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## High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment adopts "Amsterdam Declaration"



Ministers, high-level officials from Ministries of Transport, Health and Environment and non-governmental organizations, meeting in Amsterdam on 22 and 23 January, unanimously adopted the "Amsterdam Declaration on Transport Choices for our Health, Environment and Prosperity". The Declaration, though not legally binding, commits countries to achieving four priority goals on safe, efficient, healthy and environmentally sustainable transport:

- ▶ **Goal 1:** Direct investments to transport infrastructures that promote safety, environment and health, including clean and efficient public transport, intermodal connections and infrastructures for environment- and health-friendly transport
- ▶ **Goal 2:** Manage sustainable mobility for businesses, schools and leisure activities and raise awareness of mobility choices
- ▶ **Goal 3:** Reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise
- ▶ **Goal 4:** Promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport by a proper design of urban areas and transport infrastructure with focus on children and the elderly.

The Meeting reviewed developments in road, rail and inland water transport in Europe and their impact on environment and health during the past 10 years. The experiences from countries on how sustainable transport can boost health, environment and economy were at the focus of the two-day discussions. It was shown that investment in healthy and green transport, clean and efficient public transport systems and transport infrastructure, can help reduce congestion, road traffic accidents and pollution, thereby contributing to healthier societies, sustainable mobility and wealth, and to combating climate change.

The Amsterdam Meeting agreed on new implementation mechanisms for the 2009-2014 work plan, such as:

- ▶ National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs) that include targets and timetables for national implementation in line with country needs
- ▶ THE PEP\* relay race as a voluntary mechanism to facilitate communication and exchange of experiences among interested countries
- ▶ THE PEP Partnership to make expertise available and facilitate the exchange of knowledge between countries in the wider European context.



*\* Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme*

## New interactive database on indicators of sustainable forest management in Europe



The Timber and Forestry programme of UNECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has released a new web-based resource tool designed by the international community to enable researchers, policymakers, practitioners and the general public to access data on Europe's forests. The database is a comprehensive research tool based on the report *State of Europe's Forests 2007*, and includes data which have so far not been published.

This is the first time that such a comprehensive set of information pertinent to sustainable forest management and forest resources assessment in Europe is being published via an online data management system. It provides an unprecedented scope of information, collected by hundreds of individuals and dozens of agencies, and is accessible through a user-friendly interface which enables users to extract all the data for a single country, or to compare indicators across several countries.

This new database makes information available for 27 quantitative indicators, structured by six criteria for sustainable forest management endorsed by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. In addition to European forests' characteristics and forestry data in general, the user also has access to information on the balance of carbon in forest ecosystems, forest

health condition and status of forest biodiversity. Aspects of production, including wood and non-wood products and services, are presented along with information on protected forest areas. The database also provides information on social and economic aspects of the forestry sector.

In line with the structure of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the data are presented in a way that illustrates trends of chosen variables for the years 1990, 2000 and 2005. It is expected that this series will be continued (reporting for 2010 has started). The interface enables online review and simple analysis, but also allows selective extraction of the requested data in different formats.



*The database is available at <http://www.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/>. For more information contact Roman Michalak ([fra.timber@unece.org](mailto:fra.timber@unece.org)). Website: <http://www.unece.org/timber>.*

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The Amsterdam Meeting also launched new products for transport and urban planners to take account of health impacts when estimating costs and integrating transport, environment and health in their policies:

- ▶ THE PEP Toolbox of good practice in sustainable urban transport
- ▶ Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) for cycling, and
- ▶ Guidance on how to quantify health effects of cycling and walking.

Information on WHO/Europe and UNECE activities on transport, health and environment is available respectively at <http://www.euro.who.int/transport> and <http://www.unece.org/trans/welcome.html>.

THE PEP website (<http://www.thepep.org/en/welcome.htm>).

