



# UNECE Weekly

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## It's just happened ...

### Seminar on poverty

On 2-3 October the UNECE held an informal seminar on Policies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the UNECE Region: Reducing extreme income disparities. The Seminar discussed such issues as: poverty in the low-income countries of the UNECE region; the role of institutions and domestic targeted policies; country experiences with MDGs and poverty reduction initiatives: national and international perspectives. In her introductory statement Mrs. Brigita Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, stressed that the Seminar was to discuss two linked but not identical issues – poverty and extreme income disparities – which represent an important dimension of policies at both international and national levels. In the UNECE region poverty and extreme income disparities emerged out of transition,



and tend to persist in some less advanced transition economies. Poverty in relative terms has also increased in some of the most developed economies in the region. Poverty in the EU in recent years decreased on average, but is a challenge to the European social model and its modernisation. The formulation

of policy recommendations is therefore relevant for both advanced and less advanced UNECE members. Strategies to overcome poverty and extreme income disparities need to be tailored to the specific conditions in each country. It is also of prime importance that there be a strong political will to implement the required economic and social reforms, including the improvement of governance, the fight against corruption and the creation of transparent and efficient markets.

### UNECE continues to raise awareness of youth-related issues

The CIS Forum on Youth held in Kiev, 24-26 September, was organized under the auspices of UNECE as a follow-up to the First Regional Forum on Youth held in Geneva in 2002. Entitled "Youth of the XXI Century: Realities and Perspectives", the CIS Forum aimed to raise awareness of the youth-related issues faced by the sub-region, identify priorities and policies aimed at addressing existing problems, and discuss opportunities for further cooperation among CIS countries and with other countries in the UNECE region. Most of the discussions focused on what governments, local authorities, civil society and youth organizations in the region can do themselves to improve the current situation. The UNECE will organize its Second Regional Forum on Youth in September 2004 in Geneva. For further information contact Antal Szabo: [antal.szabo@unece.org](mailto:antal.szabo@unece.org)



### Recent accessions to UNECE conventions on transport

**Albania** has become the 74<sup>th</sup> Contracting Party to the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles which establishes the conditions under which private vehicles registered in one country can be temporarily imported into another country and also the conditions under which those vehicles can be re-exported to the country of registration. This is done under cover of a "Carnet de passage en douane" issued by road user associations. Currently, in many European countries, the carnet de passage is waived, but the imported vehicle is placed *de jure* under the temporary importation regime established by this Convention. **Ukraine** has become the 40<sup>th</sup> Contracting

Party to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, which aims at the harmonization and simplification of all types of border controls (medico-sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary, compliance with technical standards, etc.) and applies to all goods being imported or exported or in transit. **Mongolia** has become the 43<sup>rd</sup> Contracting Party to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR). This Convention establishes uniform conditions for the Contract for the international carriage of goods by road, including the documents used for such carriage and the liability of the carrier.

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## Road and rail transport censuses

Two meetings on transport censuses have just taken place. The first (29-30 September) concerned the *E-Road Census* of 2005. Since the Inland Transport Committee's Resolution No. 169 (1954), E-Road Censuses are regular UNECE projects undertaken every 5 years. The Meeting approved Recommendations to Governments on the Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Standards and Parameters on Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe In 2005. Governments find the E-Road Census a useful input for improved spatial analysis, planning of transport infrastructure and land use. International

organizations as well as the business sector also use the Census data in their long-term decision-making process. The second Meeting (2-3 October) was dedicated to the *E-Rail Census* planned for 2005. Because of the importance and relevance of such a census, the first of its kind, the methodology has been created and developed jointly by UNECE and Eurostat. The Meeting modified and approved the Draft Recommendations to Governments on the E-Rail Traffic Census In Europe in 2005. The projects will begin once the Inland Transport Committee has approved the draft Resolutions concerning both sets of Recommendations, at its session in February 2004.

## Intellectual Property Rights for Investment (IPR)

The Advisory Group on IPR, which held its annual meeting on 29 September, represents a unique partnership between the private sector and governmental institutions to deliver better protection and enforcement of IP rights in the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, thus contributing to an enhanced investment climate. The Advisory Group cooperates with all the major intergovernmental organizations actively involved in IP, and its objectives among others

are to increase private sector involvement, create new partnerships at national and regional levels and to undertake new challenges associated with the knowledge-based economy. meeting the Advisory Group reported on consultative visits to Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Following country requests, it is likely that activities will be undertaken in the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Kazakhstan and Croatia. For further information, contact Gianluca Sambucini: [gianluca.sambucini@unece.org](mailto:gianluca.sambucini@unece.org)

## Facts and figures:

### Millennium Development Goals

selected UNECE countries

	% of population below national poverty line <sup>a</sup> (latest available year)		Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)			Energy supply, Kg oil equivalent (per \$1,000 PPP GDP)		
	year		1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
<b>Eastern countries</b>								
Albania	...	...	45	35	31	315.9	130.3	149.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2002	19.5 <sup>1</sup>	22	19	18	...	193.8	192.4
Bulgaria	...	...	16	18	16	519.3	447.2	354.4
Croatia	...	...	13	11	9	...	241.2	203.9
Czech Republic <sup>2</sup>	...	...	11	8	5	...	329.2	278.6
Estonia <sup>2</sup>	1995	8.9	22	24	21	...	518.8	348.2
Hungary <sup>2</sup>	1997	17.3	16	12	9	302.1	269.9	204.7
Latvia <sup>2</sup>	...	...	20	23	21	...	315.6	216.7
Lithuania <sup>2</sup>	...	...	21	27	21	...	388.4	256.3
Poland <sup>2</sup>	1993	23.8	19	15	10	455.0	374.4	249.9
Romania	1994	21.5	32	25	22	514.1	370.4	294.5
Serbia and Montenegro	...	...	30	23	20	...	...	...
Slovakia <sup>2</sup>	...	...	15	12	9	440.9	368.7	279.9
Slovenia <sup>2</sup>	...	...	9	7	5	...	239.8	198.9
The fYR of Macedonia	...	...	41	28	26	...	...	...
<b>CIS countries</b>								
Armenia	1998	55	31	30	30	...	240.1	224.0
Azerbaijan	1995	68.1	105	105	105	...	915.8	514.5
Belarus	2000	41.9	21	22	20	...	487.8	335.2
Georgia	1997	11.1	29	29	29	...	152.7	221.9
Kazakhstan	1996	34.6	67	71	75	...	761.8	453.8
Kyrgyzstan	1999	64.1	83	72	63	...	271.2	186.6
Republic of Moldova	1997	23.3	37	36	33	...	442.7	327.3
Russian Federation	1994	30.9	26	22	22	...	738.3	624.0
Tajikistan	...	...	78	78	73	...	512.7	426.9
Turkmenistan	...	...	76	74	70	...	945.5	715.3
Ukraine	1995	31.7	22	24	21	...	815.0	708.6
Uzbekistan	...	...	62	63	67	...	912.0	857.0

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Millennium Indicators database.

Notes: Poverty, percentage of population below national poverty line (World Bank); Children under five mortality rate per 1,000 live births (UNICEF estimates); Energy supply (apparent consumption; Kg oil equivalent) per \$1,000 (PPP) GDP (International Energy Agency, World Bank).

a/ National poverty lines refer to income levels that are not comparable across countries. For details consult the source World Bank, *World Development Indicators Online*

1/ Data refer to a 2-year average for the period 2001-2002.

2/ EU acceding country.

## Coming up soon ...

6-8 October – Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear

7-9 October – Working Party on Inland Water Transport

7-10 October – Timber Committee

9-10 October – Working Party on Noise

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