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It's just happened ...

Working together to reduce the risk of industrial accidents

At their meeting in Budapest (27-29 October), the Parties to the UNECE Convention on the Trans-boundary Effects of Industrial Accidents launched an assistance programme for the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. A number of Central and West European countries have already pledged funding to get the programme off the ground. The programme will comprise demand-driven activities, such as capacity-building workshops, technical and legal advice, and cross-border pilot projects. It will benefit countries where few industrial facilities have been modernized. These facilities have to deal with the legacy of past mismanagement, as well as obsolete technologies and poorly maintained installations. The risk of industrial accidents and other safety



problems will increase with any growth in capacity utilization. The authorities and the operators of hazardous installations in those countries can reduce the risk of industrial accidents and improve industrial safety by applying the Convention in full. But they're facing an uphill struggle. The tasks

are complex and they don't have the staff. In addition, some countries don't have the right regulatory and institutional frameworks. The new assistance programme is designed to overcome these obstacles. However, to be eligible, the recipient countries will have to prove that they are fully committed to the Convention.

For more information contact Sergiusz Ludwiczak (sergiusz.ludwiczak@unece.org)

UNECE and ECMT collaboration



The 58th session of the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (27-29 October 2004) was held, for the first time, back-to-back with

the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Group on Railways. This arrangement, initiated by the UNECE Executive Secretary and the Chairperson of the ECMT, was welcomed by member Governments of both organizations who realized the potential for reaching additional synergies between the two rail groups, as well as saving travel and other costs of their delegates.

Under the arrangement foreseen to last two years, the next session of the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport will take place in Paris instead of Geneva, from 8-10 November 2005. Participants in both UNECE and ECMT meetings additionally benefited from attending the Workshop on Rail Infrastructure Charges on 28-29 October. More than 50 participants took part in the Workshop in which six countries presented their experiences with rail infrastructure charging, and discussed advantages and disadvantages of various charging models. The result of these discussions, in the form of conclusions and recommendations, will be used by the ECMT in preparation for the next session of the European Ministers of Transport in 2005.

For more information contact Miodrag Pesut (miodrag.pesut@unece.org)

Gender statistics

A UNECE Work Session on Gender Statistics was organized on 18-20 October in collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and WHO. About 80 people from national statistical offices and institutions working to promote gender equality representing 43 countries

and 13 international organizations participated in the event. The topics discussed included the mechanisms to engender national statistical systems, the measurement of violence against women and the measurement of gender attitudes.

Not an official record - For information only

Among the actions planned as follow-up to the meeting are the development of guidelines on how to carry out gender sensitization training for statisticians and strengthening the role of official statistics in the measurement of violence against women by the identification of a common set of indicators and common methodology to use in on-

going or stand-alone surveys. The meeting was followed by a one-day training session for transition countries that covered such topics as measurement of gender attitudes, time-use surveys, and measurement of violence against women. For more information contact Angela Me (angela.me@unece.org)

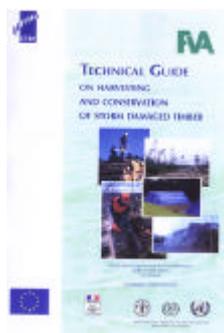
Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

The Autumn meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) was held in Washington, D.C. (United States) on 18-19 October. The Bureau coordinates the statistical activities within the UNECE region in between the plenary sessions of the CES and discusses the most pertinent issues in statistics. The Bureau reviewed the UNECE Statistical Programme for 2005, follow-up on measuring the activities of the multinational enterprises (the MNE project), and on confidentiality and access to microdata. Substantial

discussion was devoted to the issues and problems related to social statistics and to the indicators for monitoring the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. The Bureau also discussed preparations for the two seminars to be held at the June 2005 CES plenary session: Measurement of Sustainable Development and Improved Data Reporting.

For more information contact Tiina Luige (tiina.luige@unece.org).

Manual on management of storm damaged forests



A Technical guide on harvesting and conservation of storm damaged timber has been finalized by the EU STODAFOR (storm-damaged-forests) concerted action project with the participation of UNECE. The UNECE Timber Committee will disseminate the manual and encourage exchange of information and contacts between country specialists in the event of future storm damage. This is a good example of UNECE – EU cooperation. Certain studies suggest that the risk of severe storm damage will increase due to climate change. The UNECE Timber Committee is ready to play its leading information and coordinating role in the event of sudden and severe damage to forests. In these circumstances it monitors the extent of damage in consultation with affected countries, provides official damage estimates for the region and disseminates this information to member countries and the media.

For more information contact Jorge Najera (jorge.najera@unece.org)

Coming up soon ...

8-10 November Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards
10-11 November Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply of Fossil Fuels

Facts and figures:

Membership on Central Bank Boards
Number of Women and Men – Selected UNECE countries

country	1990		1995		2000		2001	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Armenia	...	...	...	...	6	0	6	0
Bulgaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Croatia	14	0	12	0	12	1	13	1
Cyprus ¹	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	0
Czech Republic	...	...	7	0	6	1	6	1
Estonia	8	1	9 ²	0 ²	9 ³	0 ³	9	0
Finland	4	0	4	1	2	1	2	1
Iceland	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
Ireland	9	1	9	1	10	0	9	0
Netherlands	6	0	4	0	4	0	4	0
Norway	...	...	...	...	5	2	5	2
Republic of Moldova	...	...	3	1	3	2	3	2
Slovenia	13	2	11	0	10	1	10	1
Spain	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 ⁴	1 ⁴
United Kingdom	18	0	16	2	23	5	22	6

Source: Gender Statistics Database

Notes: ¹ Refers to Government-controlled area only. ² 1993 ³ 1998 ⁴ 2002

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>