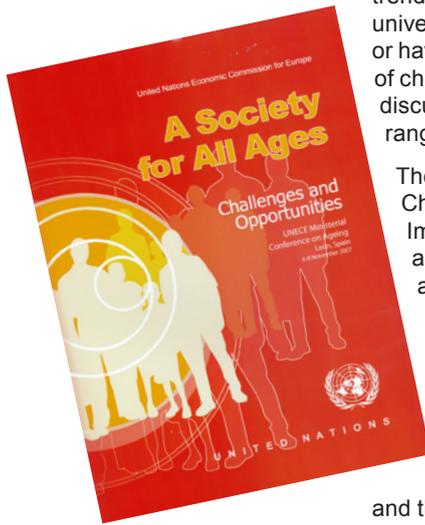
See also UNECE Weekly N° 302.

For more information contact Brinda Wachs ([brinda.wachs@unece.org](mailto:brinda.wachs@unece.org)).

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## OFF THE PRESS

### A Society for All Ages



People today in the UNECE region live healthier and longer than ever before. Accompanied with the trend towards having fewer children, this is leading to the ageing of the population, a stage in the universal process known as the demographic transition. Populations in the UNECE region are entering or have recently entered this stage, which holds significant opportunities but also comes with a number of challenges. The universal nature and broad implications of ageing require that policy responses are discussed internationally, cover a wide spectrum of economic and social issues and involve a broad range of stakeholders.

The 2007 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in León, Spain, entitled "A Society for All Ages: Challenges and Opportunities", discussed progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) adopted at the 2002 Ministerial Conference in Berlin, future cooperation among member States, and capacity development.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Conference renewed the commitment of UNECE member States to the MIPAA and the RIS, and focused on areas that need the most urgent attention.

This publication contains the Ministerial Declaration, the Chairperson's Summary, a review of the implementation of the MIPAA in the UNECE region, keynote papers, summary of contributions, the NGO Declaration and the conclusions of the Research Forum for civil society and the scientific community held the day before the Conference.

For more information contact Andres Vikat ([ageing@unece.org](mailto:ageing@unece.org)).

## FACTS AND FIGURES

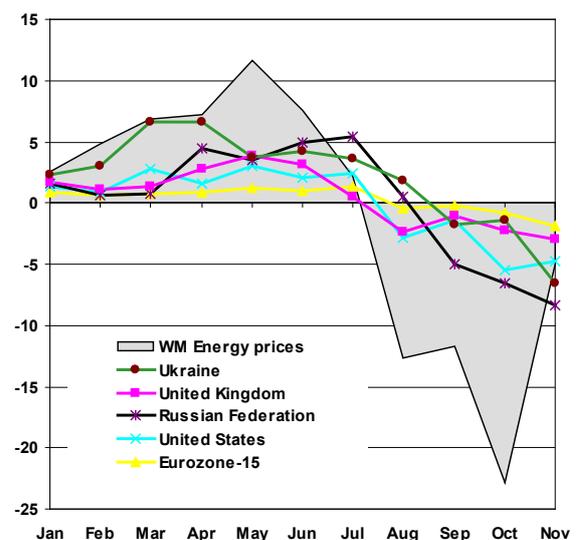
### Producer prices are poised for a further decline

Against the background of looming economic recession and a sharp drop in energy costs since mid-2008, producer prices across the UNECE region have begun posting monthly declines from September on. The phenomenon is poised to continue, as provisional December figures seem to confirm further price declines in many countries.

In the European Union, prices at the factory gate fell on average by 2.1% in November following declines, albeit smaller, in September and October. Among the Eurozone-15 countries, the steepest decline in the monthly producer price index (PPI) was recorded in the Netherlands (-3.7% as against the Eurozone average of -1.9%). In the EU outside the Eurozone, Denmark and the United Kingdom registered record PPI falls in November 2008 (- 5.6% and -3.0%, respectively).

Industrial producer prices dropped even more steeply in the United States, particularly in October, when the PPI for finished goods fell 2.8%, for intermediate goods 3.9% and that for energy and other crude goods plunged 18.6%. In turn, the record monthly falls in the PPI in the Russian Federation and Ukraine were led by plummeting prices for the output of their predominant industries (energy and intermediate goods).

Changes in Producer Prices and World Market Energy Prices, 2008 (in per cent, over previous month)



Source: UNECE database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>) and IMF.

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)  
Website: <http://www.unece.org>

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