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WORKSHOP ON EMERGING TRADE MEASURES IN TIMBER MARKETS

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Over the last decades, timber has emerged as a globally traded commodity, with trade flows, especially of processed timber goods, growing rapidly. In this context, some stakeholders believe that despite attempts to minimize obstacles to the free flow of timber products, emerging measures, notably non-tariff ones, are increasingly affecting trade in these products. However, others feel that challenges facing the sector, such as forest degradation and loss, bio-diversity impoverishment, promotion of sustainable management of forests and climate change warrant new thinking.

The UNECE/FAO Timber section in cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO), and with the financial support of the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Geneva, is organizing a workshop to discuss tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and emerging trade regulations on timber.

Led by expert presentations, workshop participants will discuss the economic impacts of trade and trade-related measures on timber markets, taking into account the link between trade liberalization and the key challenges facing the forest-based sector. The workshop will give a unique opportunity to get a comprehensive overview of the regulatory framework around trade in timber products.

Topics addressed will include in particular:

- Tariffs, including the status of on-going WTO negotiations
- Export restrictions
- Subsidies
- Measures to address illegal logging and associated trade such as US Lacey Act amendment and EU FLEGT Action Plan "due diligence" proposal
- Other non tariff measures including public procurement regulations
- Phytosanitary measures. □

For more information, please visit: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=270>.
or contact Cedric Pène at: info.timber@unece.org.

METHANE TO MARKETS PARTNERSHIP EXPO

NEW DELHI, 2-5 MARCH 2010



UNECE and the Methane to Markets Partnership will present their [Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines](#) at the Methane to Markets Partnership Expo, to be held in New Delhi, India from 2-5 March 2010.

This "Best Practice Guidance" provides a genuine contribution to improve mine safety practices at active underground coal mines, by supporting safer mining practices to reduce fatalities, injuries, and property losses, while encouraging the use of coal mine methane (CMM) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilize otherwise-wasted energy resources.

This guidance should facilitate the coal industry's effectiveness in achieving the following key objectives:

- Striving towards a goal of zero fatalities, injuries, and property losses.
- Demonstrating the global coal industry's commitment to mine safety, climate change mitigation, corporate social responsibility, and good citizenship.
- Establishing an intra-industry dialogue and network among the coal mining industries in the developed and emerging economies.

- Creating the necessary linkage between the industry and the government / regulatory officials.
- Linking effective CMM capture and management as part of an effective risk management portfolio.

The publication, No. 31 of the UNECE's Energy Series, will be available in print in the course of the year. □

For more information please visit:
www.unece.org/energy/se/cmm.html
 or contact Carlotta Segre at:
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Off the Press



CLEARING THE AIR

Since 1979, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) has been the pre-eminent international agreement addressing air pollution and its impacts on the environment and health.

Published on the occasion of the Convention's 30th anniversary, this brochure reviews 3 decades of achievements and analyses the impact of CLRTAP in protecting human health, agriculture and vegetation, rivers and lakes and historic and cultural monuments.

Looking at the future, the Convention continues to negotiate new emissions targets and sets the standard in the global effort to clean the air we breathe. □

The brochure can be downloaded from: http://www.unece.org/publications/oes/CLRTAP_30thAnni.AirBrochure.pdf.
 To order copies, please send an email to air.env@unece.org.

DO MEN REALLY EARN MORE THAN WOMEN ACROSS THE UNECE REGION?

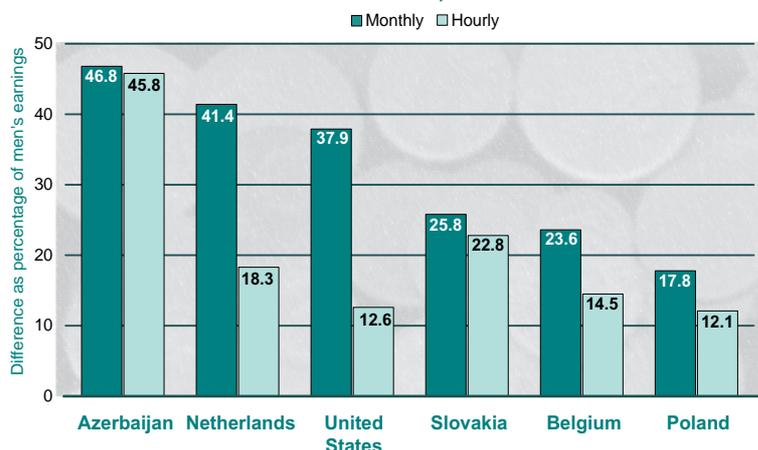
As this chart shows, men do indeed earn more from employment than women, and from more than one perspective. Gender pay gap (GPG) indicators offer a synthesised view of these differences, but can also convey a variety of interpretations depending on the way they are calculated and presented.

UNECE has just released GPG data (available from its online Statistical database) presenting two common ways of looking at gender differences in earnings. The first relates to differences in the hourly wage rate between male and female employees. This indicator is independent of the number of hours worked by either sex in any sector of economy. It therefore reflects overall inequalities which could stem from factors such as occupation (sector and seniority), qualification, and length of experience.

The second measure of GPG refers to differences in gross monthly earnings from employment. This measure of GPG is arguably a more accurate indicator of overall gender inequality since it takes into account levels of participation in the labour market, such as full and part-time work.

Moreover, the difference between the two measures is a valuable source of information in itself. Looking at the pattern for Azerbaijan, for example, the overall pay gap is almost 50% for both monthly and hourly earnings. This indicates that patterns of full/part-time employment are similar between the sexes. There are therefore other factors that are determining the high GPG. In Poland, on the other hand, where the overall GPG is relatively low, up to a third of the disparity could possibly be attributed to differences in labour force participation of men and women. □

Gender pay gap in monthly and hourly earnings, selected UNECE countries, 2008 or latest available



Source: UNECE Statistical Database (www.unece.org/stats/data).
 Note: Gender pay gap is the difference between men's and women's earnings as percentage of men's earnings.