

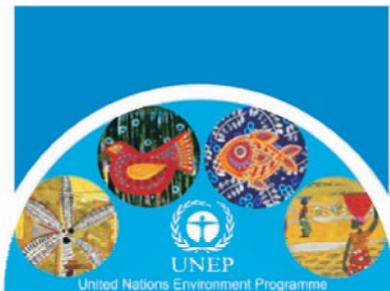


United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

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one planet:  
our  
responsibility

GCSS.XI / GMEF  
24-26 February  
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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, will participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, in Bali from 24 to 25 February 2010.

The gathering will be attended by Environment Ministers from over 100 countries, Heads of UN agencies, scientists and environmental experts, leading journalists and media professionals from across the globe, and business and civil society leaders.

On this occasion, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions parties will convene for the first time their independent conferences of the parties simultaneously from 22 to 24 February 2010 to strengthen synergies on the management of chemicals and waste.

The Forum will launch the global Safe Planet Campaign: the United Nations Campaign for Responsibility on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes.

Ján Kubiš welcomed this launch, stressing that "UNECE cooperates closely with UNEP on the implementation of comprehensive approaches to chemical pollutants and waste, in order to deliver as "One United Nations". He recalled that "UNECE serves as secretariat to important regional multilateral environmental agreements of global importance to the life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management, including the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), with its protocols on heavy metals and POPs, and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) to the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters."

The Protocol on PRTR entered into force in October 2009, making it the planet's newest chemical management treaty. As a mechanism for supporting the public's right-to-know about chemical risks and to engage in chemicals and waste management initiatives, the Protocol on PRTR complements the public awareness and outreach objectives of the Safe Planet Campaign. □

## 72<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF UNECE INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE 23-25 FEBRUARY, PALAIS DES NATIONS

The 72<sup>nd</sup> annual session of UNECE's Inland Transport Committee (ITC) will convene from 23-25 February 2010. The highlights this year include the implementation of the digital tachograph (AETR), the completion of the UNDA project on road safety as well as the new UNDA project on climate change and road transport.

Other issues for consideration include:

- Developing Euro-Asian transport links
- Hinterland connections of seaports
- Border crossing facilitation
- Road-rail-inland water-and intermodal transport
- Road traffic safety
- Vehicle regulations
- Transport of dangerous goods and perishable foodstuffs
- Inland transport security
- Global warming and transport
- Intelligent transport systems
- Promotion of sustainable transport
- Operational activities and assistance to countries with economies in transition.

For more information and the full agenda, please see:  
[www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/itc/itc.html).

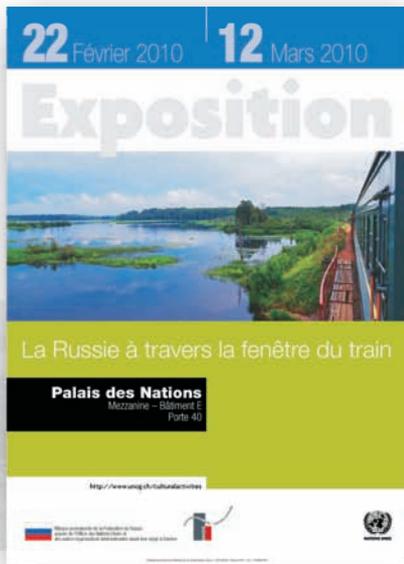


### Special Events

A special high-level policy segment [Sustainable Transport Development - the Case of Inland Water Transport](#) will take place in the afternoon of 23 February 2010. Keynote speeches and presentations by UNECE member States, European Union, river commissions, inland ports and representatives of the shipping industry will examine challenges and opportunities for inland water transport in a Pan-European context. The concluding panel discussion will focus on the competitiveness of inland water transport in the context of global supply chains.

