that encourage more sustainable choices.*

### **Building the climate neutral city**

Buildings alone represent a very high percentage of GHG emissions; most emissions occur during the use stage of the building, with construction and demolition accounting for only 10–20 per cent of total emissions<sup>13</sup>. Due to their energy consumption, buildings account for a considerable proportion of carbon dioxide emissions. In the UNECE countries, the main sources of energy in the building sector are electricity, district

<sup>13</sup> See the UNEP Climate Neutral Network: [http://www.climateneutral.unep.org/cnn\\_contentdetail.aspx?m=96&amid=234](http://www.climateneutral.unep.org/cnn_contentdetail.aspx?m=96&amid=234).





heat (especially in EECCA) and natural gas. This entails both (a) direct carbon dioxide emissions from the building sector via the “on-site” combustion of fossil fuel, and (b) indirect (upstream) emissions via the demand for electricity and district heat. Upstream emissions are dominant in the UNECE countries.

In the region, buildings are responsible for over one third of total final energy consumption. By and large, this energy is used by the residential sector (20–30 per cent of the total final consumption on average). Demographic, economic and cultural changes further increase the pressure of housing on energy use and are accompanied by even higher levels of related GHG emissions. However, it is the building sector – and particularly the residential sector – which can generate some of the greatest energy savings when compared to other energy users (UNECE 2009a).

Energy efficiency in housing is therefore one of the main areas for policy intervention. Improved energy efficiency in housing is defined as successful efforts to reduce the energy intensity of the residential services without compromising the well-being of residents or the environment. In addition, an increased use of renewables should cover any consumption that cannot be covered by energy savings efforts. Conversely, a housing sector with relatively excessive energy consumption, environmental pollution and/or problems with energy affordability cannot be considered as efficient.

In general, policies in housing encompass a wide range of measures: from technical solutions such as low-energy housing, to passive housing, to new standards for energy-efficient buildings, to increased use of renewable energy, to energy audits and retrofitting programmes for municipal and private buildings. There is a need for greater awareness of the building sector’s potential as an accessible and efficient avenue for reducing GHG emissions<sup>14</sup>. The problem is similar in both developed States and countries with economies in transition, and the solution is at hand: technologies that can reduce buildings’ energy consumption by between 30 and 50 per cent without greatly increasing investment costs. Over the long term, these investments can effectively pay for themselves through lower energy bills. An increased global focus on energy-efficient housing would promote the sharing of trade and technology between countries as well as generate employment and promote better living conditions in member States. Virtually all countries have the potential to reduce their energy consumption in the housing sector through regulatory and financial instruments. Furthermore, it would be relatively easy to measure and monitor

<sup>14</sup> See the letter sent by the Chairperson to Committee members, July 2009.

countries' progress vis-à-vis energy-efficient housing through universal metrics and standards.

In addition to energy efficiency, it is overall building performance that can also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of a building. Indeed, emissions from buildings are not only due to their direct energy consumption. The overall impact is also linked to their environmental performance, including their life cycles – although, as noted above, most emissions occur in the use stage.

It is thus important to optimize the life cycles of buildings and to reduce their environmental, social and economic impacts during their lifespans<sup>15</sup>. In particular for new construction, it is important to assess and address the impacts of construction, from the extraction/removal or production of building materials to their transport and final installation. Several of these steps have a high environmental impact and the activities are serious emitters of GHGs. Production of concrete, deforestation, use of energy in steel manufacturing industries and transport of raw and final products, for instance, are some of the activities that, before the building is in existence, have already contributed to its carbon footprint.

Along these lines, the choice of materials for both construction and refurbishment is a key element of the carbon balance of a building as well as of its overall sustainability. Although different technologies have been identified to reduce the climate footprint of different building materials (e.g. recycled concrete), in general the suggested policy is to use, as much as possible, locally available materials. In addition to the usual better performance of local materials vis-à-vis local climatic conditions and the biological setting, local materials drastically reduce transportation costs. The potential for the material to reduce carbon dependency by storing carbon (e.g. in timber) should also be considered.

Another aspect of the life cycle of a building is its lifelong maintenance. In many UNECE countries, maintenance has become the most pressing challenge, as privatization has led to more individualistic attitudes to property and a lack of interest in and attention paid to the maintenance of common spaces. In particular in multifamily buildings, leaks, lack of proper insulation and individual and scattered restorations have not improved buildings' overall performance. Proper maintenance is urgently needed to reduce heating loss and to increase both energy efficiency and overall environmental performance. The use of alternative technologies, such as photovoltaic and geothermal heating panels, should also be considered.

In many cases, the UNECE region has reached a high level of environmental performance with its buildings. Examples can be seen in particular in North America and Western Europe of buildings with high environmental performance, often called "green buildings". Although there is no single definition, the concept emphasizes the importance of overall reduced environmental impacts achieved through the use of sustainable technologies



*Proper maintenance is needed to reduce heating loss and increase energy efficiency and overall environmental performance.*

<sup>15</sup> See the UNEP Sustainable Building and Construction Initiative, available online at: <http://www.unepsbci.org/>.

and materials. Green building also underlines the relevance of new and alternative construction techniques that can boost the housing sector. It can be seen as an important element of a “green new deal” that, while curbing the negative impacts of phenomena such as climate change and environmental degradation, can create new jobs and help retool the economy.

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# POPULATION

## Defining policies on ageing

The work of UNECE addresses various population-related policy challenges. The projected acceleration of population ageing in many countries in the coming 5 to 10 years is further increasing the need for informed policy responses. Issues such as changes in family patterns, intergenerational and gender relations and below-replacement or very low levels of fertility also have important implications for many areas of public policy. All this was reflected in UNECE work on population in 2009.

UNECE work on ageing is guided by its Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and is carried out by the **Working Group on Ageing**. To help member States find appropriate policy responses, the Working Group has launched a series of Policy Briefs on Ageing. Drawing upon insights from the latest research, the Policy Briefs highlight strategies for policymakers and provide good practice examples from the variety of policy contexts in the UNECE region. Members of the Working Group submitted more than 50 descriptions of specific ageing-related policies and programmes for potential inclusion in the Briefs. The series opened this year with four Policy Briefs on (a) mainstreaming ageing, (b) gender equality, work and old age, (c) older persons as consumers, and (d) participation and integration of older persons. Two further Briefs, on lifelong learning and health promotion, were presented and discussed at the Working Group's annual meeting and will be finalized in the same way.

Progress in implementing the Regional Strategy for the Madrid Plan on Ageing needs to be monitored with indicators that capture its essential aspects. Activities connected with these indicators include collecting the data from national and international sources and disseminating easy-to-understand information about the indicators. For this, the Working



Group is relying on the scientific and technical support of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, currently working in partnership with UNECE. In 2009, data was collected and updated in areas where a set of selected indicators have already been agreed: (a) demography, (b) income and wealth, (c) the labour market, and (d) social protection and financial sustainability. Results of the work, including the preparation of sets of gender-specific mainstreaming ageing indicators and long-term care indicators, were presented and discussed at the annual Working Group meeting. The website <http://www.monitoringRIS.org>, which offers information on the Strategy's monitoring, was recently upgraded.

Many countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia are either currently framing policies in response to population ageing or are just starting to consider their options. These States can particularly benefit from learning from other countries that already have experience in this area. In the general aim of enhancing national capacities, the Working Group is promoting mainstreaming ageing as well as participatory and evidence-based approaches to the design of ageing-related policies and programmes. Activities in 2009 included the development of the Road Map for Mainstreaming Ageing, a practical project that offers guidance in formulating ageing-related policy to countries in need. At the request of Armenia, the project was first carried out in that country. As it coincided with the development of a national sustainable development strategy that includes a component on ageing and older persons as well as a the corresponding action plan, the Armenian Road Map project was tailored to have the strategy and action plan as outputs. It was implemented by a team of international and local experts, and the outputs are being circulated for review by stakeholders before endorsement by the Government.

For its activities, the Working Group on Ageing needs voluntary contributions from member States, financial support from donors such as the European Commission and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and partnerships with organizations such as the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and the International Institute on Ageing. UNECE is working to attract contributions and strengthen the partnerships.

Sustainable responses to policy challenges require that the causes and consequences of demographic developments be understood and explained. To this end, UNECE coordinates the **Generations and Gender Programme (GGP)**, which pursues data collection and research. GGP tackles issues such as low birth rates, the reconciliation of career and family, the integration of young people in society, solidarity within and between generations, and gender equality. The data are collected in Generations and Gender Surveys from nationally representative samples of population aged 18–79, with two follow-up surveys at three-year intervals. The GGP Contextual Database



complements these data with macro-level information on policies and other aggregate indicators. The analyses link factors that operate on the individual and household levels with the aggregate indicators and policies at the country level. This allows for explanatory, policy-relevant insights that cannot be achieved using other sources. At the Conference on “How Generations and Gender Shape Demographic Change – Towards Policies Based on Better Knowledge” (Geneva, 2008), UNECE brought together the research community and policymakers to discuss implications of new research findings on policymaking. The Conference proceedings, published this year, address key challenges in policy areas related to family and reproductive behaviour as well as intergenerational and gender relationships. They reflect advances in knowledge in these areas and provide guidance on the use of such knowledge in policymaking.

Over the last two years, more than 100 international research projects were launched based on GGP data. Several are designed to support policymaking through new insights into how changing social contexts are affecting social integration and intergenerational solidarity in different European countries. Relying on this research and on the examples of policies and programmes from UNECE countries, the Working Group on Ageing held an in-depth discussion at its annual meeting on intergenerational relationships in ageing societies. This discussion and the related upcoming publication are expected to enhance our understanding of the key challenges and available policy options pertaining to intergenerational relationships.

*Over the last two years, more than 100 international research projects were launched based on GGP data.*

The main challenges GGP is currently facing are (a) promoting the use of its analytic outputs in policy discussion, (b) shortening the time from data collection in participating countries to the availability of harmonized micro-data for international use, and (c) increasing the number of participating countries. Support from the European Commission is helping the Programme to meet these challenges.





## SPECA

### Jointly addressing regional challenges

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), was founded by the Presidents of five Central Asian States and the United Nations Secretary-General in 1998 by the Tashkent Declaration. Today it counts seven members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNECE and UNESCAP provide support to SPECA.

Following the 2004 initiative by the Secretary-General on strengthening SPECA, the “International conference on subregional cooperation in Central Asia and the future role of SPECA” in May 2005 in Astana adopted decisions on the comprehensive reform of the Programme. Among others, the number of Project Working Groups increased from two to six (on Water and Energy, Transport and Border Crossing, Trade, Statistics, Knowledge Based Development, and Gender and Economy). The system of biannual work plans was introduced and it was decided to organize SPECA Economic Forum meetings in conjunction with sessions of the highest decision-making body of the Programme, the Governing Council.

The 2009 SPECA Governing Council that took place on 13 November in Bishkek offered a good opportunity for member States to look back and review the progress made since the 2005 reform decisions, and give further guidance to UNECE and UNESCAP.

The Governing Council took note with satisfaction that the number of projects implemented by Project Working Groups had been steadily increasing. While in 2003-2004 less than half a dozen projects were implemented in the SPECA framework, the 2005-2007 tri-annual Work Plan contained 17 projects with assured or expected funding and 11 projects without



assured funding, while the 2008-2009 Work Plan included 52 projects, over half of them with assured or expected funding. Some \$4–4.5 million were spent by the two regional commissions on projects and advisory missions implemented in the SPECA framework in 2008-2009.

The 2010-2011 SPECA Work Plan presented to the Governing Council contained 54 projects, of which 35 had secured or expected funding. The total budget of projects with secured or expected funding exceeds \$10 million, more than twice the amount for the previous biennium.

*SPECA was praised by member States not only for the impressive growth of resources for project implementation but also for its effectiveness and impact.*

SPECA was praised by member States not only for the impressive growth of resources for project implementation but also for its effectiveness and impact. The majority of SPECA projects build the capacity of member States to accede to and implement UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards, and as a rule are funded by extrabudgetary contributions. SPECA projects rely on the sometimes unique in-house expertise of the two regional commissions and a solid network of local policymakers and experts.

Member States evaluated highly the substantial strategic discussions on key issues of regional cooperation that had taken place during the SPECA Economic Forums. The 2009 Economic Forum in Bishkek examined the role of subregional cooperation in mitigating the consequences of the global economic crisis. It resulted in several recommendations on future capacity-building activities in the SPECA framework.

Concrete results of strengthened cooperation between SPECA and other programmes, organizations and institutions were acknowledged with satisfaction by the Governing Council. The two regional commissions regularly coordinate their activities with other members of the United Nations family, among them UNDP, UNEP, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Ashgabat. UNECE and UNESCAP participate in the work of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Partnership Forums, send their representatives to the CAREC Ministerial and sometimes to Sector Coordination Committee meetings, in order to explore opportunities for cooperation with members of the CAREC Group: Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, EBRD, Islamic Development Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and UNDP. CAREC, on its part, participated in several SPECA Economic Forum and Governing Council meetings. UNECE works closely, including on joint project implementation, with several members of the CAREC Group, in particular the World Bank and UNDP.

SPECA member States expressed their full support for the “Implementation Proposal” for the Cooperation Framework between the regional commissions and UNDP signed in 2007. The “Implementation Proposal” detailed modalities and areas of cooperation between SPECA and UNDP. UNECE and UNESCAP also plan to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Fund for the Saving of the Aral Sea (IFAS) signed in 2004, which expired in 2009.





