



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## Myrdal Lecture



The 2008 Gunnar Myrdal Lecture will be given by Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, on *"The future of European cooperation - a view from Moscow"*.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday, 12 February in Conference Room XIX, Palais des Nations, starting at 4 p.m.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Russian. \*

*The lecture is open to the public but those without a valid badge allowing entry into the UN will need to register in advance.*

*A registration form can be obtained by calling +41 (0) 22 917 4444, or e-mail [info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org) or online at <http://www.unece.org> (registration form).*

## Memorial Ceremony



To pay tribute to our United Nations colleagues and other victims killed or injured in the brutal and senseless terrorist attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers on 11 December 2007, the Secretary-General will participate at a Memorial Ceremony on Wednesday, 23 January 2008, at 15:00 in the Assembly Hall.

The Ceremony will gather the United Nations family and the international community in Geneva to honour the courage and commitment of all the victims. The families of the colleagues who lost their lives in this abominable senseless tragedy attack have been invited to Geneva to participate in the event.

The Memorial Ceremony, which will be relayed to United Nations Headquarters and other duty stations, is an opportunity to express collectively our profound sadness and outrage, and to honour the extraordinary lives and contributions of those who perished that day. \*

## Third Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development

The Third Regional Implementation Meeting will take place at the Palais des Nations, Room XIX in Geneva on 28-29 January 2008, beginning at 3 p.m.

The aim of the Third Regional Implementation meeting is to prepare the contribution from the UNECE region to the 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) which will be held in May in New York.

### Thematic clusters

CSD-16 will open the third two-year cycle of its multi-year work programme with a focus on the following main thematic clusters:

- agriculture
- rural development
- land
- drought
- desertification
- Africa

CSD-16 will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals in the above areas and identify obstacles and constraints. It will also address the challenges ahead and necessary next steps to be taken. Linkages to cross-cutting issues would also be addressed, as in every cycle.

While not all issues have the same relevance for all regions, the UNECE region is expected to provide inputs not only with regard to progress and challenges in its member countries, but also from a donor perspective, particularly for Africa.

### Expected outcome

The expected outcome of the Third Regional Implementation Meeting will take the form of a Chair's Summary focusing on particular obstacles encountered and major breakthroughs made regarding the implementation of actions, measures and partnerships related to the priority clusters and cross-cutting issues; on this basis, the summary could also highlight ways to improve the effectiveness of such implementation in the UNECE region and globally. \*

*For more information visit [http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/3Session/sd\\_forum.jan2008.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/3Session/sd_forum.jan2008.htm) or contact Monika Linn or Natalia Golovko ([sd@unece.org](mailto:sd@unece.org)).*



## Coming up

21-25 January

Joint Meeting of Experts on the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)

24-25 January

Multidisciplinary Expert Group on Inland Transport Security

21 January

Executive Board of Gas Centre

22-23 January

Working Party on Gas

24 January

Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Supply and Use of Gas

## Why Euro-Asian Transport Links?

In the light of newly liberalized economies, growing trade and increasing congestion in major Asian and European ports, governments and international organizations in the Euro-Asian region now consider that inland transport links can offer additional transport options to existing and future trade flows between Europe and Asia, as well as facilitate participation of national economies in the global economy. Better links from ports to inland destinations are also needed to sustain further projected growth in merchandise trade.

Eighteen countries from the Euro-Asian region, working together under a UN Development Account Project, have identified the main Euro-Asian road and rail routes for priority development and cooperation. In addition, under this project these countries have also evaluated and prioritized a large number of projects along these routes, developed a Geographical Information System (GIS) database, and made a preliminary analysis of transit transport obstacles and recommendations for reducing them. The project achievements include also the organization of a number of national capacity-building workshops on transport facilitation. The Expert Group that has met four times under the project has become a good cooperation mechanism for the coordinated development of Euro-Asian Links. \*

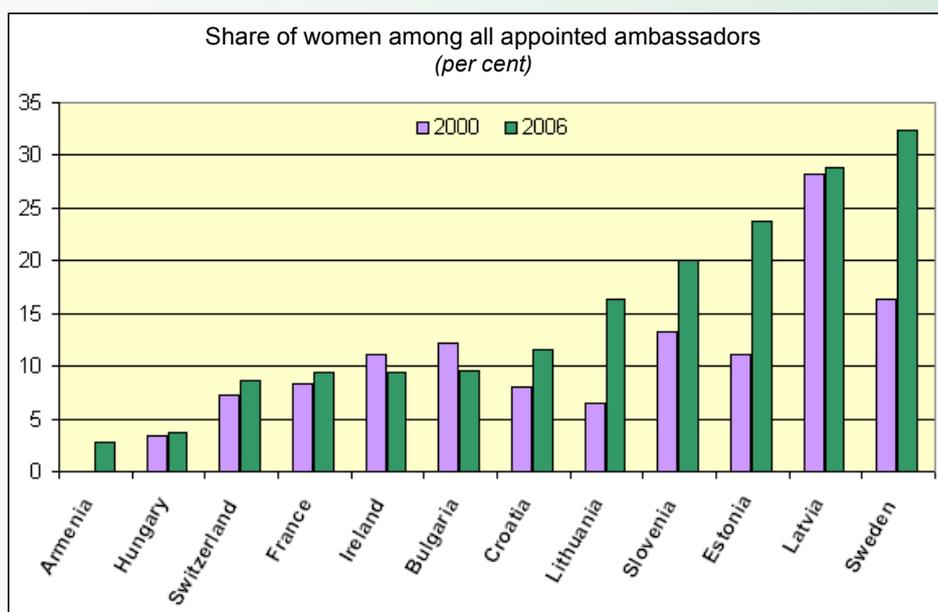
For more information visit the EATL Website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/intro.html>.

## Facts and Figures

In the last few rounds of national legislative elections, citizens of many UNECE countries voted for a more balanced gender participation in the parliaments (see UNECE Weekly N° 242). Improvement towards gender parity was also observed in some other important areas of public life. Ambassadorships, i.e. the official country representation to a foreign sovereign or Government or to an international organization, represent one such area. As the chart attests, over the last six years the share of women ambassadors has risen in most countries in the region; more markedly in a number of the Eastern EU members and also Sweden. Only in Ireland and Bulgaria did the share of female ambassadors decline.

Overall, however, the foreign diplomatic service remains male-dominated, especially in the higher representative positions, across the UNECE region. In the sample, only in Estonia, Latvia and Sweden was the share of female appointments to ambassadorial positions close to or exceeded one quarter of total appointments in 2006. In the majority of countries it fluctuated around the 10% mark.

### More women in ambassadorial positions in the UNECE region



Source: National statistics.

\* 2005 instead of 2006 in the case of France and 2001 instead of 2000 in the case of Ireland.