The full programme is available at:  
[www.unece.org/trans/events/2010/inlandtransport\\_2010.htm](http://www.unece.org/trans/events/2010/inlandtransport_2010.htm)

*Not an official record - For information only*



In parallel with the meetings an exhibition entitled "Russia through the rail window" will be organized by the Russian Railways and the United Nations Office in Geneva. Vladimir Yakunin, President of the Russian Railways, and Avtandil Gorgiladze, Vice-President and head of International Relations of the Russian Railways, will both attend the exhibition and the Inland Transport Committee will also benefit from their presence in Geneva.

The exhibition takes place from 22 February – 12 March, at the Palais des Nations, on the mezzanine of the E building, Door 40 ([www.unog.ch/culturalactivities](http://www.unog.ch/culturalactivities)). □

# Exhibition

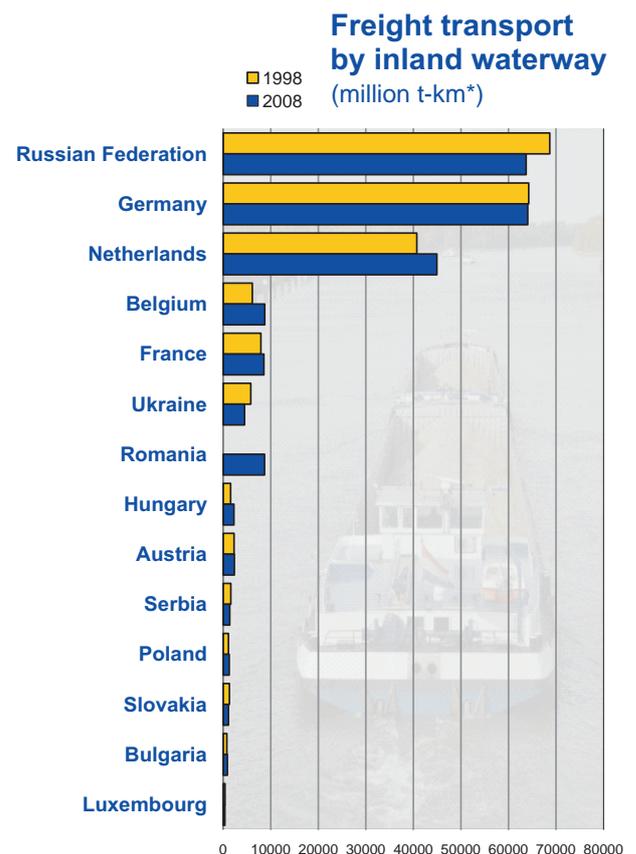
For more information contact the UNECE Transport Division on: [infotransport@unece.org](mailto:infotransport@unece.org).

## FREIGHT TRANSPORT BY INLAND WATERWAY IN THE UNECE REGION

The expected increase in European freight transport within the next decade (in the order of 30 per cent) will not be possible unless better logistics and supply chain systems allow goods to move more rationally and intelligently than in the past. As transport infrastructure will simply not be able to follow the predicted transport increase (for ecological and financial reasons), all existing transport infrastructures must be utilized and intermodal transport solutions must make optimum use of all transport capacities.

Half of the European population lives close to the coast or to a European inland waterway and most industrial centers can be reached by inland navigation. However, while the European road and rail transport networks cover and link virtually every country and region, European inland waterways are considerably less dense and cover only around 28.000 km.

Around 7% of all goods transported in the 27 countries of the European Union are carried on inland water vessels (rail and road transport carry 15% and 79% respectively). In the Russian Federation, under difficult meteorological conditions, inland waterways account for around 4% of total goods transport. In the Ukraine this share is only 1.3%. However, countries with all year open and efficient navigable waterways, particularly along the Rhine corridor, have considerably higher shares of freight transport by inland waterways, such as the Netherlands (44%), Belgium (14%) and Germany (13%). □



\*Freight Transport by inland waterway in million t-km measures the transport of one tonne by inland waterway over one kilometer (distances represent those actually run).

Source: UNECE, ITF and National Statistical Offices. Notes: For Luxembourg, data are for 1997 and 2008.