The two regional commissions have built a relationship of trust with policymakers and experts of SPECA member States. Their expertise and impartiality is recognized by Governments. UNECE – thanks to the Water Convention and the institutional and expert support it offers to Parties and non-Parties alike (including the newly adopted Implementation Guide and on-going work on climate change) – is in a particularly good position to address institutional and legal issues in Central Asia, as well as emerging challenges. National Policy Dialogues, supported by UNECE in the framework of the European Union Water Initiative, complement regional programmes. It has built a solid basis for an active involvement in areas of strategic importance for Central Asia, like the water and energy nexus. UNECE is implementing a three-year \$2 million programme on “Dialogue and cooperation on water resources management in Central Asia”, funded by the German Foreign Office through GTZ in the framework of the Berlin Process, which is part of the Water and Energy Pillar of the Central Asia Strategy of the European Union.

The programme aims at strengthening regional institutions and modernizing legal frameworks for regional water resources management, as well as supporting the elaboration of the Third Aral Sea Basin Program, a key framework for large regional projects on sustainable development of Central Asia for 2011-2015.

Practical steps for strengthening cooperation with EurAsEC, the Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) and CIS are also being discussed.

Representatives of member States at the Bishkek Governing Council session welcomed the opening of the UNECE-UNESCAP SPECA Regional Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2010. It is expected to mark a new stage in the development and strengthening of SPECA. The Office will improve liaison with the Governments of member States, 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 in the SPECA framework.

At the Bishkek session of the Governing Council, the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP, Mr. Ján Kubiš and Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, assured the representatives of SPECA member States of their full and active support to the further strengthening and development of SPECA. The next two meetings of the Governing Council and Economic Forum, to take place in 2010 in Geneva and in 2011 in Bangkok, will offer further opportunities to the representatives of all UNECE and UNESCAP member States to get acquainted with the achievements of and challenges faced by SPECA. These meetings are expected to provide a new impetus to the work of the two regional commissions in this region of great strategic importance.

*The Governing Council session welcomed the opening of the UNECE-UNESCAP SPECA Regional Office in Almaty in 2010.*





# STATISTICS

Information to improve knowledge

## Conference of European Statisticians

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its secretariat, the UNECE Statistical Division, continue to play an important role in **coordinating the international statistical activities** in the region. The CES and its Bureau provide a forum for the Heads of national and international statistical agencies to address the most relevant issues of official statistics. The Conference also attracts membership from outside the UNECE region. Countries like Australia, Brazil, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea regularly participate in its activities. Participation of the major international organizations Eurostat Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, IMF, World Bank, etc.) helps to ensure that statistical work undertaken by these organizations in the UNECE region is coordinated and duplication is avoided.

In addition to the formal segment, the annual plenary sessions of the CES include two one-day **seminars** providing 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 2009 were devoted to balancing principles of professional autonomy and accountability with the mandate to produce policy relevant data, and strategic issues in business statistics.

In 2010, one of the seminars will deal with the **impact of the global crises on statistical systems** (main organizers of the seminar are IMF and OECD). This will focus on the importance of a holistic view on official statistics in the light of global crises and their

evolution. National official statistical systems can make use of their broad coverage of topics to monitor crisis events from the financial, economic and social perspectives. The Conference will discuss the role of statistical information and its adequacy for alerting to possible crises, the need to find the right tools to monitor developments while exiting the crises, and how to use the lessons learned from the current financial crises for the longer term statistical development.

A second seminar will be devoted to the **role of a spatial dimension in official statistics** (the main organizers are Eurostat and Mexico). The geographic reference is one of the basic uniting elements in statistics to which characteristics of persons, households and enterprises can be attributed. Such information is considered essential for planning purposes at national and regional level. It permits analysis of the distribution and behaviour of the economic, social and environmental phenomena with their relationships and interactions. It is increasingly used in domains like housing, agriculture, land use, environment, social stratification, energy, transport and business statistics. The seminar will discuss how to deal with the demands and challenges associated with linking statistical data on a spatial basis and how to make the results of statistical spatial analysis more accessible to users.



*UNECE promotes the implementation of the global methodological standard for national accounting: the System of National Accounts*

## Economic statistics

UNECE promotes the implementation of the global methodological standard for national accounting, the **System of National Accounts** (SNA) and contributes to the development of the implementation strategy for the 2008 SNA with an emphasis on the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and some countries in South-East Europe (SEE). The biannual Expert Meeting on National Accounts taking place in April 2010 will discuss issues related to the implementation of the 2008 SNA.

UNECE is working jointly with Eurostat, OECD and IMF to prepare recommendations on how to deal with the distortions to statistics that are occurring as a result of **globalization**. WTO and UNCTAD also actively participate in the work. The growing number of multinational companies and the advances in communication and transport that allow companies to operate across borders make it more difficult to measure economies from a national viewpoint. A Group of Experts organized jointly with Eurostat and OECD was set up to develop proposals on how to deal with these problems in statistics and improve the quality of national accounts. The outcome will be a publication entitled *Impact of Globalization on National Accounts: Practical Guidance* to be presented to the CES plenary session in June 2011 for endorsement. The Group held its second meeting in Geneva in May 2009 and discussed, among other topics, how to account for multinational enterprises, international transactions in intellectual property, remittances, foreign direct investments, transit trade and re-export. The third (and last) meeting of the Group is forecast for April 2010 to discuss labour mobility, second homes, e-commerce and the impact of the financial crisis.

In the area of **economic short-term statistics**, UNECE in 2009 prepared a report on seasonal adjustment in the EECCA and SEE countries. The lack of seasonally adjusted



short-term statistics seriously hampers assessment of the economic development and international comparisons in these countries. Based on the survey, a capacity building programme in short-term economic statistics has been developed with financial support from the World Bank. The programme will include three regional workshops to take place in 2010/2011 on methodologies in short-term statistics, seasonal adjustment and compilation of price indices. Training materials, including practical guidelines in seasonal adjustment methods, will be prepared in English and Russian as part of the programme.

UNECE aims to ensure that the EECCA and SEE countries implement statistical **business registers** – an indispensable tool for an efficient system of data collection from businesses. To this effect, UNECE, in cooperation with Eurostat, organized in 2009 a workshop on business registers for experts from these countries. Building on national experiences and expert recommendations, the workshop examined issues concerning legal frameworks for statistical business registers (BR), linking units of administrative sources with statistical BR, and incorporating enterprise groups into the statistical BR. The workshop preceded a two-day meeting of the Group of Experts on business registers that UNECE organizes every two years in cooperation with Eurostat and OECD.

In the area of **price statistics**, UNECE has contributed substantially to the development of the *Practical Guide to Compiling Consumer Price Indices: A supplementary Handbook to the Consumer Price Index Manual*. The Handbook, published in October 2009 by UNECE, focuses on practical implementation issues in Consumer Price Indices compilation. It is targeted at developing countries and countries with economies in transition, but is also relevant for index compilers in general. UNECE provides the secretariat for and is chairing the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics established by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Furthermore, the Group coordinates international work on price statistics and develops and documents methods and best practices on price statistics. An international expert meeting on consumer price indices will be organized in May 2010 in cooperation with ILO. The meeting will discuss, among other issues, a handbook on house price indices to be published in 2011.

## Social and demographic statistics

UNECE plays a leading role (sometimes jointly with other organizations) in selected areas of social and demographic statistics, such as gender statistics, population and housing censuses, migration, and crime statistics. In **gender statistics**, UNECE carries out methodological work and also provides data on gender disparities in various fields. A *Manual on Gender Statistics* will be published in early 2010. Training tools on gender statistics, such as multimedia presentations and training modules, have been developed (in collaboration with the World Bank) and have been used in regional and national training events in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. UNECE also offers a unique forum for statisticians, researchers, and policymakers to improve the measurement of **violence against women**.

*UNECE carries out methodological work on gender statistics and provides data on gender disparities in various fields.*



In the area of **population and housing censuses**, UNECE focused its work on supporting countries in the implementation of the *CES Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses*. In 2009, a meeting of census experts from all UNECE countries was organized, in cooperation with Eurostat, to facilitate the exchange of experience among countries and increase knowledge on various issues related to the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. A survey was carried out, in cooperation with UNSD, to collect information on the current status of census activities and preparations in different countries. Fifty UNECE countries confirmed that they are conducting (or have already conducted) a census in this round. The UNECE secretariat is involved, together with Eurostat, Council of Europe, UNSD and other international organizations, in the international monitoring of population and housing census in Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In both cases, there are plans to take the census in 2011 to provide an accurate count of the population and a description of its socio-economic and demographic characteristics. This is much needed, considering that the latest censuses were taken there in 1991. For the census results to be widely accepted, it is of paramount importance that international standards are fully respected, including in particular the CES recommendations.

The work on **migration statistics** continued to focus on the role of household sample surveys in collecting data on migration and on migrants. Work has started (in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division, Eurostat and various member States) on a number of research projects in this area. The *Guidelines on the use of immigration data of receiving countries to improve emigration estimates of sending countries* were finalized and endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2009.

In the area of **crime statistics**, the *Manual on victimization surveys* prepared by UNECE and the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2009. The Manual provides countries with a useful tool to develop national victimization surveys under the framework of official statistics and following international methodological guidelines. International work is starting on how to classify crimes for statistical purposes, in cooperation with UNODC and Eurostat.

In the area of **health statistics**, the Task Force on Measuring Health Status (the so-called Budapest Initiative) has undertaken important work on developing a questionnaire to be used by countries to measure health status. This work is conducted in close coordination with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and other initiatives carried out in this field by Eurostat and the World Health Organization.

UNECE has been providing statistical support to the countries in the region in **monitoring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs). In 2009, UNECE started preparatory work, in coordination with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNSD and the other regional commissions, to create a new Regional MDG database. The database will provide a dissemination platform for MDG-relevant data on EECCA and SEE countries. It is expected to be launched in 2010. Furthermore, UNECE is developing a network of national MDG focal points in statistical offices with the goal of identifying capacity building needs and to develop strategies to address them.

In 2009, progress was made in developing an internationally agreed framework for measuring the **quality of employment**. Experts from national statistical offices, in collaboration with UNECE, ILO, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Eurostat, and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, have been developing and testing the framework. An indicator validation study and nine country profiles based on the proposed framework were prepared in 2009 (funded in part by the European Commission). These documents formed the basis for the meeting of the Group of Experts on measurement of the quality of employment, organized by UNECE in cooperation with ILO and Eurostat in October 2009. The experts agreed on the overall structure of the framework and made suggestions to improve specific indicators and metadata.

## Environment and sustainable development statistics

In 2009, a Report on measuring sustainable development was issued as a result of the work of the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Working Group. The Report made a breakthrough to reach a common understanding of the principles of measuring sustainability based on four types of capital: economic, natural, human and social capital. A new Task Force was set up in 2009 to further develop the measurement of human and social capital from the viewpoint of sustainable development. The human capital, the education and health of population, is an important pillar to guarantee sustainability. Its measurement methods have developed considerably in recent years. Social capital is the least advanced of the four types of capital. It is usually defined in terms of social networks, trust in authorities, feeling of safety, etc. It will be a challenge for the Task Force to define social capital from the viewpoint of sustainability and to find ways to measure it. The work of the Task Force is strongly linked to the work undertaken by other institutions, such as the most recent recommendations in the Report issued by the Stiglitz Commission, the European Commission's initiative *GDP and beyond*, and the OECD project on *Measuring the Progress of Societies*.

*Work began in 2009 to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECCA and SEE countries.*

Recent developments in the environment (e.g. climate change) and the intensified debate on the subject have put the environment high on the political agenda and increased the demand for high quality statistics in this field. A Task Force on **Environmental Indicators** began its work in 2009 to improve environmental data production and promote comparability of environmental statistics in EECCA and SEE countries. It is a joint undertaking by the UNECE Statistical Division, UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division and UNSD. The first meeting that took place in autumn



2009 discussed cooperation on environmental indicators between environmental experts and statisticians, reviewed in detail selected indicators covered by the *Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia*, and discussed the modern tools for effective communication of environmental indicators. The work will continue in 2010 to review additional indicators from the Guidelines and to discuss professionalism, independence and confidentiality in producing environmental indicators, reporting to the international community, financing the indicator production, and training experiences and needs.



## Cross-cutting issues

The UNECE secretariat provides unique forums for **information systems managers, methodologists and communication experts** from national and international statistical organizations to share experiences. Task forces and working groups are currently preparing a number of outputs including a framework for the joint development and sharing of statistical IT tools, a guide to metadata standards, and a generic statistical business process model. Cooperation with other statistical organizations has intensified, particularly in the field of statistical data and metadata exchange (SDMX), and data dissemination systems.

The **dissemination and communication of statistics** remains an area of active involvement for UNECE. Annual meetings are held to share experiences and promote good practices in communicating with the media, managing customer relationships and outreach, gathering and analysing feedback, improving statistical literacy and managing the dissemination and communication within a statistical organization. A new guide to presenting statistics was published in the *Making Data Meaningful* series, and a task force is currently updating a *Guide to communicating with the media*, for publication in 2010.

As a follow-up to the first-ever forum on **human resources management and training** in statistical offices in September 2008 in Skopje, a workshop on human resources management and training in 2010 is being prepared. The workshop is organized in cooperation with national statistical offices from a number of countries, Eurostat and IMF. The workshop will focus on training in statistics and how to attract and retain staff in statistical offices.

## UNECE Statistical Database

*Data downloads from our online statistical database were up 20% in 2009.*

UNECE maintains a **free online statistical database** (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>) available in English and Russian, covering the countries of the UNECE region. The database includes **macro-economic, social, demographic, forestry and transport** indicators. An important feature is that **gender** breakdown is included where possible. New data on monthly unemployment have been added during 2009 as a response to the global economic crisis. Data downloads for 2009 are over 20 per cent higher than those for 2008, and a user survey gave positive feedback. Updates planned for 2010 include the addition of data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and a more user-friendly web interface.



