



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

New distinguishing sign for road vehicles in Serbia and Montenegro

Serbia and Montenegro has made an official notification to the United Nations Secretary-General that its new distinguishing sign for use on motor vehicles and trailers in international traffic is "SCG". The distinguishing sign is the white oval with black letters displayed on the rear of vehicles in conformity with the 1949 and 1968 UNECE

Conventions on Road Traffic. The 1968 Convention is currently being amended to allow the incorporation of the distinguishing sign into the registration plate as practised in the European Union. A complete list of distinguishing signs can be found at the following address: <http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/disting-signs-5-2001.pdf>

Cyprus accedes to UNECE Agreement on working hours of drivers in international traffic

Cyprus has become the 42nd State to become Party to the European Agreement on the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The AETR regulates the driving and rest periods of professional drivers in international traffic. In order to ensure the control of compliance with those periods, the AETR also requires that commercial vehicles be equipped with a tachograph

and establishes the requirements for such a control device. Following the introduction of a new digital tachograph for commercial vehicles in the EU, the States Parties to the AETR have recently agreed to the introduction, after a transition period, of such a digital device also in Contracting Parties that are not EU Members. The digital tachograph is more accurate and is not susceptible to tampering.

Working Group on Strategies and Review makes preparations for review of Protocols to the Air Pollution Convention

With the impending entry into force of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its session on 16-19 September decided on detailed proposals for the required review of the Protocol and the addition of new substances to it. These proposals will be considered by the Executive Body for the Convention, and the Parties to the POPs Protocol, when they meet in December. It will herald the start of new work for the Convention and the Working Group proposed that a new task force be established to coordinate the necessary scientific and technical activities. The Protocol on Heavy Metals needs only one more ratification for entry into force, and preliminary discussions took place on the work needed for the review of that Protocol. While the Convention's Gothenburg Protocol has only six ratifications, several countries indicated they intended to ratify soon, so entry into force could be



in 2004. The Working Group therefore considered in detail its work towards starting a review of that Protocol within the next two years including the development of new models and the collation of updated information on abatement techniques. The Working Group also discussed the results of a

recent workshop on communications strategies for the Convention. The rapporteur for the workshop asked "Why was the Air Pollution Convention one of Europe's best-kept environmental secrets?" The workshop concluded that much more effort was required to promote the Convention's work to the press, the public, NGOs and "stakeholders". The Working Group made a number of proposals including some for the celebration of the Convention's 25th anniversary in late 2004. For more information contact Albena Karadjova albena.karadjova@unece.org or Brinda Wachs brinda.wachs@unece.org

Not an official record - For information only

Coming up soon ...

ECE Seminar on Poverty Alleviation

On 2 and 3 October UNECE will host a seminar on “Policies for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the ECE Region: Reducing Extreme Income Disparities”. The first session will feature two papers taking stock of the incidence of poverty in the UNECE region, while the second and third sessions will be roundtables on respectively the role of domestic institutions and policies, and on individual country experiences and the role of multilateral organizations. Participants will include academics as well as representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UNAIDS, ILO, UNDP, UNCTAD, and UNECE. The seminar is open to the public. External participants are invited to register at: <http://www.unece.org/ead/registration.htm>

29 September	Advisory Group on the Protection and Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights for Investment
29-30 September	Ad Hoc Meeting on the Road Traffic Census 2005
29 Sept. -1 October	Working Group on Combined Transport
1-3 October	Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
2-3 October	Ad Hoc Meeting on the E-Rail Traffic Census 2005

Facts and figures:

Youth unemployment rates by sex (15 to 24 years of age)

selected UNECE countries

	Unemployed young women as % of female youth labour force				Unemployed young men as % of male youth labour force			
	1990	1995	2000	2001	1990	1995	2000	2001
Central and Eastern Europe:								
Bulgaria	46.0	37.6	29.8	34.5	48.1	38.0	36.0	42.0
Croatia	35.4	...	...	...	29.4	...
Czech Republic	...	8.7	17.4	17.3	...	7.2	16.7	16.0
Estonia	...	16.4	23.9	26.4	...	13.1	23.8	19.1
Hungary	...	15.6	10.9	9.8	...	20.7	13	11.5
Latvia	...	31.1	24.3	21.5	...	31.8	21.8	22.6
Lithuania	...	21.9	26.3	23.6	...	27.4	30.7	34.9
Poland ^c	30.6	33.8	37.2	42.0	26.3	29.0	33.3	40.1
Romania	...	23.1	17.2	...	...	18.8	19.6	...
Slovakia	...	23.1	33.8	35.7	...	26.0	36.4	38.4
Slovenia	...	19.7	19.0	17.5	...	18.1	14.8	15.1
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	62.4	54.5	...	...	58.1	57.4
Commonwealth of Independent States:								
Armenia ^b	...	53.8	...	...	...	64.2	...	...
Belarus ^{a, b}	7.9	...	...	...	4.2	...
Georgia	28.2	31.0	...	...	28.8	29.0
Kyrgyzstan ^b	3.7	...	...	...	2.6	...
Republic of Moldova	14.9	13.9	...	...	16.6	18.3
Russian Federation	...	24.8	22.9	23.1	...	21.2	23.6	21.0
Ukraine	...	11.5	19.3	...	...	13.7	19.9	...

Source: UNECE Statistical Division, based on data from ILO LABORSTA and OECD databases.

Notes:

a/ 16 to 24 years of age.

b/ Registered unemployment.

c/ Data for 1992 instead of 1990.

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