



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

UNeDocs

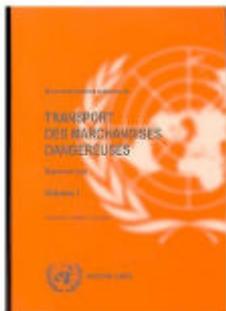
The United Nations electronic Trade Documents Project (www.UNeDocs.org) is currently preparing a set of international trade documents in paper and electronic format (UN/EDIFACT and XML). The document set will be made available to Governments and traders worldwide for implementation. UNeDocs electronic documents can provide access to UNECE trade facilitation standards based on the latest Internet technology. Recently major software companies such as Adobe and Microsoft have shown a strong interest in the UNeDocs concept and have contacted UNECE. UNeDocs has now started joint research and development to integrate automated access to



UNeDocs trade documents into the next generation of standard office software. This will provide traders from SMEs and transition economies with low cost software to participate in automated international supply chains. Traders will have access to UNECE trade standards and best business practice directly from their desktop. The integration is an example of how standards combined with the latest information and communication technologies can bridge the digital divide and integrate trade.

Off the press ...

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods



The 13th revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods has just been issued. First published in 1956 by ECOSOC's Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, it has been regularly amended and updated in response to

developments in technology and the changing needs of users. The recommendations aim at ensuring a high level of safety by preventing accidents to persons and property and damage to the environment during transport. Presented since 1997 under the form of "Model Regulations", they are addressed to governments and international organizations concerned. All major national or international legal instruments governing the transport of dangerous goods by any mode of transport are now based on these Model Regulations and are updated soon after publication of a revised version. The resulting harmonization of various legally binding rules and regulations is an

important factor for facilitating multimodal transport and international trade.

The UNECE secretariat plays a key role in this process of development of safety rules and regulations of worldwide scope and in the mechanisms of harmonization; it provides the secretariat services for the ECOSOC Committee of Experts and also to the UNECE bodies responsible for legal instruments concerning the transport of dangerous goods in Europe by road (ADR), by rail (RID) (with the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail), by inland waterways (ADN) (with the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine). It also cooperates closely with other concerned organizations of the United Nations system (IMO, ICAO, IAEA) mainly to solve technical or harmonization problems and to coordinate dates of entry into force or implementation of amendments. It is expected that the provisions of the 13th revised edition of the Recommendations will be reflected in all major national and international legal instruments for effective implementation by 1 January 2005.

Not an official record - For information only

Regional Commissions Newsletters

UNECE is not the only regional commission providing electronic newsletters

For the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESCWA Weekly News

go to: <http://www.escwa.org.lb>

For the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCAP eNews Bulletin

go to <http://www.unescap.org>

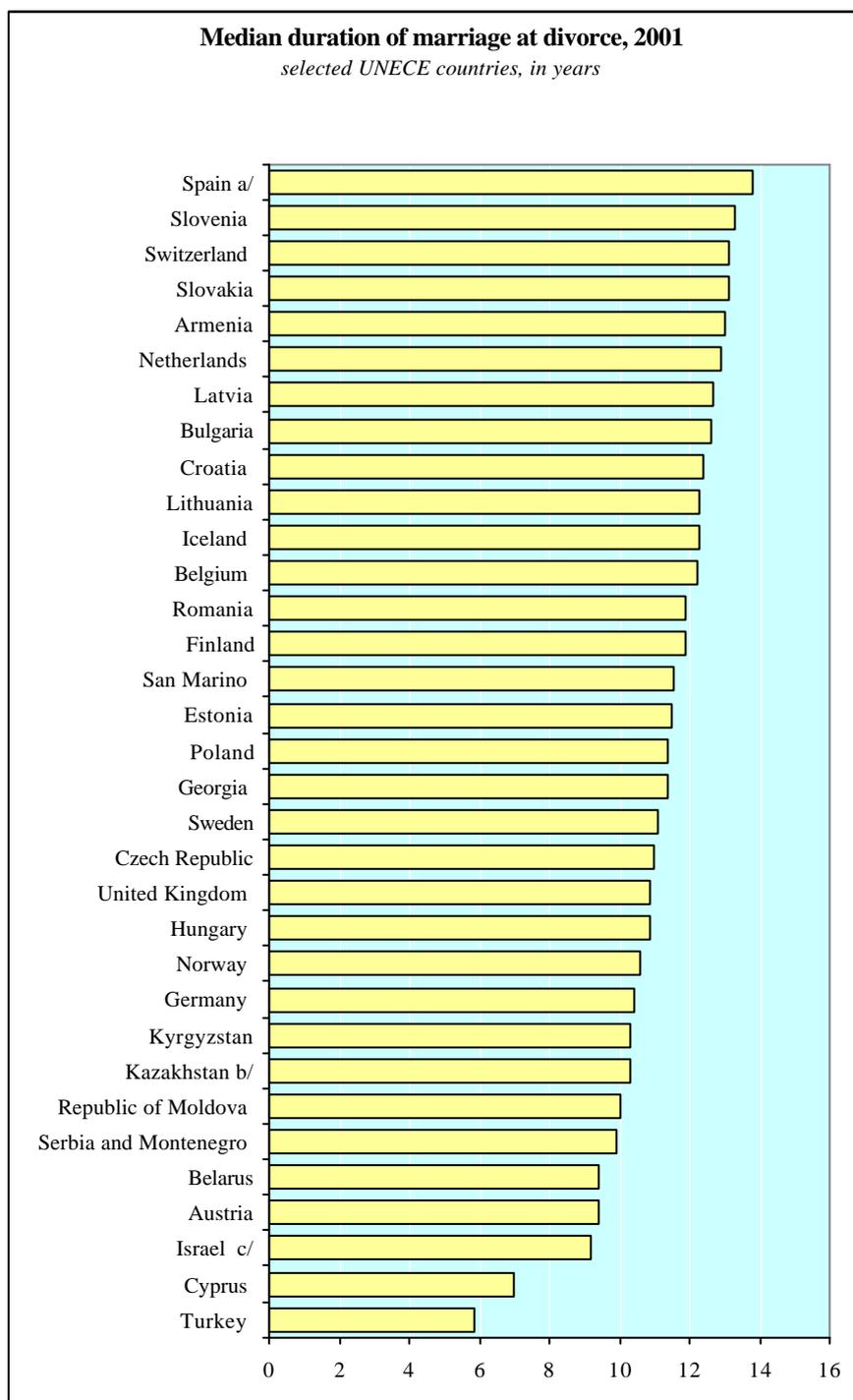
For the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECLAC Notes

go to <http://www.eclac.cl/prensa>

For more information on the Economic Commission for Africa

go to <http://www.uneca.org>

Facts and figures:



Source: UNECE Statistical Division, based on data from national sources.

Notes:

a/ Estimate.

b/ Data for 1998.

c/ Data for 1999.

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