



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Revised critical loads and levels agreed for future reviews of protocols

Revised critical levels for ozone and critical loads for nitrogen deposition as well as new methods for dynamic modelling were agreed at the 19th meeting of the Task Force of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping. The Task Force, which works under the Air Pollution Convention, met in Tartu, Estonia on 22-23 May to discuss and agree upon revisions to its Manual for Mapping Critical Loads and Levels. The methods, which are being made available through the Task Force web site (<http://www.oekodata.com/icpmapping/index.html>), will be applied to mapping the impacts of air pollution in Europe and to modelling for future emission abatement strategies.



Work Session on Population and Housing Censuses

The Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Population and Housing Censuses took place in Ohrid, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 21-23 May. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences on the methods and techniques used for the collection, processing and dissemination of data related to population and housing censuses, with respect to the 2000 round of censuses. The work session also provided an opportunity to present the plans of the various countries for the next population census, and to discuss the process to be used in producing an

updated set of "Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the UNECE Region". The meeting agreed on the essential importance of the work by the UNECE and Eurostat over the course of the next four years aimed at drawing up a revised set of Census Recommendations. The meeting also approved a tentative timetable and appointed a Steering Group for guiding future joint work by ECE and Eurostat on population and housing censuses.

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CIS countries to use UNECE legal instrument to foster sub-regional cooperation

At the annual session of the Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (Erevan, Armenia, 20-22 May) policy makers from the CIS agreed to adopt the UNECE Recommendation L: "International Model for Technical Harmonization". CIS countries looking for ways to facilitate intra-grouping trade exchanges will use the principles and mechanisms proposed in the "International Model" to prepare an intergovernmental agreement on the harmonization of technical regulations among CIS Member States, aimed at eliminating technical obstacles in CIS trade and thus enhancing trade and economic cooperation. During the meeting information was

provided on UNECE activities relating to technical harmonization and standardization policies, including market surveillance and regulatory convergence matters. Discussions showed the practical relevance of UNECE's work to problems experienced by members of this trade grouping. Participants were also brought up to date with the UNECE "Telecom Initiative" pilot project suggesting harmonization of mandatory safety and other regulations for a number of telecom products on the basis of relevant international and national standards. It was decided that relevant CIS agencies would be invited to join this project.

Not an official record - For information only

Social housing on the top of the political agenda



On 19-20 May, UNECE and the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS) held a 2-day workshop on social housing in Prague, at the invitation of the Czech Ministry for Regional Development. How to provide adequate housing to the poor without promoting social ghettos? How to encourage private owners to rent their apartments to the socially vulnerable? These are just some of the questions participants

addressed. In drawing conclusions participants stated, among others, that social housing is an instrument for integration of the socially weak. Underestimating the role of social housing means putting the whole of society at risk. Participation of the socially disadvantaged in social housing projects is important. These projects require commitment and investment. To make sure that the knowledge and experience gained are not lost, UNECE, with the help of experts, will draw up guidelines on social housing to serve as reference for policy makers. For further information: <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/socialhousing.htm>

New ...

UNECE Gender Statistics Database

The Statistical Division of the UNECE is happy to announce the launching of the UNECE Gender Statistics Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/database.htm>), which is a part of the UNECE/UNDP Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America (<http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/>). The Database has been developed in close partnership with National Statistical Offices of the UNECE member States, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS in Bratislava, and with inputs from other relevant international organisations. The UNECE/UNDP Gender Statistics Website for Europe and North America aims to better reflect the realities of women and men in official statistics in the region, and in making these realities more visible in public discussions and policy making. The database provides sex-disaggregated statistics in the following policy-areas: population, families and households, work and the economy, education and communication, public life and decision-making, health, crime and violence.

Coming up soon ...

2-6 June Working Party on Pollution and Energy

3-5 June Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Facts and figures:

Recent developments on total consumer price indices, (2000=100) *selected western economies*

	2001	2002	2003			
			M01	M02	M03	M04
France	101.82	103.74	104.69	105.46	105.94	105.75
Germany	102.38	103.81	103.82	104.40	104.59	104.30
Italy	102.31	104.98	106.28	105.82	107.11	107.94
Spain	102.83	106.47	108.04	108.22	109.04	109.95
Euro area	102.44	104.79	105.64	106.02	106.68	106.87
United Kingdom	101.23	102.56	102.82	103.20	103.57	103.86
European Union	102.35	104.42	105.14	105.61	106.17	106.27
United States	102.85	104.47	105.52	106.33	106.97	106.74
Canada	102.53	104.84	106.93	107.72	108.16	107.37
North America	102.82	104.50	105.61	106.42	107.05	106.77

Source: UNECE Statistical Division, estimates based on Eurostat, OECD, and national statistics.

Notes: Harmonized consumer price indices for France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Euro area, United Kingdom, and European Union. National consumer price indices for United States and Canada. Indices for North America have been calculated as weighted averages of United States and Canada indices. Weights were derived from 2000 private final consumption expenditure. Canadian final consumption expenditure was converted from national currency units into dollars using 2000 purchasing power parities.

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