



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 89 – 11-15 October 2004

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

### **MDG indicators**

The UNECE hosted the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators from 29 September to



1 October. Representatives of international organizations (including all the other regional commissions), funding agencies and national statistical offices attended the meeting. Discussions focused on the outputs that the group will need to deliver in connection with the 2005 Millennium Event. The publication of a Glossy MDG report for broad public dissemination was discussed in details. Participants presented

their plans to contribute to this report and various proposals were put forward on the layout of the publication. In conjunction with the meeting, sub-

groups on poverty, gender, employment, and slums met to prepare proposals for new MDG indicators to be considered by the Secretary-General's office after 2005 and to discuss how to better mainstream some of the topics into the monitoring of MDG at the global level.

For further information please contact:

[angela.me@unece.org](mailto:angela.me@unece.org)

### **Development of Euro-Asian land transport links**

A Seminar on Intermodal Transport between Europe and Asia was held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 27-28 September 2004. The Seminar, jointly organized by the UNECE Transport Division and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), assessed the opportunities and challenges for intermodal (container) rail transport between Europe and Asia. The sharp increase in Euro-Asian trade experienced in recent years has led to an enormous growth of maritime Euro-Asian container transport. However, the Seminar noted that there is also a small but growing market for cargo to be transported across the railway networks of the Russian Federation and the countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Rapidly developing economic and urban centres in China, far away from main ports, and the EU enlargement process, together with the growing economic integration of Central Asia and the Caucasus into the world economy, provide arguments for an increased share of such Euro-Asian land transport.

The four main Euro-Asian land corridors that have been agreed upon at the international level are the Northern corridor along the Trans-Siberian railway, the TRACECA corridor via the Caucasus, the Southern corridor with rail links via Turkey, and the North-South corridor. Cargo from Japan or the Republic of Korea to Europe could be delivered, for instance via the Trans-Siberian railway, in 13-18 days compared to 30-38 days on maritime vessels using the Suez Canal.

The Seminar found that intergovernmental organizations like the UNECE have a key role to play in promoting coherent transport infrastructure networks, harmonized and simplified border crossing procedures and international regulations for safe, secure and sustainable transport. It called for concerted action among Governments, shippers, railways and border crossing authorities to promote Euro-Asian land transport links. For more information see

<http://www.unece.org/trans/wp24> or contact [wp.24@unece.org](mailto:wp.24@unece.org).

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

## The directors responsible for transport at the five UN Regional Commissions meet in Geneva

The Directors responsible for transport at the five UN Regional Commissions (UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA) held their annual meeting in Geneva on 29-30 September 2004 under the chairmanship of the Director of the UNECE Transport Division, Mr. José Capel Ferrer. This was their fourth meeting, after those held in previous years in Cairo, Beirut and Bangkok.

Land-cum-Sea transport linkages, which is funded by the UN Development Account and which is being jointly implemented by the five UN Regional Commissions. The Directors responsible for transport at the Regional Commissions also attended part of the meeting of the UNECE Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) on implementation of General Assembly Resolution 58/289 on improving global road



The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE, Mrs. Brigita Schmögnerová, who welcomed the Directors and expressed her satisfaction for the excellent cooperation that exists among the five Regional Commissions in the field of transport. She stressed the importance of such cooperation in particular with a view to improving the transport situation of landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as called for by the Millennium Declaration and the Almaty Programme of Action.

The Meeting reviewed the status of implementation of the Project on Capacity Building in Developing Interregional Land and

safety, which invites the World Health Organization, working in close cooperation with the UN Regional Commissions, to act as a coordinating body for road safety activities within the United Nations. The Directors offered to promote the work of the Conventions administered by WP.1. The Directors also attended on 1 October a UN Road Safety Collaboration Meeting convened by WHO.

It is expected that the Fifth Meeting of Directors responsible for transport at the UN Regional Commissions will be held in 2005 in Santiago de Chile under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

## Revision of economic classifications

The Regional Meeting on Revision of Economic Classifications, convened jointly by the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and UNECE, was held in Geneva from 29 September to 1 October 2004. The purpose of the Meeting was to inform the countries from the ECE region about the ongoing revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), the Central Product Classification (CPC) and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). It also aimed at getting countries' comments and

feedback in particular on the detailed draft of ISIC Rev.4 that was prepared by the UNSD and sent to the statistical offices. All Western Balkan and most CIS-countries attended, together with other UNECE member States, non-European OECD member States, the ILO, Eurostat, WTO and CIS-Stat. The meeting provided opportunity for countries to directly influence the future shape of international statistical classifications.

For further information please contact: [tihomira.dimova@unece.org](mailto:tihomira.dimova@unece.org)

## Coming up soon ...

- 11-15 October Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
- 11-15 October FAO/ECE/ILO Workshop on the Role of Forests in Torrent Control and Watershed Management ([Zidlochovice, Czech Republic](#))
- 12-15 October Working Party on General Safety Provisions
- 13-15 October Committee on Environmental Policy
- 14-15 October Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975
- 14-15 October Administrative Committee for the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Control of Goods, 1982

**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](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)  
Web site: <http://www.unece.org>**