



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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## *It's just happened ...*

### **Secretary-General's message to the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003**



The "Environment for Europe" process has become an important platform for dialogue and cooperation not only among Governments but also with international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Your efforts to extend the environmental legal framework, to ensure that existing international environmental law is applied, and to keep the environment high on the international agenda demonstrate your conviction that together, we can make a difference and build a better and greener world for our future generations. The previous four conferences in this process have had a significant impact on the region covered by the UNECE. Moreover, your achievements, whether

in improving environmental rights, strengthening public participation, improving energy efficiency or banning leaded petrol, are closely watched around the world and have inspired others to follow suit. You are providing a good example of cross-border environmental cooperation for years to come in Europe and beyond. This 5<sup>th</sup> conference is also a concrete follow-up to last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development. I look forward to the steps the UNECE will take to support the implementation of the decisions taken in Johannesburg on the environmental dimension of sustainable development. I would like to express my appreciation to Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich and the Government of Ukraine for their role in this conference and for focusing attention on a subject that affects each of us every day of our lives.

### **New environmental protocols signed**

On 21 May 2003, on the occasion of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev, Ukraine, three environmental protocols were signed: the *Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (signed by 36 countries and the European Community); the *Protocol on Civil Liability and Damage Caused by*

*the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters* to the UNECE Conventions on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters and International Lakes (signed by 22 countries); and the *Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment* to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) (signed by 35 countries and the European Community).

### **Future natural gas supply is able to meet demand in Europe**

The UNECE Gas Centre held its 8<sup>th</sup> High Level Conference in Stavanger (Norway) on 15 May. Hosted by Statoil, and with presentations made by the five key suppliers of the European gas market (Gazprom, Norsk Hydro, Shell, Sonatrach and Statoil), the Conference concluded that: (i) despite the expected steady growth of natural gas as the European energy market's fuel of choice, sufficient

natural gas reserves are available for at least the next 100 years in and directly around Europe; (ii) most new gas production developments will take place in remote areas under difficult geographic and climatic conditions; (iii) production costs will increase, although technical innovations will limit them considerably; (iv) natural gas production in almost all currently important production areas is

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expected to increase during the coming 10-20 years; (v) UK production is expected to fall within a few years, making the UK a structural net importer of natural gas; (vi) changes in market structure as a consequence of the opening of the gas market could bring new opportunities for traditional and new market players, largely for the benefit of end consumers. At the same time risks have increased as companies are now being legally unbundled and new regulations are being progressively developed.

Also new tax regimes in some countries will tend to decrease the competitive position of their natural gas towards other fuels; and (vii) for many companies Long-Term Take-or-Pay contracts are essential for timely investments in production and infrastructure sectors.

Visit [www.gascentre.unece.org](http://www.gascentre.unece.org) for more information or contact Yannick Guerrini ([yannick.guerrini@unece.org](mailto:yannick.guerrini@unece.org))

## UNECE IREED Division Launches new Website

Following the recent merger of the Sustainable Energy Division and Industrial Restructuring Section, the new Industrial Restructuring, Energy and Enterprise Development Division (IREEDD) launched its website this week with the following direct address: <http://www.unece.org/ie>. The new site features a page providing direct links to the websites of the Energy-Related Ministries and Agencies of UNECE member States."



## Off the press ...

The UNECE guidelines for transport project appraisal are now available in English and Russian. Under the title "A Set of Guidelines for Socio-Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of Transport Infrastructure Project Appraisal", this publication contains a uniform pan-European methodology for the selection and evaluation of transport infrastructure projects. Based on the methodology commonly applied by International Financial

Institutions but also taking into account the specific situation in CIS member countries, the guidelines are intended to provide guidance, primarily, but not only, to CIS countries, for the appropriate selection and evaluation of transport infrastructure projects for submission to donor countries, the European Union and International Financial Institutions.

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## Coming up soon ...

- 26-27 May Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
- 26-28 May Ad Hoc Working Group on Harmonization of RID/ADR/AND with the UN Recommendations
- 28 May Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Efficiency investments for Climate Change Mitigation

## Facts and figures:

### Recent real GDP developments in CIS countries

*percentage change over corresponding quarter of previous year*

	2002				2003
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
CIS-12	3.8	4.7	5.0	6.0	7.0
Armenia	7.4	11.8	11.8	16.5	11.3
Azerbaijan	4.7	12.2	12.6	12.9	7.9
Belarus	3.7	5.6	4.2	5.4	5.6
Georgia	5.8	-0.6	6.8	9.1	4.4
Kazakhstan	10.5	8.1	9.6	9.8	10.6
Kyrgyzstan	-2.4	-7.1	-0.5	6.7	5.2
Republic of Moldova	4.8	7.8	5.3	10.3	6.0
Russian Federation	3.0	4.1	4.6	5.2	6.7
Tajikistan	9.3	7.3	10.1	9.7	12.1
Turkmenistan	...	...	...	...	...
Ukraine	4.1	4.7	4.3	6.1	7.0
Uzbekistan	3.1	5.3	0.7	7.8	5.0

Source: UNECE Statistical Division, estimates based on national and Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS statistics.

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