## Technical assistance

An important part of the work is to assist the EECCA and SEE countries in **building and improving their statistical capacity** by organizing seminars and workshops, providing advisory services, promoting the implementation of international standards and recommendations, and transmitting best practices. UNECE also helps countries to implement the **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, a standard that was adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe in 1992, by giving advice on statistical legislation, institutional frameworks, and on ensuring the independence and impartiality of official statistics.

At the request of a number of countries, **training workshops and advisory services** were provided to Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kosovo (United Nations administered territory under Security Council resolution 1244) on various topics, such as the organization of national statistical systems, statistical legislation, preparation for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, national accounts, non-observed economy, price statistics, gender statistics, measuring sustainable development, MDGs, statistical quality, statistical literacy, and dissemination and marketing of statistical information.

UNECE provided advice on **price statistics** at a meeting organized by the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States in November 2009. A training workshop on **short-term economic statistics** will take place in February 2010.

A meeting "Better Evidence for Better Development Results" was organized jointly with UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and OECD for countries with economies in transition to discuss the use and future development of the **MDG indicators**. Two meetings for the EECCA countries related to MDGs took place in Astana, Kazakhstan: an expert group meeting on producing and disaggregating MDG indicators in October 2009, and a training workshop on dissemination of MDG indicators in November 2009.

Several training activities have been organized in the field of **gender statistics** in 2009, jointly with the World Bank Institute, UNDP, UNFPA and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). UNECE is participating in a global United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project on developing tools to measure **violence against women**. UNECE has been contributing to a UNDA project on **migration** statistics to improve the production and comparability of migration data in Central Asian countries, and promoting the use of these statistics for planning and monitoring of migration policies in that region.





The meeting of the **Project Working Group on Statistics of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)** in March 2009 evaluated the outcome of the UNDA project on statistical capacity building in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Over the period 2006-2009, the project focused on three areas: **population and housing censuses, measurement of the health status of the population and measuring non-observed economy.**

UNECE, together with the main partners Eurostat and the European Free Trade Association, has been involved in conducting **global assessments of the national statistical systems** of countries with economies in transition. In 2009, such a global assessment was carried out in Armenia. Preparations have started for possible global assessments of the statistical systems of Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan in 2010. In September 2009, a **High-level Management Seminar on Global Assessments of National Statistical Systems** was organized in Yalta, Ukraine for the EECCA countries and Mongolia.

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

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



# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

## Integrating security and sustainability

The global financial crisis has provoked a new wave of energy security risks. Serious questions have arisen about the volume and timing of energy sector investments as the economic downturn reduced energy demand, sending oil prices veering from a nominal peak of \$147 to \$50 per barrel within a few months in 2008. In response to this the Committee on Sustainable Energy further consolidated its expert dialogue on energy security held during its annual sessions with the participation of representatives of Governments, energy industries, the financial community and relevant international organizations. The dialogue focused on the impact of the financial crisis on corporate investment plans for energy infrastructure including for unconventional resources such as tar sands and biofuels. It also reviewed government responses to the financial crisis including the promotion of clean energy investments in economic stimulus packages. 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.

**Enhanced energy security dialogue.** At its annual session in 2009, the Committee held its second enhanced expert dialogue on *Energy Security and the Financial Crisis*. This dialogue involved two special working sessions: one on the impact of the financial crisis on the infrastructure investments of major energy companies and a second on the nature of government responses to the financial crisis and energy security strategies. The Committee considered a range of activities including a project on enhancing energy efficiency for secure energy supplies in energy exporting countries; a study on how energy security is perceived by decision-makers in Governments, industry and finance; an analysis of energy security and sustainable energy policies and an appraisal of the use of statistical indicators to measure the energy vulnerability of UNECE member States.



**Clean electricity production.** The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, launched in line with the UNECE reform to streamline the sustainable energy work programme, held a *Clean Electricity Production Forum on Cleaner Electricity Investments and the Financial Crisis*, bringing together high-level representatives of the electricity and coal industries, regulators, the financial sector and Governments to review the technological issues and challenges along the production and supply chain as well as assess financial markets, electricity markets and investing in cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts also discussed its new project on mitigating climate change through attracting foreign direct investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies, focused on Central Asia and supported by the United Nations Development Account.

*The UN Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources has been adopted, adapted or tested by more than 60 countries worldwide.*

**Energy reserves and resources.** With the recent upheaval in global capital markets, the need for a greater international harmonization of energy trade has led to increased interest in the common terminology needed to classify and report energy and mineral reserves and resources. A common terminology can not only address differences in reporting within the same commodity classes, but can also support a common understanding across different commodity classes. Following the Economic and Social Council's endorsement of Resolution 2004/233, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology has led a global effort to develop a common code through application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC), a system adopted, adapted or tested by more than 60 countries worldwide. Reconciling

the views of disparate partners including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the International Energy Agency (IEA), OECD, the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), the minerals industry and member States, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts has made significant progress in promoting widespread application of the UNFC. Although the UNFC will remain a classification system that can be directly adopted or adapted by member States or other organizations,

there is growing recognition that its main strength is serving as an overarching umbrella system which all other major systems can map against. In 2009 substantial progress was made towards development of the global code through the detailed mapping of the UNFC against other major classification systems, and by attracting additional participation and interest. This work is well timed since IASB and the Security Exchange Commission in the United States are also revising their classification systems for energy commodities. As the project continues, expansion of work in this field will help to make all energy and mineral commodities more attractive to foreign investors for exploitation.

**Energy efficiency.** Through its Energy Efficiency 21 Project (EE21), 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 and Company under a mandate of the EE21 Project. By the end of 2009, over 60 per cent of the ECEP had been committed to clean energy investment projects in Europe. An EE21 sub-project on Financing energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation, largely supported by the United Nations Foundation, the Global Environment Facility and the French GEF (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial) and the European Business Congress, advanced significantly during 2009 with a seminar in October for policymakers on *Policy Reforms to Promote Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments*. In addition, a *Workshop on Case Studies on Overcoming Barriers to Investments into Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects* was held in Kiev in November. The report entitled *Investor Interest and Capacity Building Needs* produced as a result of multidisciplinary assessment missions to each participating country in 2008 was issued as a UNECE Energy Series publication. Three subcontracts of the project were under implementation during 2009; one to establish a dedicated public-private equity Fund for twelve countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South-East Europe for energy efficiency and renewable investment projects. The other contracts are to establish Internet communications services and a regional analysis for energy policy reforms to promote investments in energy efficiency. The EE21 Project also continued the implementation of subprojects on new and renewable energy sources in the Russian Federation and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as well as the Global Energy Efficiency 21 Project which seeks to promote energy efficiency trade and cooperation through the four other United Nations regional commissions.

*The Energy Efficiency 21 Project promotes the formation of an energy efficiency market in Eastern Europe.*

**Regional advisory services on energy** have included assistance to member States on energy efficiency and sustainable energy development particularly in Central Asia and in South-East Europe. Advisory services have led to launching an energy efficiency project with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) established in 2008 in Sarajevo which is under consideration by the European Commission. The project is designed to draw on capacities of national Governments through UNECE and RCC, energy efficiency agencies through the Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources (RENEUER), on regional authorities through the European Foundation for the Sustainable Development of the Regions and on municipal authorities through the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-eastern Europe. The Regional Adviser on Energy organized the Energy Efficiency 21 subproject on the Development of Renewable Energy Resources in the Russian Federation and the CIS. He also organized the meeting

of the SPECA Project Working Group on Water and Energy in November in Bishkek. Regional Advisory Services were also engaged to support the implementation of the EE21 Project and develop potential projects for financing with the SwissRe / Conning and Company European Clean Energy Fund.



**Natural Gas.** At its twentieth session in January 2010, the Working Party on Gas organized three Round Tables on underground gas storage in Europe and Central Asia, on the current status and prospects of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the UNECE region, and on the impact of the liberalization of the natural gas markets on gas demand and prices in the UNECE region – gas savings to reduce natural gas demand and enhance energy security. These brought together leading gas experts from producing, consuming countries and countries of gas transit. Delegations discussed the implementation of the Blue Corridor project, aimed at establishing transport corridors in Europe for heavy-duty vehicles, using natural gas as fuel, instead of diesel. They also reviewed gas market and gas industry developments in the UNECE region and developments in the Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV) market worldwide. With the support of 22 gas companies throughout the UNECE region, the Gas Centre’s Task Forces held meetings on the implementation of the European Union Gas Directive, gas transportation and pipelines, gas markets and gas industries as well as their implications for countries in Central and Eastern Europe. A High Level Conference on LNG Supply and New Projects was held on 2-4 June 2009 in Fos-Tonkin, France. The Technical Committee of the Gas Centre Database continued to work on a special gas map of Europe. Gas Centre member companies are transferring data to the database of the high pressure transportation and supply pipelines in Europe which is being created.

*Coal Mine Methane is a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. In coal mines, methane capture and use improves mine safety and provides an additional energy source.*

**Coal Mine Methane** is a greenhouse gas over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Mitigation of methane emissions not only yields important benefits related to climate change, but can also provide an energy stream that delivers many additional co-benefits. In the case of coal mines, methane capture and use improves mine safety, provides an additional energy source for power generation, heating or other uses, and supports another revenue centre within the mining operation. With 40 per cent of global production and 38 per cent of global coal mine methane (CMM) emissions, there is great potential for CMM capture and use in the UNECE region. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on CMM pursued a work programme intended to identify and address key barriers limiting further implementation of CMM projects in the region. In 2009, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts continued work on promoting the development of mine methane projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS countries. In addition, mine safety remains very closely tied to methane utilization, and the Ad Hoc Group of Experts received reports on two key initiatives directly related to mine safety:

(i) review of regulatory frameworks to identify outdated or ineffective rules and statutes relating to methane degasification, and (ii) assessment of the insurance industry’s support for additional mine safety improvements in methane degasification and utilization. In addition, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts cooperated closely with the Methane to Markets Partnership, and is currently developing a common terminology for the global industry.

**Major Challenges for 2010** have emerged from the impact of the financial crisis on energy sector investments and the responses to the crisis from the Governments of member States. The overall impact of this will promote the further strengthening and integrating effect of the 2005 UNECE reform on the work programme of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.



The reform has introduced the environmental consequences of energy security into the heart of the Committee's activities which in turn has revealed the growing link between sustainable energy policies and energy security. At the same time, recent developments in unconventional energy resources have also provided new challenges and opportunities to member States, raising hopes of an expansion of global reserves of the cleanest fossil fuel. It could lead to an increase of 20 per cent or more in the world's natural gas reserves. The emerging shale gas industry and technology would permit natural gas to replace coal, including in power stations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It could also provide an alternative indigenous source of gas to European countries that have suitable geological formations. The further deployment of this technology combined with the geological conditions in Europe is well suited to government and industry cooperation through UNECE.

The work of each subsidiary expert group of the extrabudgetary projects under the purview of the Committee has clear implications for energy security. Indeed, the long term sustainability of the region's energy economy will depend largely on prudent energy security policies pursued today. During the 2010-2011 biennium, further consolidation of this approach will add value to the Committee's work on energy efficiency, clean electricity production, natural gas, coal mine methane, and energy reserves and resources. As a result, the Committee will enjoy the ability to transfer the results of its intergovernmental expert dialogue on energy security into its operational programmes and technical assistance projects in each of these fields. This will lend greater weight to the expert dialogue on energy security during the annual sessions of the Committee while providing increasingly meaningful direction to the activities of each expert group or project to produce the results requested by member States.

The project on enhancing energy efficiency for secure energy supplies from energy exporting countries in the region will continue to provide a new dimension to the dialogue and practical work on energy security. The Energy Efficiency 21 Project will work with the European Clean Energy Fund to develop investment projects in Eastern Europe. The project will complete work on the Public Private Partnership equity fund for financing energy efficiency investments in twelve East European, South-East European and Central Asian UNECE member States. The Committee on Sustainable Energy will address these challenges with several advantages, including 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.

*The emerging shale gas industry and technology would permit natural gas to replace coal, including in power stations, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*







## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### Targeting economies in transition

In its technical cooperation work, UNECE is guided by the principles and priorities identified by member States in the Technical Cooperation Strategy adopted at the sixty-second session of the Commission in 2007.

Given the mandate of the organization, UNECE technical cooperation is linked to its normative work and aims to assist countries of the region in acceding to, adopting and implementing UNECE legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations as a means to their beneficial integration in the region, and addressing regional/subregional and transboundary issues. Countries with economies in transition are the primary focus of UNECE attention. Until recently, UNECE has been engaged with them more at the regional or subregional levels through the implementation of various projects within subregional frameworks and initiatives and in collaboration with other regional/subregional organizations.

The United Nations reform on system-wide conference and subsequent revision of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines which increased the role of the Non Resident Agencies, as well as the UNECE reform and subsequent focus on countries with economies in transition have levelled the playing field and created an environment which is conducive to the active engagement of UNECE at the country level. In 2008 it became an implementing partner of the UNDAF in six countries of the region,

*Countries with economies in transition are the primary focus of UNECE attention.*



including two in South-Eastern Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and the remaining four in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Areas of UNECE engagement in these countries include trade and trade facilitation, statistics, environment, forestry, etc. In 2009, UNECE was engaged in the UNDAF review in all roll-out countries of the region: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Serbia and Turkey<sup>1</sup>.

In collaboration with the United Nations Chief Executives Board (CEB) Inter-agency Cluster, UNECE has been also involved in the elaboration of the joint programme on trade and productive capacity "Towards the EU: Support to the Albanian economic and trade capacity" within the One UN pilot programme in Albania. Border crossing, trade and trade facilitation, as well as statistics were identified as areas of UNECE engagement in One UN Albania. As for One UN in Montenegro and Kyrgyzstan, UNECE participation will depend on resources since there are still a few countries left in the region that will review their UNDAFs in 2010. Both participation in the work of the CEB Inter-Agency Cluster and UNDAF has contributed to greater coherence of United Nations operational work, enhanced cooperation with the United Nations country teams and increased visibility of UNECE at the country level.

