



United Nations

UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 306 — 9-13 February 2009

EfE Reform Plan adopted

The Environment for Europe (EfE) reform plan was adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its Special session on 29 January 2009. The plan includes the objectives and priorities of the Environment for Europe process as well as its general principles. It also calls for particular measures to be taken related to the preparatory phase of the Conference, and specifies its format and outcomes.

New elements of the EfE Conference are worth mentioning: the Committee on Environmental Policy would act as the convening body for the preparatory process; not more than two themes would be identified and addressed by the Conference; and its main outcomes should be focused and action oriented.

A final section on implementation is also included, with all relevant responsible actors to implement the outcomes of the EfE Ministerial Conferences.

The Plan will be submitted to the sixty-third session of the Commission in March/April for endorsement. ❄

For more information contact [Monika Linn \(efe@unece.org\)](mailto:Monika.Linn@unece.org).



Second Environmental Performance Review of Kyrgyzstan adopted in Geneva

High-level officials from the Parliament and the State Agency of Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) of Kyrgyzstan participated on 26-28 January in the peer review and adoption of the second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of their country. Following in-depth discussions by the Expert Group on EPR of recommendations made by a team of international experts, the Committee on Environmental Policy, the governing body of the EPR programme, adopted about 40 recommendations for implementation by Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Oudeman, Rapporteur of the Expert Group, noted that “*Compared to the first review, the framework for environmental legislation is pretty much in place, and the country should now move towards implementing it*”. Mr. Chyngojoev, State Secretary of SAEPPF, detailed progress made in the ratification of environmental conventions, legislation, the adoption of strategies, programmes and plans in a number of environmental sectors (e.g. forestry, fauna, biodiversity and climate change). He placed particular emphasis on the Environmental Code just adopted in January 2009. Mr. Dzheenbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Kyrgyz Parliament, confirmed that these recommendations would serve as an important basis for discussion by members of Parliament working to strengthen environmental protection in the country.

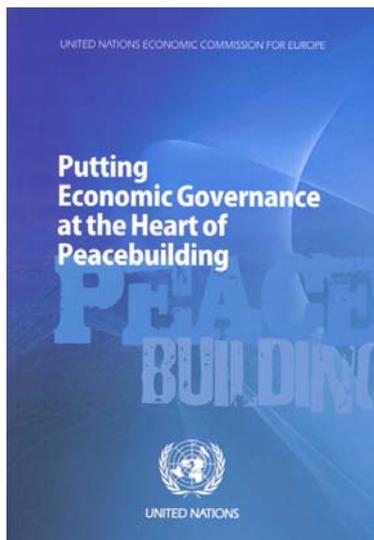
A wide range of related issues were raised, including the necessity to change the architecture of international donor aid to make it greener, the need to elaborate national development strategies and streamline donor coordination to improve international assistance and optimize the use of foreign investment, and the desire of neighbouring countries to strengthen regional cooperation within the frameworks of UNECE and the Committee on Environmental Policy in important areas such as water and payment for environmental protection.



On 12 February in Bishkek, a meeting of the National Security Council will be held to discuss environmental issues. Some EPR recommendations have already been incorporated into a draft resolution to be considered by the Council. Elements of the EPR and its recommendations are also reflected in the new Environmental Code and the draft law on General Technical Regulations “On Environmental Safety”. ❄

For more information contact [Catherine Masson \(info.epr@unece.org\)](mailto:Catherine.Masson@unece.org)

Not an official record - For information only



Publication is available from the UN Publications, Sales and Marketing Section (unogbookshop@unog.ch)

The establishment of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in December 2005 was an important evolution in the vital role that the UN plays in assisting post-conflict countries emerge towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and in mobilizing sustained international attention. The Commission brings together all relevant actors and helps post-conflict countries to develop effective coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding strategies.

While the work of the Peacebuilding Commission focuses on individual countries, there is a clear recognition of the need to consider these in a wider regional perspective. Both causes and consequences of conflict are often embedded in a complex regional context.

