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It's just happened ...

Pollutant registers as key public information tool

A seminar on “PRTRs Now! How pollutant release and transfer registers can promote pan-European environmental and public health”, organized by UNECE and co-sponsored by the European Environment Agency, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the European ECO Forum, was held on the opening day of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health: “The future for our children” (Budapest, 23-25 June). The seminar looked at recent landmarks in the development of the pan-European public’s right-to-know about the sources of pollutants and how implementation of the UNECE Protocol on PRTRs, signed in Kiev in May 2003, is expected to influence public understanding of pollutant risks to the environment and to



public health. Experts from intergovernmental organizations, government, academia and civil society recognized the importance of the application of regional pollutant registers to the development of a pan-European environmental health information system. The seminar also addressed the incorporation of the

principles of the Aarhus Convention and its PRTR Protocol into the design of a proposed upgrade of the European Pollutant Emission Register, which currently covers 16 of the European Union’s 25 Member States.

For more information see:

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm> -
<http://www.aarhusconvention.org>

UNECE raising awareness about entrepreneurship development in the Republic of Moldova

On 28-29 June, in Chisinau, UNECE organized jointly with the Ministry of Economy a Training Workshop on “The Development of Entrepreneurship and the SME Sector in the Republic of Moldova”. According to the Ministry of Economy some 90% of the economy is based on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) although only 30% of the country’s employees work in this sector. Government support for entrepreneurship and the infrastructure needed for SME development has been weak. The lack of financial resources, low state support, lack of business information, and frequently changing legislation are all impediments to the sound development of entrepreneurship. The purpose of the workshop was to stimulate further development of the SME sector by taking account of the best international practice and experiences in this field. The Republic of Moldova, the most densely

populated among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), is at present one of the poorest countries in Europe with an estimated



per capita GDP of some \$500 in 2003. The need to raise living standards requires adequate support from the international community in the form of market access, financing, debt relief, where appropriate, coupled with continuing policy advice. This support is indispensable for strengthening the reform process in order to achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty.

For more information contact Antal Szabó
antal.szabo@unece.org

Not an official record - For information only

Water Convention – First meeting of the Legal Board



With 12 ratifications to date and 6 more announced by the end of the year, the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Water Convention is approaching its entry into force (16 ratifications

needed). Preparations for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, planned for next year, made a big step forward at the first meeting of the Legal Board, which took place in Verona (Italy) on 28-29 June. The Legal Board was established at the 3rd meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention last November, to provide assistance upon request on legal issues related to the Convention and its Protocols. Its first task is the preparation of the compliance review mechanism and the rules of

procedures under the Protocol on Water and Health. The negotiations at the Legal Board meeting proceeded very efficiently and the compliance review mechanism is taking shape. It will be based on a Committee of nine independent members. A single major issue is still pending: whether the Committee should also consider communications from the public on a Party's compliance to the Protocol. A position of the Legal Board on this is awaited for its next meeting on 16-17 September. The Protocol on Water and Health will be the fourth UNECE multilateral environmental agreement provided with a compliance review mechanism.

For more information contact Rainer Enderlein (rainer.enderlein@unece.org)

Coming up soon ...

5-14 July ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Facts and figures:

Wages per employee, total industry¹

Selected UNECE economies

(Change over same period of the previous year, per cent)

	2001	2002	2003	2003				2004
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
New EU members								
Czech Republic	6.4	6.7	5.9	4.9	5.9	6.0	6.6	9.0
Hungary	14.4	12.5	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.6	11.8
Latvia	5.3	5.8	8.5	9.1	10.2	6.3	8.5	11.9
Lithuania	..	2.5	3.5	2.7	3.3	3.2	4.7	..
Malta ²	4.5	6.3	9.1	11.9	10.0	7.7	7.2	..
Poland	6.9	3.7	3.0	1.7	3.4	2.4	4.5	6.6
Slovakia	10.2	7.3	7.3	5.2	8.7	6.2	8.9	10.8
Slovenia	10.8	9.9	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.6	7.0	..
South-East Europe								
Bulgaria	6.4	-0.1	5.2	4.4	4.3	5.2	6.6	6.0
Croatia	9.0	7.4	5.2	7.4	4.3	5.6	3.6	5.2
Romania	51.1	23.6	19.5	21.7	17.9	18.9	19.8	24.0
CIS								
Armenia	17.4	17.6	26.8	31.6	30.8	28.6	18.2	..
Azerbaijan	..	..	..	10.7	..	..	27.0	..
Belarus	103.8	48.2	30.9	33.8	31.5	28.0	30.9	31.9
Kazakhstan	20.1	9.3	13.3	9.6	13.3	13.0	16.8	17.8
Kyrgyzstan	20.4	19.5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Republic of Moldova	16.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Russian Federation	42.3	27.2	25.5	25.1	25.4	24.6	26.8	25.6
Tajikistan	52.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ukraine	35.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

For further information please 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>

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from CISSC and national sources.

1. Gross wages in Industry (Mining and quarrying, manufacturing and utilities).
2. Manufacturing only.