During the reporting period, UNECE carried out 72 advisory missions, 74 capacity-building activities (workshops, trainings and seminars) and 31 various projects, including 6 projects funded from UNDA. Two more UNECE-led projects were approved for funding under the 7th tranche of UNDA in 2009. Almost 90 per cent of these activities were carried out in countries with economies in transition which were eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA). Most of the UNECE technical cooperation activities were either of a regional, subregional or interregional nature which enabled UNECE to make optimal use of its limited resources while promoting regional and/or subregional cooperation on issues of common concern or shared interests. Countries of the Central Asian and South-Eastern region were the major beneficiaries. The Special Programme for Economies in Central Asia (SPECA) remains the main framework for the delivery of technical cooperation assistance to this region while the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) serves as an umbrella for the UNECE technical cooperation activities in South-Eastern Europe.

With rare exceptions, the UNECE technical cooperation activities are carried out in collaboration with United Nations entities such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNCTAD, FAO, and the regional commissions; international and regional organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the private sector and civil society. A large number of activities have been implemented in partnership with regional and subregional organizations and initiatives, such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Eurasian Economic Community, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Turkey is not a country with an economy in transition but is the only high-mid-income country in the region which has been preparing UNDAF to be used as a framework for cooperation with the United Nations.



Almost 70 per cent of the UNECE activities were funded from extrabudgetary resources, mainly from bilateral donors, and the remaining 30 per cent from the regular United Nations budget, namely (a) the programme "Economic development in Europe"; (b) the regular programme of Technical Cooperation; and (c) the United Nations Development Account. Such a high dependence on extrabudgetary resources makes UNECE technical cooperation vulnerable to external economic shocks and threatens its sustainability. The current economic and financial crisis can have a negative impact on UNECE technical cooperation if donors scale down their ODA. This could undermine the efforts of countries with economies in transition to achieve international development goals, including the MDGs. Addressing the challenge of financial resources requires strong political commitment of donors to countries with economies in transition. Many of them are commodity-dependent landlocked countries, including some low-income with high levels of external debt. Recent socio-economic progress achieved in these countries can hardly be sustained without continued international support and resources.





# TIMBER AND FORESTRY

## Towards sustainable forests

### 2009 Achievements

**New Strategic Plan launched.** The UNECE Timber Committee and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) European Forestry Commission adopted the Strategic Plan for their Joint Integrated Programme of Work, at the first ever European Forest Week in Rome in October 2008. 2009 marked the first full year of the Plan, which defines the work programme through 2013 when another Strategic Review will be conducted. 2009 has witnessed numerous achievements in the main pillars of the joint programme: forest products markets, sustainable resource management, outlook studies, and policies and institutions. Accomplishments in each of these areas supported the joint programme's overall objective of strengthening sustainable development in the forest sector in the UNECE region. Thanks to strong partnerships with other international organizations, trade associations and non-governmental organizations, the new Strategic Plan was successfully launched.

#### **UNECE/FAO Forest Products Annual Market Review**

In the forest products markets and statistics area, the timely publication of this year's *Forest Products Annual Market Review* was again a major undertaking that involved many partners and contributors. National statistical correspondents provided the basic statistics, as well as a wealth of insight into market developments. The theme this year was "UNECE region's forest products markets in a global economic crisis." To link

*The Forest Products Annual Market Review 2009 continued to receive acclaim.*



this work to the important issue of climate change, in addition to its traditional chapters on market sectors and policies, the *Review* included for the first time a chapter on forest carbon markets. This major annual publication continues to receive acclaim, and reached new heights of distribution thanks to an innovative media campaign.



### **Timber Committee Week**

In October 2009, the Committee surrounded its annual meeting with three major events: (a) market discussions on past and future trends with a theme “UNECE region’s forest products markets in a global economic crisis”; (b) a green-building workshop on “Responding to climate change: wood’s place in a global approach to green building”; and (c) a UNECE/FAO Policy Forum on “The Forest Sector in a Green Economy”.

### **Timber Committee Market Discussions**

The *Market Review* provides input to the annual Timber Committee Market Discussions. In addition to the standard market-sector presentations, which are highly appreciated for their up-to-date short-term forecasts, the discussions included topical issues in forest markets, e.g. trade restrictions, legislation to prohibit illegal timber and corporate social responsibility. Since time only allowed many of the topics to be summarized, the Timber Committee called for future, in-depth meetings of stakeholders on the most pressing issues.

### **Green-building Workshop**

Following a first successful workshop during the European Forest Week in 2008, the Committee’s Team of Specialists on Forest Products Markets and Marketing organized a sequel entitled “*Responding to Climate Change: Wood’s place in a global approach to green building*”. The programme was designed in collaboration with other UNECE divisions, as requested by the Committee, specifically the secretariat of the Committee on Housing and Land Management and of the Committee on Sustainable Energy. One objective is to promote a scientific basis for assessment of energy efficient or “green” buildings based on carbon life cycle assessment. A follow-up conference is planned for 2010.

### **Policy Forum**

The most massive government intervention ever prevented the recessions during the 2008-2009 economic and financial crises from becoming depressions. Many of the government measures were aimed at improving the environment and fighting climate change, in other words, investing in a green economy. Hence the title of the forum, “The forest sector in a green economy.” Speakers provided a wealth of ideas and case examples for delegates to discuss the issues and the potential solutions to the crisis, as well as possibilities for expanding the forest sector’s potential to combat climate change and provide renewable energy and environmental services throughout the region.

### **UNECE/FAO teams of specialists**

Under the new Strategic Plan, seven teams began, or continued, their work under new mandates in the areas of forest products markets, monitoring and implementing sustainable forest management, forest sector outlook, policies and institutions in eastern Europe and Central Asia, and communication. The breadth of participation in the teams, by experts from government, industry, academia and other international organizations form a rich foundation for approaching topical issues.



### **Partnering with the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)**

MCPFE is a key partner and UNECE/FAO is often responsible for implementing its resolutions. In 2009, together with MCPFE and other partners, UNECE held two workshops as a direct contribution to the implementation of MCPFE Warsaw Resolution 1, "Forests, wood and energy". One of these workshops was on potential wood supply and the other on wood mobilization. Government targets for renewable energy, especially wood, require mobilizing more wood from forests and outside forests, as well as better recycling of wood fibre starting from its highest uses and cascading down to energy use. In these efforts, principles of sustainable forest management must be respected, and objectives linked to climate change mitigation and environmental preservation must be kept in mind. In its follow-up to these workshops, the UNECE/FAO Timber Section has worked with MCPFE, the European Commission and other partners to produce "Guidance on the sustainable mobilization of wood."

*Government targets for renewable energy, especially wood, require mobilizing more wood and better recycling wood fibre.*

### **Assessment of sustainable forest management**

Information on pan-European forests, which cover almost 40 per cent of the land of the UNECE region, is now available for a wide circle of users. For the first time, all data collected for the pan-European reporting is available in the form of an interactive database, which is a part of the statistical services provided by UNECE. Ongoing reporting activities that include data collection for the next report on Europe's forests and the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment ensure regular updating and improvement of presented datasets. UNECE serves as a centre for debate on sustainable forest management reporting and monitoring in Europe, with a key role being played by the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management. The debates keep countries abreast of recent developments and the high level of participation ensures their impact on future activities such as the development of a new classification for European forest types, developments in future forest monitoring, and harmonization of national, regional and global assessments.



### **Forest policies and institutions**

UNECE/FAO is continuously expanding its work in this area. Significant progress has been achieved with the establishment of an online information repository on policies and institutions, a joint effort with FAO. This work has initiated the harmonization of different datasets, reflected in new data collection efforts. Improved data for the 2010 Forest Resources Assessment on policies, institutions and instruments has been collected in close cooperation with national correspondents. The recently created Team of Specialists on Forest Policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia has become a powerful network of policy experts throughout the region. Work through this Team has led to an improved understanding, exchange and availability of information on policies and institutions in these countries. A comparative overview of "Forest Policy Terms and Definitions" will lead the way towards a more common understanding of terminology in both English and Russian.



*Wood energy is the most important source of renewable energy in the UNECE region.*

### **Cross-sectoral cooperation and communication: "Wood and energy"**

The UNECE/FAO Timber Section continued its efforts to collect accurate statistics on the increasing importance of wood energy and to promote modern wood energy technologies that are efficient and sustainable in member States, and notably in countries of the western Balkans. This is particularly important in view of renewable energy policies and targets. The results of the second Joint UNECE/FAO/IEA Wood Energy Enquiry confirmed that wood energy is the most important source of renewable energy in the UNECE region. This unique and focused wood-energy assessment provides essential data for estimating current and future potential. As its structure and results are compatible with international energy and forestry statistics, it guides the EU Renewable Energy Action Plans. Workshops in eastern Europe brought together stakeholders to improve data quality, wood-energy markets and bioenergy policies.

### **Challenges in 2010 and beyond**

The Timber Committee and its sister body, the European Forestry Commission, understand that only through effective partnerships can the sector work together, and then work cross-sectorally, for sustainable development. Climate change mitigation is a great challenge requiring concerted efforts by the forest sector together with other sectors. The current economic crisis may actually accelerate the fight against climate change, as Governments enact policies to stimulate the green economy and the forest sector needs to decide how it can best contribute to these efforts.

The Timber Section is embarking on two major studies which will bring relevant factors together to assess the current state of Europe's forests, and to forecast future trends for the forest sector in the UNECE region. The Timber Section's collection and validation of data, and analysis of the forest resources in the region will provide critical input to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment for 2010. UNECE has initiated cooperation with relevant organizations, notably with FAO, to ensure consistent reporting at all levels for this report.



One longstanding and highly valued area of work is the forest sector outlook studies. Produced periodically, a set of new studies was launched in 2009 and will examine the impact of traditional and new parameters on the long-term outlook for the forest sector. The new outlook studies will address policies aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the contribution of wood to meeting renewable energy targets. The impacts of these issues will certainly shape the forest sector's future. Work towards developing a new European Forest Sector Outlook Study has commenced with the re-formation of a supporting UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists, which includes new partnerships with institutions that are

contributing innovative methods and approaches. The new study will be centred on the major policy questions and will link to scenarios from International Panel on Climate Change assessments.

Being small has the advantage of allowing flexibility in order to address current issues and better serve new clients. However, it also means that partnering is needed to build critical resources for achieving common goals. Therefore, as the UNECE/FAO Timber Section continues its work to strengthen the forest sector and the sector's contribution to sustainable development throughout the UNECE region, it will also continue its strong collaboration with FAO, MCPFE, industry and trade associations, academia, non-governmental organizations and other forest-sector stakeholders, as well as with other UNECE programmes on sustainable energy, environment, water, and housing and land management.





## TRADE

### Integrating European and global economies

## Committee on Trade

### Main Achievements in 2009

UNECE work in trade aims at reducing barriers to trade in goods and services caused by differences in regulatory approaches and differences in the procedures, standards and documents used by Governments and business for trade.

More efficient and integrated trade and transport practices can help countries address the current economic downturn, while at the same time supporting long-term economic development. Competitiveness is central to trade and transport policies. However, countries that lack adequate business environments with predictable, transparent trade and transport regulations and procedures are at a clear disadvantage. Agreed conventions, standards, norms and rules drawn up under the Committee on Trade can help establish transparency and increase security and enforcement even beyond national borders in such diverse areas as transport services contracts and related liability regimes, data exchange, supply chain competitiveness, consumer protection and competition rules.

The first ever joint conference with the Inland Transport Committee was held on 24 February 2009, immediately prior to the third session of the Committee on Trade. This event focused on the impact of globalization on transport, logistics and trade and looked at related UNECE work. For the several hundred participants from both the public and the private sector, the conference provided a unique opportunity to identify synergies and areas of collaboration between the trade and transport communities.

In October 2009, a conference on trade development and facilitation for economies in transition was organized jointly by the Committee on Trade and the SPECA Project Working Group on Trade in Central Asia. This conference highlighted the long-term objectives, the road ahead and the tools developed under the Committee to effectively assist economies in transition in advancing their competitiveness, overcoming technical barriers to trade and boosting and diversifying exports.

The Committee has three subsidiary bodies: the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies and the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

### *Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business*

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business focuses on facilitating national and international transactions. It simplifies and harmonizes processes, procedures and information flows over the entire trade transaction chain, from order to delivery. Its key outputs are "recommendations", electronic business standards and technical specifications.

### *Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies*

The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies aims at building a shared regulatory framework, and at achieving greater security for consumers and workers, better protection for the environment and reduced costs for trading internationally. Its key outputs are: a better understanding by traders and Governments of the regulatory framework of other countries and regions; initiatives aimed at creating a common regulatory framework in specific sectors; and policy recommendations.

### *Agricultural Quality Standards*

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards develops quality standards and recommendations for agricultural produce. These define, for example, minimum quality requirements and commercial quality grades, presentation, packaging, marketing and labelling. The Working Party also carries out activities that help promote the uniform use of these standards across countries and regions.

The Committee on Trade cooperates with various organizations in trying to help less-advantaged countries of the region, in response to the challenges highlighted by the United Nations

Millennium Declaration, the World Trade Organization Doha Development Round and Aid for Trade initiative, and the United Nations programme for information and communication technology for development.

