



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 59 – 15-19 March 2004

It's just happened ...

High-level UNECE/OSCE Workshop on Economic Security in Europe: Facing New Challenges in a Changing Environment

Organized jointly on 8 March by UNECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) the Workshop addressed the new threats and challenges to economic security within the context of a wider Europe following EU



enlargement. Countries that have fallen behind the advanced economies of the region and are characterized by weak public governance and rising poverty are more sensitive to threats to stability, and often face conflict and insecurity. The stimulating discussion and presentations at the Workshop highlighted that in those countries the greatest emphasis should be given to conflict prevention,

which can be achieved through good governance and greater integration into the regional and global economy, while avoiding the emergence of new divisions in the region. The Workshop outlined directions of the new partnership between the two organizations, for which the recently adopted OSCE New Strategy Document is a basis. "It is a start of the new phase of cooperation between UNECE and OSCE in the area of economic security", declared Marcin Swiecicki, OSCE Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities. Implementation of the New Strategy Document will be particularly important in three areas: measurement of the commitments; new deliverables, such as early warning mechanisms; and involvement of other partners in the process, especially the European Commission and Council for Europe.

For more information contact Maria Misovicova (maria.misovicova@unece.org) or see http://www.unece.org/trade/workshop/OSCE_0304/wkshop_osce_h.htm

Reviewing the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants

At the beginning of March a new Task Force, led by Canada and the Netherlands, met in The Hague, Netherlands, to see if the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) needed updating. The Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was adopted in 1998 and entered into force last October. Its 16 substances – industrial chemicals, pesticides and toxic releases from incineration – are known to have severely damaging effects on human health and wildlife. The Protocol seeks to eliminate or reduce their emissions.

The Task Force began by considering the exceptions currently allowed to the Protocol's restrictions on use and production. It was clear that some of these exceptions were no longer needed as countries had made determined efforts to limit further the production and use of POPs since 1998.

The Task Force therefore planned its work to complete a thorough technical review of these exceptions by June 2004. It also began consideration of the Protocol's "effectiveness and sufficiency", a much broader review to establish if any part of the Protocol needs updating. Again it was apparent that changes in technology, changes in use and production, and the availability of alternatives might warrant more stringent provisions. Finally, it is expected that the Parties will put forward some new organic pollutants next December. The Task Force will then have to carry out technical reviews to determine the suitability of these substances as candidates for adding to the Protocol.

For more information contact Keith Bull (keith.bull@unece.org)

Coming up soon ...

Seminar on Aggressive Driving, 5 April 2004



An international seminar on Aggressive Driving will be held in the Palais des Nations on 5 April to launch the Fourth Road Safety Week in the UNECE Region.

The aim of the seminar, which is being organized by the UNECE Transport Division, is to explore the phenomenon of aggressive driving and to discuss ways of curbing it.

Part 1 of the Seminar will examine the causes, effects and consequences of aggressive driving and will feature presentations by psychology professors specializing in this field as well as by representatives of road accident victims organizations. Part 2 will look at various ways of combating aggressive driving with presentations on communicating with the public, education, punishments and reducing aggressive driving by improving traffic management. The Seminar will also feature a round-table discussion among the numerous non-governmental organizations involved in road safety.

Seminar is a public meeting open to all. Please register using the form at the following Internet site: <http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/rs4sem.html>

15-17 March Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

17-19 March Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

Off the press ...

Facts and figures:

Non-observed Economy in National Accounts



The publication presents national practices in the collection and compilation of statistics on the hidden and informal activities for national

accounts. It is based on a survey carried out by the UNECE secretariat in 2001/2002 and includes information from 29 UNECE member countries. Components of the non-observed economy that are considered cover all aspects of production activity that are often missed in national accounts compilation: under-ground, informal, illegal, production for own final use, and other forms of production.

The publication is also available on <http://www.unece.org/stats/publ.e.htm>. For more information contact Lidia Bratanova (lidia.bratanova@unece.org)

For further information contact:
Information Service,
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44 Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Web site: <http://www.unece.org>

Consumer price index, total (2000=100)

selected UNECE economies

	2001	2002	2003				2004
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	M01
France	101.6	103.6	105.2	105.5	105.8	106.5	106.6
Germany	102.0	103.4	104.4	104.3	104.6	104.6	105.2
Italy	102.8	105.3	107.2	107.9	108.5	109.0	109.3
Austria	102.6	104.5	105.5	105.7	106.0	106.3	106.6
Belgium	102.5	104.2	105.4	105.5	106.1	106.2	106.5
Finland	102.6	104.2	105.2	105.3	104.9	105.1	104.8
Greece	103.4	107.1	109.6	111.6	110.2	112.3	111.9
Ireland	104.9	109.7	112.7	113.9	113.6	114.0	113.8
Luxembourg	102.7	104.8	106.1	106.8	107.0	107.9	107.3
Netherlands	104.2	107.6	109.1	109.8	110.2	110.3	109.9
Portugal	104.3	108.1	110.4	111.7	111.7	112.7	112.8
Spain	103.6	106.8	108.7	110.1	109.9	111.3	110.8
Euro area	102.5	104.8	106.3	106.8	107.1	107.6	107.8
United Kingdom	101.8	103.5	105.3	106.5	106.8	107.4	107.5
Denmark	102.4	104.8	106.7	107.4	106.9	107.1	107.0
Sweden	102.6	105.1	106.6	106.7	106.4	106.8	106.6
European Union	102.4	104.6	106.1	106.8	107.0	107.5	107.7
Cyprus	102.0	104.8	107.8	109.6	108.6	110.7	...
Iceland	106.4	111.9	113.3	114.1	114.1	115.4	115.7
Israel	101.1	106.9	108.8	108.3	106.9	106.4	...
Malta	102.9	105.2	104.6	105.7	105.6	107.1	...
Norway	103.0	104.3	108.3	106.5	106.2	106.7	106.5
Switzerland	101.0	101.6	102.2	102.6	101.9	102.5	102.1
Turkey	154.4	223.8	264.6	280.6	282.5	294.3	299.7
Western Europe	102.4	104.5	106.1	106.7	106.9	107.4	...
Canada	102.6	104.8	107.6	107.5	107.9	108.0	108.3
United States	102.8	104.5	106.3	106.7	107.2	107.2	107.5
North America	102.8	104.5	106.4	106.7	107.2	107.3	107.6

Source: UNECE secretariat estimates based on OECD, *Main Economic Indicators*; national statistics.

Notes: Indices of regional aggregates have been calculated as weighted averages of constituent country indices. Please note that when some country values are missing, indices for regional aggregates including that country cannot be computed.

Weights were derived from 2000 private consumption expenditures converted from national currency units into a common currency using 1995 Purchasing Power Parities.

All aggregates exclude Israel and Turkey.