



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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## *It's just happened ...*

### **Preparing the entry into force of the Protocol on Water and Health**

With the current 11 ratifications and 8 more expected by the end of 2004, the Protocol on Water and Health, adopted in 1999 under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, is quickly approaching the 16 ratifications needed for its entry into force. The third meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, held in Budapest on 11-12 March, was therefore devoted to the preparation of the first Meeting of the Parties, planned for next year. Important aspects of the preparation are the finalization of legal documents, such as the rules of procedures and the compliance review mechanism foreseen under the Protocol. The Working Group also dealt with resource mobilization for the Protocol's implementation.



Norway will host a Round Table Consultation on Water and Health (Oslo, 1-2 June 2004), focusing on financing non-structural measures under the Protocol, such as reduction of infant mortality, water resource management, provision of affordable access to safe drinking water especially to vulnerable groups, sanitation including ecosanitation, and gender issues in water supply. The Working Group recognized that the Round Table would provide financing options to address priority needs

identified through a country-driven process and that a mechanism to follow up the Round Table and improve coordination of the donor efforts under the Protocol was much needed. Future activities under the Protocol include the development of a distance learning programme for public health professionals.

## *Coming up soon ...*

### **Forum on Best Practice in Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition: The Romanian and Slovak Experiences 31 March, Palais des Nations, Conference room XX**

The aim of this Forum is to identify the potential and capabilities of SMEs in stimulating economic growth and on the importance of creating a business-friendly environment, including good governance, conducive to the transformation of society and the economy to a market-based one. The Forum will focus on the experience of two neighbouring countries: Romania and Slovakia; the two represent growing economies but with some differences in their stage of transformation to a market economy and EU accession. Slovakia will accede to the EU on 1 May 2004, Romania could do so three years later. Another important issue to be addressed at the Forum is the dissemination of good practices, and the provision of technical assistance to those countries which are lagging behind.

The Forum will be co-chaired by Ambassador Doru Costea, Permanent Representative of Romania and Ambassador Kálmán Petöcz, Permanent Representative of Slovakia. For further information contact Antal Szabó ([antal.szabo@unece.org](mailto:antal.szabo@unece.org))

## *Also coming up ...*

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 29-30 March                    | Steering Committee on Transport, Environment and Health (THE PEP) (WHO Headquarters, Geneva) |
| 30(pm) March-2 April-1-2 April | Working Party on Lighting and Light-signalling<br>Expert Meeting on Good Governance for SMEs |

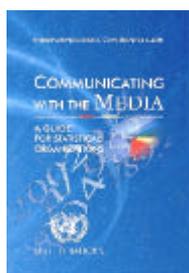
**Not an official record - For information only**



## Fourth Road Safety Week, 5-11 April

The objective of the Fourth Road Safety Week is to discourage aggressive driving and encourage courteous driving and respect for other road users. During the week UNECE member States will organize simultaneous road safety campaigns aimed at combating aggressive driving behaviour. The common slogan for the week is "Respect is safety". Aggressive driving behaviour has many different causes. It may be linked to emotions, time pressures, the consumption of alcohol or drugs or to the attitude of other road users. It may involve speeding, making unsafe lane changes, running red lights, lack of respect for traffic signs and signals, making rude hand gestures, aggressive use of the horn, etc. Aggressive driving behaviour leads to road accidents.

## Off the press ...



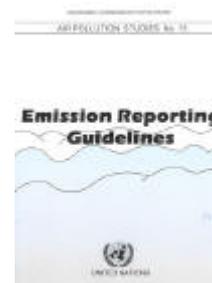
### Communicating with the Media – a Guide for Statistical Organizations

This booklet is intended as a practical guide assisting statistical offices in setting up effective communications with the media and, in turn, with the general public. It should serve as a quick reference presenting the main principles and a general overview of the issues to be considered. It is a distillation of experience over the years and draws from the numerous papers and presentations from the meetings organized by the UNECE on dissemination of statistical output to information media. The publication is also available on the UNECE Statistical Division website at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/media/guide>. For more information contact Tiina Luige (tiina.luige@unece.org).

### Emission Reporting Guidelines

Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emission Data have just been published under the auspices of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. The Guidelines aim to achieve greater transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy in Parties' emission data reporting; and to harmonize this with other reporting procedures, including those under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For more information contact the Convention secretariat ([air.env@unece.org](mailto:air.env@unece.org)) or see <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap>



## Facts and figures:

### Hourly earnings in manufacturing, growth rates

selected UNECE economies

	2000	2001	2002	2003			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
France	4.7	4.5	3.4	2.8	2.7	2.6	...
Germany	2.6	1.6	1.6	2.7	2.8	2.1	2.0
Italy	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.5	1.8	3.2	2.7
Austria	2.4	3.2	2.3	4.5	2.4	1.7	...
Belgium	2.1	2.8	2.5	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.8
Finland	4.5	4.8	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.7
Ireland	5.5	8.7	5.8	7.0	7.2	3.4	...
Luxembourg	5.1	5.3	-0.2	0.4	-0.5	1.8	...
Netherlands	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.2	2.5	2.1	2.2
Spain	2.8	4.1	5.0	3.1	9.3	4.5	...
United Kingdom	4.6	4.3	3.5	5.0	2.9	3.2	3.2
Denmark	3.5	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.0
Sweden	3.4	2.9	3.4	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.1
Norway	4.1	4.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	4.2	3.9
Turkey	55.6	35.2	32.1	...	...	...	...
Canada	2.6	1.6	2.7	1.8	2.9	4.0	4.3
United States	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.3

Source: UNECE secretariat estimates based on OECD, *Main Economic Indicators*

Notes: Quarterly growth rates are changes over the same period of the previous year.

Rates are not adjusted for inflation

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