## **Challenges in 2010**

In early 2009 member States initiated a discussion on the future structure of the Committee on Trade and possible options are being reviewed. Even though the work of the three subsidiary bodies has seen high participation and has been evaluated as producing valuable outputs, during recent years participation and interest in the annual sessions of the Committee itself have steadily decreased.

*The Committee on Trade cooperates with various organizations in trying to help less-advantaged countries of the region.*





As a consequence of this development, the UNECE Executive Committee asked the Committee to review its activities and recommend one of two options: (a) to revitalize and maintain the Committee, or (b) to dissolve it.

The solutions that have been discussed cover a wide spectrum of possibilities. Member States are currently evaluating these options and a final decision is expected in early 2010.

## Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

### Main achievements in 2009

The numerous official procedures and requirements that exporters and importers have to meet add time and cost to trade transactions and often deter firms, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, from entering international markets. UN/CEFACT, accordingly, aims at facilitating these national and international business transactions and at contributing to the growth of global commerce. It draws up and promotes simple, transparent, harmonized and effective trade and business processes, procedures, standard transactions and information flows, in coordination with other international organizations and key players.

For this purpose, UN/CEFACT standards and recommendations aim to ease the way across the wide range of intermediary steps associated with moving goods through international supply chains, covering business processes and procedures that include, for example, commercial, transport, regulatory and payments domains.

Over the years, UN/CEFACT has created a large number of such instruments including electronic business standards, document standards and codes for trade documents. These have been developed by over 300 experts from all five continents collaborating in around 30 business domain, governmental and technical working groups. These groups meet throughout the year by electronic communication and by meeting in and between sessions of the UN/CEFACT Forums.

*UN/CEFACT aims at facilitating national and international business transactions.*

During 2009, UN/CEFACT worked towards advancing the next generation of trade facilitation and e-business standards and tools. Progress was achieved in particular at the Expert Forums held in Rome (April) and Sapporo, Japan (September /October). Agreement was reached during the year on new instruments as well as updates or improvements to several important instruments, including: the Single Window; the Cross Industry Invoice; and electronic business standards such as the Core Components Technical Specification, the UN/EDIFACT Core Components Library as well as code lists.



Capacity-building and outreach activities included presentations by the secretariat on UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards and by the UN/CEFACT Rapporteur for Africa on the status of the Single Window in Africa at the World Customs Organization Information Technology Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco, April 2009; participation by the UNECE secretariat and the Rapporteur for Asia in a

regional Single Window Workshop in Tbilisi (June 2009); participation by the Rapporteur for Asia in the 19th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Electronic Commerce Steering Group, Singapore, July 2009; and presentations by the UNECE secretariat and UN/CEFACT experts at the Conference on Trade Development and Facilitation for Economies in Transition, Geneva, October 2009.

## Challenges in 2010 and beyond

There is a stronger need than ever for simpler and more efficient trade procedures, so that international trade can better contribute to bringing the world economy out of recession.

*One priority will be to increase the implementation of UN/CEFACT instruments in countries with economies in transition.*

The period 2010 – 2011 promises to be very productive for UN/CEFACT. Many key envisaged standards and recommendations and tools should advance or be finalized. Further, a growing user base is emerging with regard to standards such as the Core Component Library (CCL) and related XML schemas. As a result, a significant increase in the use of existing UN/CEFACT standards by Governments and the private sector can be expected. For example, the continued enhancement and refinement of the CCL, combined with the availability of relevant user guides, should greatly simplify the direct application of these standards.

Another major priority during this period will be to increase the implementation of UN/CEFACT instruments in countries with economies in transition, as well as the participation of experts from these countries in the work of UN/CEFACT. To support this objective, UN/CEFACT experts will provide guidance to the development of capacity-building materials. These will then be used, in consultation with UN/CEFACT, by the UNECE secretariat and other relevant organizations with a view to strengthening early stages of trade facilitation implementation in these countries.

Further challenges will arise for UN/CEFACT as it seeks to address the trade facilitation issues raised by requests for advance information imposed by security authorities, and by the increasing complexity and geographic extension of international supply chains. Meeting these challenges requires taking advantage of information and communication technology, and UN/CEFACT recommendations and standards provide a coherent set of trade facilitation instruments for use in “off-the-shelf” as well as customized business software solutions. They thereby support a range of possible efficiency gains, encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises, and transition and developing economies to engage more effectively in international trade. They are also of direct relevance for new initiatives of Governments in areas such as e-government and online taxation.

Continued strong developments in the Single Window area should see a further increase in the use of UN/CEFACT standards for related activities such as data harmonization and data modelling. The overall movement towards the Single Window is a strong catalyst for the broader implementation of the entire suite of UN/CEFACT trade facilitation instruments and constitutes a major opportunity for countries, especially developing and transition economies, to move forward in the trade facilitation area. UN/CEFACT plans to add to the existing Single Window Recommendations 33 and 35 by:



completing Recommendation 34 on Data Simplification & Standardization; the continued development of the Single Window Repository; and by organizing an international symposium on Single Window and Cross Border Data Exchange in collaboration with member States and other stakeholders, including international organizations that are active and interested in furthering developments in this area.

## Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

### Main achievements in 2009

To enter global markets, exporters need to fully understand the disparate technical regulations in force in each market, and for each of the products they wish to export. Our aim is a shared regulatory framework where technical regulations are not a barrier to trade.

To work towards this objective, the Working Party is developing four sectoral initiatives concerning equipment for explosive environments, pipeline safety, earth-moving machinery, and telecom products.

The “Common Regulatory Objectives” (CROs), which were prepared by members of the initiative on equipment for explosive environments, were approved. This initiative targets a broad sector: electrical and mechanical equipment used in mines, offshore and onshore petrochemicals installations, and all facilities where an explosion might occur.

The CROs specify the technical requirements for this equipment to be placed on the market, for its safe installation, use, maintenance and repair. They also detail how to assess compliance with requirements and recommend using the International Conformity Assessment Scheme, which covers electrical equipment for explosive atmospheres, or IECEx, as the internationally accepted means of demonstrating conformity with International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) TC31 Standards. Once countries adopt the CROs as national legislation, producers will be able to have their product tested and certified once, for export to all other countries having adopted the CROs.

The initiative on earthmoving machinery revised its CROs, which had been approved in 2004, to take into account the specific challenges of producers from developing and transition economies.



The initiative on pipeline safety received replies to a questionnaire from Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey, documenting the current regulatory framework for this sector on major markets. Taking stock of the results of this questionnaire, which also attest to the interest by member countries in this initiative, the Working Party will now move forward with the development of CROs.

*The proliferation of low-quality goods often breaches technical regulations and intellectual property rights.*

A major challenge is the proliferation of low-quality goods, often in breach of technical regulations and intellectual property rights, which are sold at a price that rules out fair competition. These products can also pose serious threats to human health, and can be a source of pollution and environmental degradation.

The policy response to this worrying phenomenon is strengthened market surveillance: i.e. public authorities acting in cooperation with industry to ensure that dangerous and non-compliant goods are removed from the market and from the workplace.

In 2009 work on market surveillance resulted in: an introductory document on the subject and the work of UNECE in this area; the first draft of a common terminology for market surveillance; and a second draft of the "General Market Surveillance Procedure", a guidance document for market surveillance authorities.

In 2009, a Conference on Risk Assessment and Management was held back to back with the annual session of the Working Party and a training session for delegates from market surveillance authorities of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries was organized just prior to the Conference.

## **Challenges for 2010**

In 2010, the Working Party will work to follow up on the results of the Risk Assessment and Management Conference. Another international event on this topic could be organized in 2010.

The most important challenge for the Working Party will be to raise extrabudgetary funds for implementing the results achieved in 2009, in particular by the sectoral initiatives.

Additionally, as the Working Party meeting endorsed the General Market Surveillance Procedure as a document for training purposes, it should be applied and tested and then be finalized and developed into a recommendation. The market surveillance authorities present at the annual session pressed UNECE and donors to assist them at a time when they face unprecedented challenges. These are due to the increasing number of products on their markets, their increasing complexity and the high level of sophistication of the frauds. It is essential that they receive capacity building so that they are able to guarantee the safety of their consumers and workers.

Resources will also be necessary to finalize the document on "*Terms and definitions for Market Surveillance*". When finalized; this will be the only comprehensive glossary of market surveillance terms available at an international level and will form the basis of international cooperation among market surveillance authorities.





The secretariat also received a mandate by the Working Party to establish and maintain a compendium of all market surveillance authorities in UNECE member States, together with their areas of competence, and this will be an important task for completion in 2010.

Finally, the Working Party will continue revising its recommendations, in particular a revision of Recommendation L may be called for.

## Agricultural Quality Standards

### Main Achievements in 2009

The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards and its four specialized sections developed or revised around 20 new/ existing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce, meat and eggs products. The Working Party worked closely with the European Commission, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and national governmental and private-sector bodies.

The specialized sections and the secretariat actively promoted the standards worldwide. Several regional workshops were organized in 2009:

- (a) For countries of Africa and the Middle East, on standardization of seed potatoes (Cairo);
- (b) For countries of Eastern and South Eastern Africa, on standardization of fresh fruit and vegetables (Nairobi);
- (c) For Central Asia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, on standardization of dry and dried produce and on the use of standards in technical regulations (Osh, Kyrgyzstan);
- (d) For CIS countries, on meat standards and traceability in the meat sector (Moscow);
- (e) For CIS countries, on food safety and the use of standards in the poultry sector (Moscow).

These activities were organized in partnership with host-country organizations and were financially supported from the United Nations Development Account and the Russian Voluntary Contribution Fund.

The Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables finished its work on evaluating the possibility of the transfer of the OECD Scheme activities to UNECE, as recommended by member States in the 2005 UNECE Reform Plan. The evaluation was carried out in close cooperation with the OECD Scheme member countries. The report jointly drawn up by the UNECE and OECD task forces recommended the transfer of all OECD Scheme activities to UNECE. In fulfilment of one of the preconditions for the transfer, UNECE prepared its first explanatory brochure, on the standard for sweet peppers

*20 standards for fresh fruit and vegetables, dry and dried produce, meat and eggs products were developed or revised in 2009 .*



## Challenges for 2010

The European Commission has introduced a new regulation on the organization of the European Union market for fresh fruit and vegetables, which entered into force on 1 July 2009. This regulation is expected to have important implications for the work of UNECE. It reduced the number of specific standards from 34 to 10 and introduced a General Marketing Standard, which covers about 400 products. That Standard is based on the "Minimum requirements" section in UNECE standards. However, it does not contain classification provisions for quality classes (Extra, Class I and Class II), which are essential for producers and traders to price their products. To have guidance for pricing, operators in the fresh fruit and vegetables market are turning to UNECE standards, which provide definitions of different quality classes. The demand for revising the existing and developing new standards is therefore expected to remain strong.

Should the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables decide positively on the transfer of its activities to UNECE, the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables will be asked to produce more explanatory material on interpretation of standards, as well as to take over other activities of the OECD Scheme. To meet the increasing demand from the industry for new standards and the revision of the existing ones, as well as for interpretative material, the Specialized Section will meet twice a year and will possibly start developing standards for groups of products as well.

The Working Party, with its four specialized sections, will continue its demand-driven promotional activities in different regions of the world.



## TRANSPORT

### Fostering pan-European operations

In the course of 2009, the Transport Division continued to work on further development and promotion of a pan-European inland transport regulatory framework. This framework also made possible further promotion of activities on facilitation of the international movement of persons and goods. Further improvement of road traffic safety in the UNECE region continued to be one of the top agenda items. In addition, development of clean vehicles technologies and more energy efficient vehicles, intelligent transport systems and transport security, among other activities, were also in focus as they were perceived to be important contributors to sustainable transport development. The work further focused mainly on facilitating negotiations and managing international agreements, conventions, norms and standards. Through its programmes and capacity building activities, the work of the UNECE Transport Division continued to contribute to further development of safer, more secure and efficient transport operations, safer and less polluting vehicles, as well as simplified border crossing procedures.

During 2009, 28 countries became Contracting Parties to UNECE transport agreements and conventions. Eight were non-UNECE member countries. This may be attributed to increased efforts to further 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 international organizations, and which involved a large number of experts from both the public and private sectors.

*In 2009,  
28 countries became  
Contracting Parties  
to UNECE transport  
agreements  
and conventions.*

## Major achievements in 2009

### *Transport conventions, agreement and legal instruments*

With respect to the **transport of dangerous goods**, the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) became applicable on 28 February 2009. ADN now counts twelve Contracting Parties.

The accession of Andorra to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) raised the number of Contracting Parties of that Agreement to 45.

The 16th revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations; the 5th revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria; and the 3rd revised edition of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) were published during 2009.



These publications were prepared on the basis of the amendments adopted by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, of the Economic and Social Council and serviced by the UNECE secretariat, in December 2009, pursuant to an ECOSOC resolution adopted on 29 July 2009.

Pursuant to the same resolution, the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and its joint meetings with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail and with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine adopted amendments to ADR, RID and ADN to take account of the revised United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, for entry into force on 1 January 2011. Similarly, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) adopted corresponding amendments to their respective legal instruments (International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous by Air) for application at the same date.

The European Union adopted, at the end of 2008, Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 that gives effect to the GHS in EU countries as from 2009, with a transitional period until 30 November 2010 for pure chemicals and 31 May 2015 for mixtures.



Amendments to the Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs (ATP) were adopted, including a new model ATP certificate and a new revised Annex I of the Agreement offering a simpler and more logical presentation. The ATP now has 45 Contracting Parties and new accessions by Central Asian countries are expected shortly.