While national ownership and initiative in the peacebuilding process are critical to success, nationally driven processes can be significantly enhanced when complemented by regional approaches. Sharing experiences across regions is a valuable contribution to strengthening this key regional dimension of the peacebuilding response.

This publication draws on the long-standing, wide-ranging expertise of UNECE, showing the importance of establishing a well-governed economy, with adequately functioning institutions and public administration, for ending violence and ensuring lasting peace. Building on practical experience, the compilation fills a gap in our collective knowledge about how to break the pernicious link between ill-developed economies and entrenched conflict, and how to enable governments to plan an effective role in economic decision-making after conflict. *

For more information contact Geoffrey Hamilton (geoffrey.hamilton@unece.org) or Brinda Wachs (brinda.wachs@unece.org).

FACTS AND FIGURES

Tertiary educational attainment is one of the few areas where women are showing steady progress in the UNECE region. By 2006, in two thirds of the countries presented in the chart, the share of women among the population with tertiary education was higher than the share of men. In the early 1990s, the picture looked quite different, with men outnumbering women in most countries.

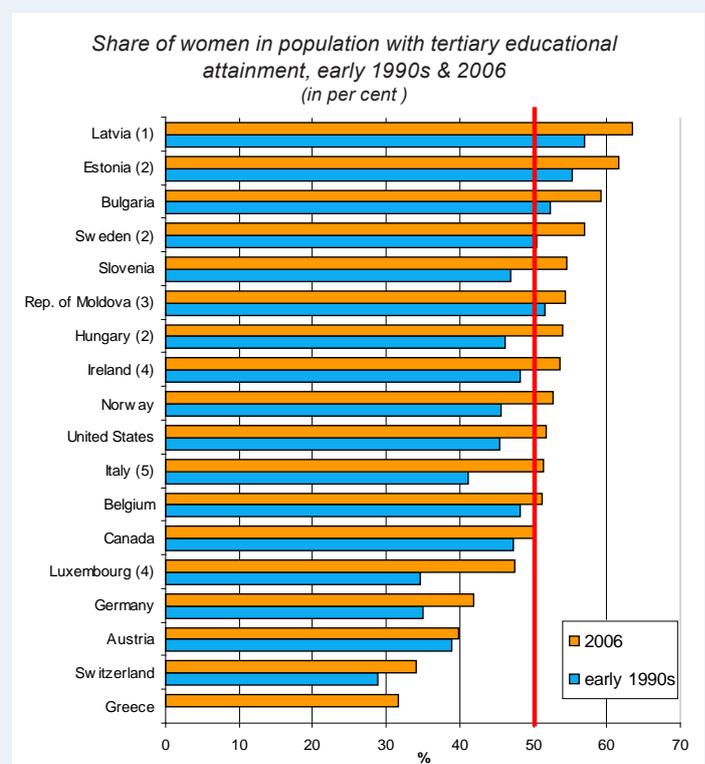
Over the last decade and a half, a significant increase in the share of women with completed tertiary education was reported in Italy and Luxembourg, virtually closing the gender gap, while in Latvia and Estonia, the share of women exceeded 60% by 2006, and the gender gap widened to the disadvantage of men. Nevertheless, despite overall progress, there are countries such as Greece, Switzerland and Austria, where the share of women remains below 40%.

The current trend of rising numbers of women graduating from higher education will lead to further increases in their share in the population with tertiary educational attainment. This could be an opportunity for women to strengthen their role in the economy, as economic growth and welfare increasingly depend on the educational component of human capital. *

Note: Population concerned covers women and men 25 years and older with completed tertiary education.

- (1) Data refer to 1995 instead of 1990
- (2) Data refer to age group 25-74 in the case of Estonia, Sweden and Hungary and to age group 25-64 in the case of Ireland and Luxembourg
- (3) For 2006 data do not cover Transnistria
- (4) Data refer to 2005 instead of 2006

Women with tertiary education outnumber men in ever more UNECE countries



Source: UNECE Gender Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>).