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) continued to update the existing regulations and adopted new regulations aimed at improving vehicles' safety and their environmental performance. More than 90 amendments to existing vehicle regulations have been introduced as amendments to existing Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement and as new global technical regulations in the framework of the 1998 Agreement. Among them were updated: provisions for requirements for residual braking performance of vehicles with ABS function as well as requirements for Braking Assistance Systems, test requirements for passengers and light commercial vehicles equipped with tyre pressure monitoring systems, reinforcement of the structure of small coaches to protect passengers in the event of roll-over, insertion of fire detection provisions in buses and coaches, update of the new Euro 5/6 emission requirements.

*The World Forum continued to develop recommendations on market fuel quality.*

Following up its brief policy segment on key issues in 2009, the World Forum considered a possible strategy for the automotive sector with regard to the measures for the abatement of global warming and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in the following way: (a) a short term objective through improved energy efficiency of vehicles and the use of sustainable biofuels (2015), (b) a mid term objective with the development and introduction into the market of plug-in hybrid vehicles (2020-2025), and (c) a long term objective with development and introduction into the market of electric vehicles as well as hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles (2030-2040). This strategy would shift the automotive sector from the use of fossil energy to hydrogen and electric energy. The World Forum has called for an integrated approach, taking also into account that measures such as eco-driving and better traffic management may be very cost-effective in obtaining a short-term substantial CO<sub>2</sub> reduction in the existing vehicle fleet. For the effectiveness of this integrated strategy, the energy sector has to ensure the sustainable and cost-effective generation of electricity and production of hydrogen. The World Forum has continued to promote measures for sustainable development, including global warming mitigation such as environmentally friendly vehicles, worldwide harmonized light vehicle test procedures including CO<sub>2</sub> measurement, hybrid and electric vehicles, hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles, and numerous other measures on fuel efficiency.

The World Forum continued to develop recommendations on market fuel quality so that vehicles tested in conformity with the United Nations regulations or other equivalent regulations and using specific reference fuels for the tests, can use in their daily service fuels with specific characteristics relating to the vehicle emission levels and engine technology type. Once adopted, the recommendations will contribute to environmental protection, specifically to the reduction of air pollution. The World Forum will organize a Round Table on Global Warming and Transport in June 2010 which, among other objectives, should further contribute to the development of recommendations on market fuel quality.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) contribute not only to the abatement of global warming from transport activities through better traffic management but also to increased road safety. ITS offers non-traditional solutions for many transport sector challenges in an effective way. UNECE's main focus on ITS regulations has so far been through the World Forum (WP.29) which has been dealing with communication between vehicles and between vehicles and infrastructure. Technical specifications for autonomous emergency braking and lane departure warning systems are just two examples of products from the World Forum. A road map for incorporating the ITS into the activities of the Transport Division is being prepared and will be completed in 2010.



### **Progress of UNECE regarding automotive regulations during 2009**

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) adopted at its November 2009 session harmonized requirements on Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS). As well as preventing casualties, the widespread use of TPMS in cars could significantly reduce fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Deflated tyres can cause up to 4 per cent increase in fuel consumption while reducing tyre lifespan by 45 per cent. Deflated tyres are also an important factor causing road accidents (9 per cent of fatal accidents on motorways are related to tyre failures). Despite these facts, owners are not careful with the condition of their tyres. According to a European study, 50 per cent of all cars are driven on under-inflated tyres. This is the reason why the World Forum (WP.29) developed in 2009 harmonized requirements on TPMS.

TPMS warn the driver when the tyre is significantly below its optimum pressure. The use of TPMS will therefore help to improve road safety, tyre performance, fuel efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in particular, according to research by TNO in the Netherlands, the fuel saving potential of TPMS in passenger cars is 2.5 per cent. For new cars with expected engine test cycle performance of 130 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km this would mean additional reductions of 3g CO<sub>2</sub>/km.

The European Community will make reference in its own legislation to the corresponding UNECE Regulation<sup>1</sup> to make mandatory the TPMS requirements developed by the World Forum.

<sup>1</sup> UNECE Regulation No. 64 on uniform provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to equipment which may include a temporary use spare wheel and tyre unit, a run-flat tyre system and/or a tyre pressure monitoring system (text available on <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29regs61-80.html>)



Since 1 January 2009, the TIR Convention has been strengthened by amendments that provide more financial transparency in respect to the functioning of the TIR system. In addition, a survey of the prices of TIR Carnets at the national level has been successfully conducted; the results are being analysed by administrative bodies of the Convention. An extensive package of amendment proposals has been brought to the consideration of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport and the TIR Administrative Committee with a view to clearly defining the responsibilities of the major players in the TIR system (Customs, operators and guarantors). Moreover, UNECE has undertaken a number of training and capacity building activities, including a Regional TIR Seminar in Tunisia (June, 2009) and the publication of the 2009 edition of the TIR Handbook which will include numerous examples of best practices with regard to the implementation of the TIR Convention at the national level. UNECE is currently finalizing a strategic review of the TIR system in the light of recent changes in the areas of trade, transport and Customs, in order to keep it up to date.

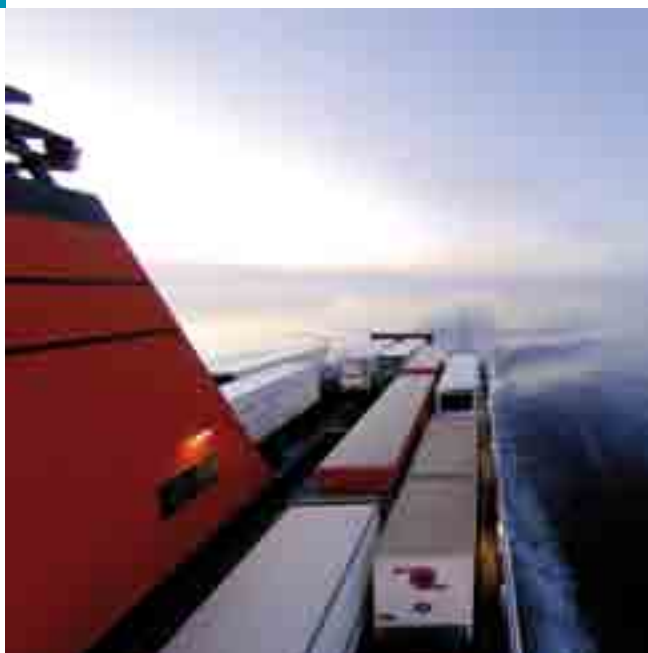
### *Facilitation of international transport*

With regard to border crossing facilitation, the accessions of Jordan, the Republic of Moldova and Tunisia to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, 1982 (Harmonization Convention) have brought the number of Contracting Parties to 54. The Convention establishes commonly agreed requirements for coordinated border management and reduction of border formalities as well as the number and duration of all types of border controls of goods. UNECE has continued its efforts to ensure the full implementation 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 border crossing performance.

In June 2009, UNECE in close cooperation with the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organized a Workshop on the Implementation of Annex 8 to the Harmonization Convention aimed at strengthening the capacity of government officials responsible for Customs, transport and trade policies to ensure a more effective implementation. Participants benefited from an exchange of best practices in the implementation of the key provisions of Annex 8 at the national level as well as from various technical presentations. A survey of all Contracting Parties on the implementation of the above mentioned Annex has also been launched.

In March 2009, UNECE, together with the World Bank and International Transport Forum, organized a Seminar on "Overcoming border crossing obstacles", which reviewed and analysed problems in crossing borders for all modes of transport, as well as for maritime





ports and airports across the globe. It examined good practices and recent developments which could be replicated and identified areas where further actions need to be taken to facilitate easier crossing of borders. Participants shared a vision for the future that is built on an integrated and cooperative model for border management. Instead of competition and adversarial relations between agencies, the aim is for a combined approach based on a single window for business and users. There should be a balance between control and facilitation, with as much of the work as possible done in advance using electronic communication to replace the present paper based systems.

UNECE provided a substantial contribution to the Annual meeting of the International Transport Forum (Leipzig, May 2009). This high-level event was organized under the theme “Transport for a Global Economy: Challenges and Opportunities in the Downturn” and brought together more than 800 delegates from around the world, including 52 transport ministers and business leaders, to discuss the impact of the economic crisis on transport and the sector’s role in the economic recovery. UNECE highlighted the crucial role of trade and transport facilitation for economic development and stressed the importance of the global application of the key United Nations Conventions facilitating transport. UNECE participation in policy discussion panels and the information stand attracted considerable attention and raised the visibility of the work of the Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

### Road traffic safety

*In Europe alone, road crashes kill 127,000 people every year and leave 2.4 millions injured or disabled.*

With 1.3 million people dying worldwide and millions more injured or disabled every year as a result of road crashes, road traffic safety has become a major global social, economic, development and health concern. In Europe alone as many as 127,000 people die every year and 2.4 millions more are injured or disabled causing, in addition to human suffering, overwhelming costs running into hundreds of millions of dollars a year amounting for some countries to 1.5 to 2.5 per cent of GDP. Road safety remains an area of priority of UNECE. The secretariat has revised and published the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals in all the official United

Nations languages, thus allowing an accelerated scaling up of their use beyond the UNECE region. Two sets of best practices, Consolidated Resolutions on Road Traffic (R.E.1) and on Road Signs and Signals (R.E.2) respectively, were fundamentally revised and published in 2009. The accession of Kenya to the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic brought the number of Contracting Parties to 69 (of which 35 outside the UNECE region), while the number of Contracting Parties to the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals remains unchanged at 58 (of which 30 outside the UNECE region). All five United Nations regional commissions have agreed to consider road safety as a priority area for cooperation.

UNECE Road Safety Forum–Working Party on Road Traffic Safety organized a **Round Table «Are we victims of development success»?** in September 2009. The forum aimed at giving experts an opportunity to debate what has become a paradox of our times: despite

improved awareness, safer vehicles and road infrastructures, better training of drivers, and more expedient trauma care, casualties and fatality rates due to road traffic crashes continue to rise. Four major aspects of improved road traffic safety – infrastructure, vehicles, drivers and public awareness – were introduced by keynote speakers.

UNECE is the implementing lead agency for the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) funded project on **“Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets.”** The project was carried out in cooperation with the other regional commissions in 2008 and 2009. Under the auspices of the UNDA project, UNECE organized a seminar in Minsk in May 2009, co-hosted by the Government of Belarus. The seminar provided participants from nine countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with the opportunity to learn from each other’s experiences as well as from the cases of Australia, France, Poland, Spain and United Kingdom, where setting targets proved to be effective in assessing the road safety problem and finding ways to solve it.



A UNECE Conference was organized under the project in Halkida (Greece), in June 2009, hosted by the Evia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association, with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications. The conference was attended by participants from ten countries in South-East Europe and offered the opportunity for exchange of experiences among these countries, to learn from the experience of France, Italy and the Netherlands and to get information on activities and plans of the European Commission and other major international governmental and non-governmental organizations. The conference received very good media coverage and the Hellenic Basketball Federation, FIBA Europe and players from the national basketball team of Greece, both male and female, signed a Declaration requesting “Team Work and Fair Play on the Basketball Court and on Our Roads”.

Under the same project, a study tour for road safety experts from low and middle income countries was organized in Sweden, in cooperation with the Swedish Road Administration; and a road safety national seminar was organized in Kyrgyzstan at the request of Ministry of Transport and Communication.

A press conference to promote road safety jointly hosted by UNECE, FIBA and FIBA Europe, together with the Polish authorities, was organized in Katowice, where the last round of the EuroBasket 2009 was played, on 17 September 2009. Speakers included the FIBA and FIBA Europe President and Secretary-General, the Polish Vice-Minister of sport, and a representative of the Polish Minister of Infrastructure, as well as the secretariat. This event raised awareness about the road safety problem among a wide audience and was an opportunity to invite road users to respect traffic rules. At this event, the speakers formally signed the EuroBasket 2009 Declaration for Road Safety – “because a true champion respects the rules of the game!” – which draws a parallel between basketball and road safety stating that non-respect for rules results in unfairness, on the road as on the court. In an effort to reach out to people’s everyday lives, the Declaration offers a new perspective on road rules. It tries to counter the “avoid getting caught” attitude with one of respect for fellow road-users.



UNECE participated in preparations for the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety held in the Russian Federation in November 2009. The conference provided a major opportunity for raising the political profile of this epidemic. Moreover, it contributed to improving the visibility of UNECE and its related work, including the dissemination of the tangible results produced by the UNDA project mentioned above. The Conference approved a Declaration that will most likely be the basis for a new United Nations General Assembly Resolution on road safety.

Following close cooperation with the European Commission (EC) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) located in Ispra (Italy) a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed, through which the UNECE secretariat recognizes the EC-JRC as the Authority responsible for Root and Interoperability Certification for non-EU Contracting Parties to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The Memorandum entered into force on 1 January 2009. In 2009, UNECE organized two special meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts for the Implementation of the Digital Tachograph by non-EU countries Contracting Parties to the AETR aimed at supporting the efforts of these countries to proceed with the timely implementation of this new system. From 16 June 2010, the digital tachograph will be mandatory for newly registered vehicles in non-EU Contracting Parties to the AETR. Several of these countries have difficulties in implementing the device, so this issue continues to be a priority on the agenda of the Working Party on Road Transport and the secretariat.

### *Transport infrastructure development, methodologies and transport security*

*UNECE works closely with Governments of the Euro-Asian region to develop Euro-Asian Transport Links.*

UNECE continued to work closely with Governments of the Euro-Asian region to develop **Euro-Asian Transport Links** (EATL). The first phase of the EATL project ended in 2008 with the Ministerial Meeting in Geneva where high-level representatives of 19 countries signed a joint statement on development of Euro-Asian transport links. They endorsed several Euro-Asian rail and road routes for priority development. They also agreed to create a mechanism to ensure efficient coordination and monitoring of EATL activities.

Subsequently, the Russian Federation provided a multi-year funding to support EATL activities until 2011. An EATL Expert Group held two meetings in 2009 (in Geneva and Istanbul in partnership with the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Turkey and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation) and organized a regional workshop in Tehran in partnership with the Economic Cooperation Organization. The workshops aim at strengthening national capacities to deal with international transit, including border crossing along the Euro-Asian transport routes, and at promoting United Nations conventions and agreements in the area of transport. The Expert Group continued to elaborate studies concerning key Euro-Asian transport aspects: EATL Strengths - Weaknesses - Opportunities - Threats (SWOT) analysis; collection of data on transport flows in the EATL region; analysis of EATL inland transport options relative the existing maritime routes; and identification of non-physical obstacles to international transport.

The Expert Group on **Hinterland Connections of Seaports** continued to investigate traffic congestion and other problems on major port-hinterland routes in the pan-European region, using its own questionnaire survey and other sources of information. The survey was distributed to 70 port authorities in the UNECE region and over 30 answers were received. The Expert Group was able to complete its final Report, including the data analysis and policy recommendations to member States. These recommendations aim inter alia to ensure that hinterland connections of seaports are well integrated into transport development strategic plans at national and international levels. They encourage UNECE to launch the development of a new evaluation tool for identifying key pinch points and points of weakness/failure in transport systems, and benchmarking performance of transport and logistics systems against peer economies. They also encourage good practice adoption for border crossings with a view to improving hinterland efficiency in general terms, but most particularly for landlocked non-EU countries, and encourage the European Union to maintain a clear focus on improving transport infrastructure and operations with neighbouring UNECE countries, particularly EU candidate countries.



UNECE continued supporting the implementation of the **Almaty Programme of Action (APA)** aimed at establishing a new global framework for developing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries. Following APA's mid-term review in 2008, in which UNECE actively participated, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the midterm review of the APA. The Declaration generated a sense of urgency for the entire international community to focus on the specific challenges faced by both the landlocked and transit developing countries.

Given this background, UNECE in cooperation with Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), hosted an **Inter-agency Consultative Meeting on the implementation of the APA** in March 2009. The meeting aimed at assessing the outcome the mid-term review and at mapping the contributions by the United Nations system and other relevant organizations towards the accelerated implementation of the APA goals. UNECE administers a number of international legal instruments, standards, norms and recommendations which – if promoted, used and properly implemented – can assist landlocked and transit countries in overcoming their special disadvantages. UNECE also contributes to the APA by cooperating with other international organizations. Of particular interest is UNECE's novel cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to promote transport and border crossing facilitation. In this context, UNECE Transport Division staff have recently co-organized and/or significantly participated in OSCE events in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Currently, UNECE is working with the OSCE to develop a "Handbook of Best Practices at Borders".

UNECE published a Report on the **identification of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in infrastructure networks**. It aims to provide an approach that will permit an unbiased overview of existing infrastructure bottlenecks and missing links in the pan-European region. This revised methodology will facilitate a coherent appraisal and selection of transport infrastructure projects of international importance across the UNECE region. Both this report and the one on Hinterland Connections of Seaports will provide member States with a number of topical recommendations related to the analysis, description and planning of international transport networks.

The Inland Transport Committee endorsed the final report of the Chairman of the Multidisciplinary Inland Transport Security Expert Group with recommendations on how to enhance inland transport security in the UNECE region. The Expert Group is to be re-activated annually to discuss security issues being addressed to the Committee's subsidiary

bodies and to provide an international platform for exchange of good practices. The secretariat held a two-day inland transport security event in January 2010 to discuss and promote closer cooperation in this area.



### *Transport, health and environment*

The **Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)** continued to address key challenges to achieving sustainable transport patterns, to encourage Governments to pursue an integrated approach to policymaking, and to put sustainable mobility at the top of the international agenda. At the **Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment** in January 2009, Governments of UNECE countries adopted the Amsterdam Declaration - Making THE Link, Transport choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity. They gave renewed political impetus to THE PEP and agreed 4 priority goals: (i) to contribute to sustainable economic development and stimulate job creation through investment in environment- and health-friendly transport; (ii) to manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system; (iii) to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise; and (iv) to promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport. On the basis of the Work Plan for 2009-2014, concrete projects were developed by THE PEP Steering Committee, composed of UNECE and WHO/Europe Member State representatives from the transport, environment and health sectors, in cooperation with international and non-governmental organizations.

*Policymakers should develop strategies and measures to support pedestrian and cycle-friendly cities.*

THE PEP **Workshop on Safe and Healthy Walking and Cycling in Urban Areas** organized in cooperation with the Czech Republic in September 2009, initiated THE PEP "staffete" (relay race), one of the mechanisms adopted by the Third High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment. The objective was to implement the goals of the Amsterdam Declaration and to share good experience from the Netherlands and other countries successful in promoting non-motorized transport. The aim of the Workshop was to encourage transport, health and environment policymakers to develop strategies and measures to support pedestrian and cycle-friendly cities. Participants identified challenges to promote innovative policies to support

walking and cycling as viable and attractive modes of urban mobility. Focusing on cooperation between national and local authorities, industry and civil society in planning, building infrastructure and financing safe and healthy walking and cycling, the workshop also offered an opportunity for capacity building for sustainable urban transport development in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia (EECCA) and South-East Europe (SEE).

## Major challenges for 2010

The World Forum on Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations will continue to adapt its regulations to technical progress and, when necessary, adopt new regulations to further improve the safety and environmental performance of vehicles.

A road map for the establishment of a worldwide common test cycle for measurement of emissions of light vehicles, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, will be one of its priorities and a round table on vehicles and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be organized. It will make further efforts to increase participation of new non-UNECE countries. The secretariat will participate in the 2010 Geneva Motor Show to increase visibility and promote UNECE work on vehicle regulations.

Global warming is at the top of United Nations priorities and has become a challenge for many organizations and forums dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation. There is also common understanding for the need to increase the capacity of countries in dealing with this challenge. For UNECE the focus is on linking and mainstreaming the Transport Division's work to other international agendas, and to concentrate on key areas which can produce results, such as: (i) the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), in particular MDG 7 to ensure environmental sustainability; (ii) the Kyoto Protocol; (iii) General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/32, "Protection of global climate for present and future generations", and (iv) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Transport Division initiated a new project to study the impact of road transport on global warming and called for UNDA funding to carry out this project together with all regional commissions. The object of this challenging project is to develop an information and analysis tool based on a uniform methodology for the evaluation of the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the transport sector (aviation and maritime transport are not included), taking into account climate-relevant indicators and new transportation trends. The methodology for evaluating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would serve as a tool that could be used by all United Nations Member States to analyse a wide range of questions linked to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and to optimize the use of energy sources in the transport sector. Thus, it would also be a powerful and transparent analysis tool to develop future transport strategies and to support policy decisions by the Member States.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) is an area to be strengthened in the transport sector. The Transport Division's objective will be to improve access to high quality information concerning available ITS and their meaningful integration into the work of intergovernmental bodies. Several subsidiary bodies of the Inland Transport Committee have expressed an interest in secretariat strategic guidance and administrative support with regard to ITS applications in the transport sector, in particular, in the following areas: (i) mitigating traffic congestions; (ii) reducing road fatalities; (iii) reducing pollution and noise, and (iv) improving fuel efficiency.



*Intelligent Transport Systems can help mitigate traffic congestions, reduce road fatalities, pollution and noise and improve fuel efficiency.*

The secretariat will publish a consolidated edition of the ADR and ADN incorporating all amendments adopted by the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the ADN Administrative Committee in 2008 and 2009 for entry into force on 1 January 2011, subject to their acceptance by Contracting Parties. The major challenges include, inter alia, the adoption of a new harmonized model of ADR driver training certificate to avoid misuse and forgery; and the adoption of a catalogue of questions related to the training and examination of experts required to be on board of inland navigation vessels carrying dangerous goods.

The ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods should finalize its work, which had been programmed for the 2009-2010 biennium, and should adopt amended or new recommendations, in particular as regards the safe carriage of electric storage systems.



*The GHS was implemented by the European Union in January 2009. The main challenge now is its effective implementation in other UNECE countries and other regions.*

For the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), implemented by the European Union as from 2009, the main challenge is its effective implementation in most other UNECE countries but also in all other regions of the world.

In the area of border crossing facilitation, the objectives for 2010 will be to continue monitoring and capacity-building activities regarding the Harmonization Convention as well as to finalize and adopt a new Annex 9 on rail crossing facilitation and to develop a set of border crossing indicators.

Major challenges for the TIR Convention will be to agree on the extensive package of amendment proposals which would clarify the responsibilities of various actors in the TIR system (Customs, operators and guarantors) and to make further progress in the computerization of the TIR procedure (e-TIR) by finalizing Chapter 3 of the TIR Reference Model, which defines a set of electronic messages for the future e-TIR system, and to explore the ways and means how such a system can be brought about in the near future. The Contracting Parties should also reach a consensus on the possible increase of the TIR guarantee level for non-EU countries to EUR 60,000 to harmonize the TIR guarantee with that existing in the EU. In addition, the results of the recent strategic study of the TIR procedure, in the light of recent changes in the areas of trade, transport and Customs, will be analysed with a view to keeping the TIR system competitive and up-to-date.

The 18th Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Economic and Environmental Forum will be conducted under the 2010 Kazakh Chairmanship on the theme "Promoting good governance at border crossings, improving the security of land transportation and facilitating international transport by road and rail in the OSCE region". This event, which is closely related to the ongoing work of the UNECE Transport Division, will offer an excellent opportunity for further strengthening the UNECE-OSCE cooperation in the area of inland transport and border crossing facilitation.



The future efficient functioning and timely delivery of outputs of the UNECE Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects will depend very much on continued support from participating Governments. In spite of the temporary arrangement for the management of both Projects which has been stabilized in the second half of 2009 through generous support from the Austrian Government, finding permanent staffing solutions for both Projects will remain as one of the biggest challenges. Both projects are currently engaged in the revision of the 2006 TEM and TER Master Plan. Successful completion of this ambitious task as well as continuation of other activities of both Projects

will depend on uninterrupted work of Project Offices, regularized situation with regard to their management and further support from present and new countries wishing to join both Projects.

The results of the UNDA funded project on improving global road safety will lead to setting targets at subregional and regional levels. UNECE in close cooperation with the other regional commissions and other relevant partners will continue working towards raising the political profile of road traffic issues and contributing to improving global road safety. The principal challenges related to road safety in 2010 are to increase the participation of countries in the sessions of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety, develop appropriate mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of road safety related Conventions and accommodate the introduction of constantly changing and evolving new technologies in these Conventions.

Regarding road transport, the challenges for 2010 include the implementation of the digital tachograph (mandated to be implemented on 16 June 2010), the introduction of road safety audits in AGR, and the possible acceptance of the global multilateral agreement on the international regular transport of passengers by coach and bus (OmniBUS agreement).





## Governing Bodies

### United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Executive Committee

#### Chairperson:

Mr. Alex VAN MEEUWEN (*Belgium*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Muktar DJUMALIEV (*Kyrgyzstan*)

Mr. Uglješa ZVEKIĆ (*Serbia*)

## Sectoral Committees

### Committee on Environmental Policy

#### Chairperson:

Mr. Zaal LOMTADZE (*Georgia*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Massimo COZZONE (*Italy*)

Mr. Bulat YESSEKIN (*Kazakhstan*)

Mr. Sinisa STANKOVIC (*Montenegro*)

Mr. Adriaan OUDEMAN (*Netherlands*)

Ms. Elisabete QUINTAS DA SILVA (*Portugal*)

Ms. Martine ROHN-BROSSARD (*Switzerland*)

Mr. Taras TROTSKY (*Ukraine*)

Mr. John Michael MATUSZAK (*United States of America*)

### Inland Transport Committee

#### Chairperson:

Mr. Ralph KELLERMANN (*Germany*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Sergei NEGREL (*Belarus*)

#### Members:

Mrs. Isabelle PALLIET (*France*)

Mrs. Domna PAPAMICHAIL (*Greece*)

Mr. Fabio CROCCOLO (*Italy*)

Mr. Bob OUDSHOORN (*Netherlands*)

Mr. José Alberto FRANCO (*Portugal*)

Mrs. Elena KUSHIRENKO (*Russian Federation*)

Mr. Jean-Claude SCHNEUWLY (*Switzerland*)

Mr. Emir YÜKSEL (*Turkey*)

### Conference of European Statisticians

#### Chairperson:

Ms. Heli JESKANEN-SUNDSTRÖM (*Finland*)

#### Members:

Mr. Brian PINK (*Australia*)

Mr. Eduardo Periera NUNES (*Brazil*)

Mr. Munir SHEIKH (*Canada*)

Mr. Gerry O'HANLON (*Ireland*)

Mr. Oystein OLSEN (*Norway*)

Ms. Irena KRIZMAN (*Slovenia*)

Mr. Oleksandr OSAULENKO (*Ukraine*)

#### Observers:

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*)

### Committee on Sustainable Energy

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Mr. Jean-Christophe FÜEG (*Switzerland*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

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Mr. Sergio GARRIBBA (*Italy*)

Mr. Sigurd HEIBERG (*Norway*)

Ms. Barbara McKEE (*United States of America*)

Mr. Sergei MIKHAILOV (*Russian Federation*)

Mr. Laszlo MOLNAR (*Hungary*)

Mr. Nick OTTER (*United Kingdom*)

### Committee on Trade

#### Chairperson ad interim:

Mr. Malcolm McKINNON (*United Kingdom*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Georgi STOEV (*Bulgaria*)

Ms. Anna SIDORUK (*Russian Federation*)

### Timber Committee

#### Chairman:

Mr. Branko GLAVONJIC (*Serbia*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Johann DENG G (*Germany*)

Ms. Linda LANGNER (*United States of America*)

### Committee on Housing and Land Management

#### Chairperson:

Mr. Wolfgang FOERSTER (*Austria*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

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Mr. Damir PAHIC (*Croatia*)

Mr. Martti LUJANEN (*Finland*)

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Ms. Martina HAUSER (*Italy*)

Ms. Elena BEJENARU (*Republic of Moldova*)

Mr. Sergey BARINOV (*Russian Federation*)

Ms. Svetlana RISTIC (*Serbia*)

Ms. Elena SZOLGAYOVA (*Slovakia*)

Mr. Ernst HAURI (*Switzerland*)

### Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

#### Chairperson:

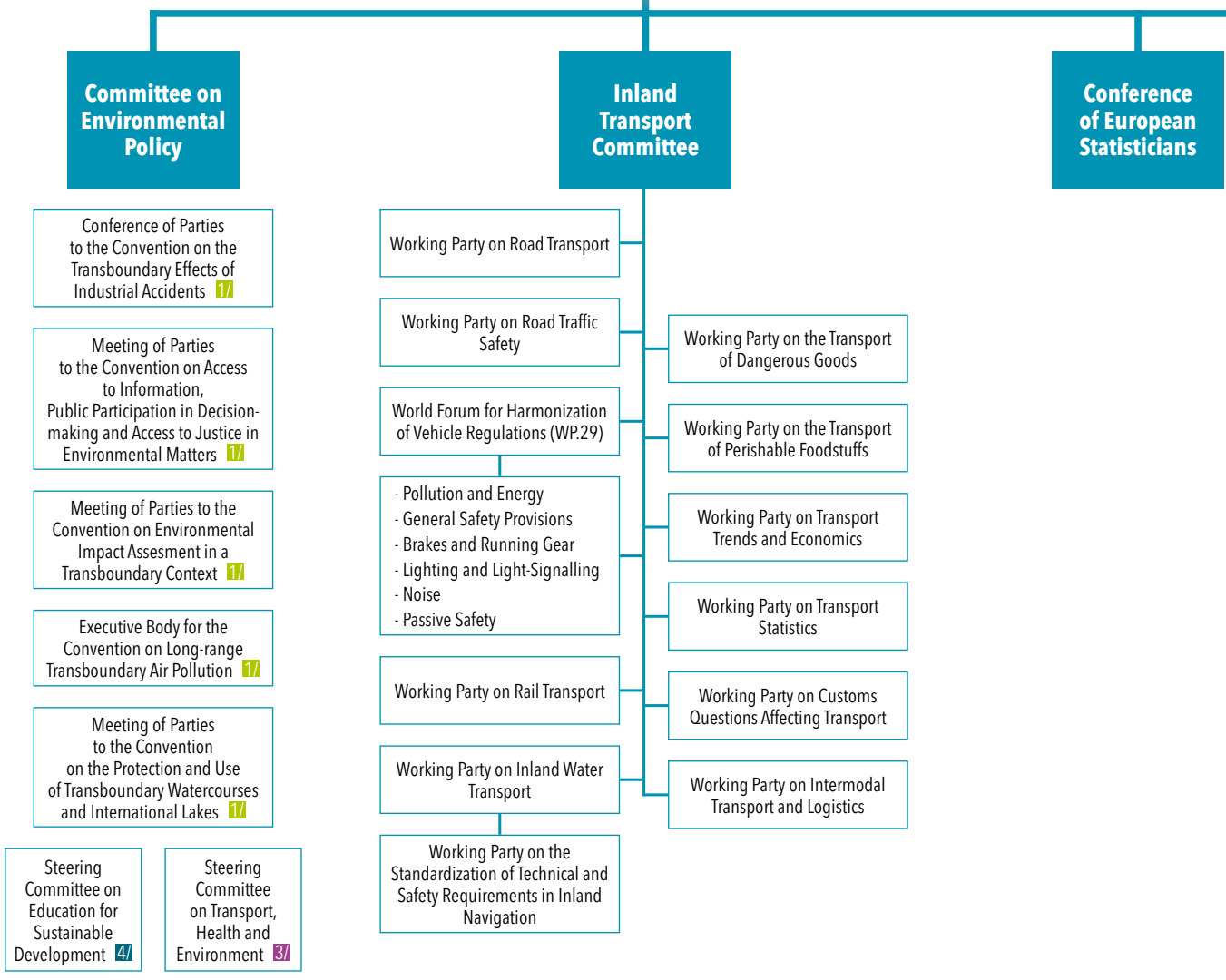
Mr. Matti PIETARINEN (*Finland*)

#### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Andrei SAVINYKH (*Belarus*)

Name of be confirmed (*United States of America*)

# Economic Commission for Europe



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, Housing and Land Management 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 Ministers, in 2005, the Committee is serviced by the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. It reports to the High-level Meeting.



## 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

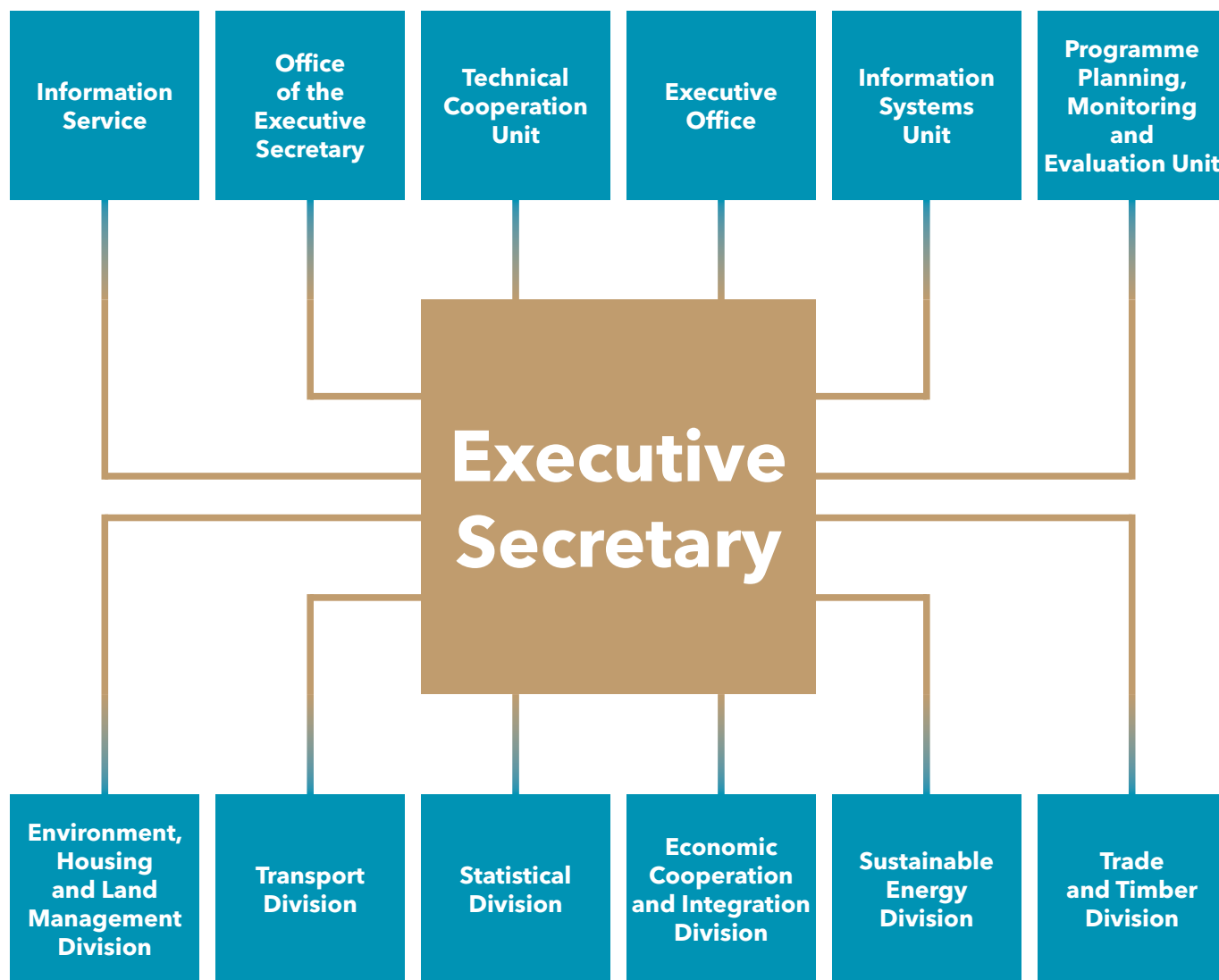
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project

### Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

## Member States and member States representatives\*

Albania	H.E. Mr. Sejdi QERIMAJ
Andorra	H.E. M. Lluís VIU TORRES
Armenia	H.E. Mr. Charles AZNAVOUR
Austria	H.E. Mr. Christian STROHAL
Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Murad NAJAFBAYLI
Belarus	H.E. M. Mikhail KHVOSTOV
Belgium	H.E. Mr. Alex VAN MEEUWEN
Bosnia and Herzegovina	H.E. Mrs. Emina KECO-ISAKOVIĆ
Bulgaria	H.E. M. Gancho GANEV
Canada	H.E. Mr. Marius GRINIUS
Croatia	H.E. Mrs. Mirjana MLADINEO
Cyprus	H.E. Mr. Andreas HADJICHRYSANTHOU
Czech Republic	H.E. Mr. Tomáš HUSÁK
Denmark	H.E. Mrs. Marie-Louise OVERVAD
Estonia	H.E. Mr. Jüri SEILENTAL
Finland	H.E. Mr. Hannu HIMANEN
France	H.E. Mr. Jean-Baptiste MATTÉI
Georgia	H.E. Mr. Giorgi GORGILADZE
Germany	H.E. Mr. Reinhard SCHWEPPE
Greece	H.E. M. George KAKLIKIS
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Iceland	H.E. Mr. Kristinn F. ÁRNASON
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Israel	H.E. Mr. Aharon LESHNO-YAAR
Italy	H.E. Mrs. Laura MIRACHIAN
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Kyrgyzstan	H.E. Mr. Muktar DJUMALIEV
Latvia	H.E. Mr. Jānis MAŽEIKS
Liechtenstein	H.E. Mr. Norbert FRICK
Lithuania	H.E. Mr. Jonas RUDALEVIČIUS
Luxembourg	H.E. Mr. Jean FEYDER
Malta	H.E. Mr. Victor CAMILLERI
Monaco	H.E. Mr. Robert FILLON
Montenegro	H.E. Mr. Milomir MIHALJEVIĆ
Netherlands	H.E. Mr. Boudewijn J. VAN EENENNAAM
Norway	H.E. Mrs. Bente ANGELL-HANSEN
Poland	H.E. Mr. Zdzisław RAPACKI
Portugal	H.E. Mr. Francisco Manuel da FONSECA XAVIER ESTEVES
Republic of Moldova	H.E. Mrs. Tatiana LAPICUS
Romania	H.E. Mrs. Maria CIOBANU
Russian Federation	H.E. Mr. Valery LOSHCHININ
San Marino	H.E. Mr. Dario GALASSI
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Slovenia	H.E. Mr. Andrej LOGAR
Spain	H.E. Mr. Javier GARRIGUES
Sweden	H.E. Mr. Hans DAHLGREN
Switzerland	H.E. M. Dante MARTINELLI
Tajikistan	Mr. Jamshed KHAMIDOV (Chargé d'affaires a.i.)
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	H.E. M. Azis POLOZHANI
Turkey	H.E. Mr. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ
Turkmenistan*	H.E. Mrs. Aksoltan T. ATAEVA
Ukraine	H.E. Mr. Mykola MAIMESKUL
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	H.E. Mr. Peter GOODERHAM
United States of America	H.E. Mrs. Betty E. KING
Uzbekistan	H.E. Mrs. Goulнора KARIMOVA

\*Permanent Mission in New York.



Number of UNECE Staff members	2009
Regular Budget	199
Regional Advisers Budget	6
Extrabudgetary Project staff	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229</b>

# Management



Ján KUBIŠ  
*Executive Secretary*



Andrey Vasilyev  
*Deputy Executive Secretary*



Susan Bartolo  
*Chef de Cabinet and  
Secretary of the Commission*



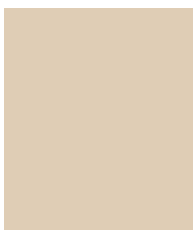
Patrice Robineau  
*Senior Adviser  
to the Executive Secretary*



**Environment, Housing  
and Land Management Division**  
Marco Keiner  
*Director*



**Transport Division**  
Eva Molnar  
*Director*



**Economic Cooperation  
and Integration Division**  
*Director*



**Trade and Timber Division**  
Virginia Cram-Martos  
*Director*



**Sustainable Energy Division**  
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*Director*



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# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

<b>A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)</b>	
<b>TYPE OF BUDGET</b>	<b>2009</b> Allotment
<b>I. REGULAR BUDGET (SECTION 19)</b>	
Post items	<b>32,189.0</b>
Non-Post items	<b>2,436.5</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>34,625.5</b>
<b>II. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (SECTION 22)</b>	
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	<b>1,304.2</b>
Other non-post items	<b>543.9</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,848.1</b>
<b>III. UN Development Fund (SECTION 34)</b>	
Non-post items	<b>1,049.3</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,049.3</b>
<b>B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)</b>	
<b>TYPE OF FUND</b>	<b>2009</b> Final expenditures
General Trust Funds	<b>3,669.0</b>
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	<b>7,876.5</b>
UNDP/UNFPA/UNFIP Projects	<b>1,690.6</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,236.1</b>





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