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NEW DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR UNECE



Andrey Vasilyev, Director of UNECE's Economic Cooperation and Integration Division since 2006, has been appointed Deputy Executive Secretary. He will take office on 1 April 2010.

Mr. Vasilyev will bring to his new function his more than 20 years of experience with the United Nations. Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, welcomed his appointment and said: "Andrey's first-hand knowledge of the economies of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia will be a key asset in his new role given the high number of programmes that UNECE is running in these countries. Together with all the colleagues at UNECE, I will be looking forward to working closely with him to the benefit of all our Member States."

From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Vasilyev was the Director of UNECE's Technical Cooperation Unit. Before joining the UNECE Secretariat, he worked as Senior Programme Officer for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in New York, which he joined in 1993.

From 2001 till September 2002, he was also the Principal Coordinating Officer in the Secretariat of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg. He joined the United Nations in 1992 as an advisor for the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992.

Prior to his work for the United Nations, he worked for the Permanent Mission of the USSR (Russian Federation) to the United Nations in New York where he was an advisor and negotiator on various economic and environmental issues, from 1987 to April 1992.

A graduate of the Moscow State University, Department of Economics, Mr. Vasilyev joined the Department of International Economic Organisations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in Moscow in 1983.

Mr. Vasilyev, who is married and has one daughter, was born in Moscow in 1961. □

ADVANCING PREPARATIONS FOR THE 7th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE "ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" Astana, 21–23 September 2011

The Extended Bureau of the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy met on 16 and 17 March 2010 to further prepare the Seventh Ministerial Conference [Environment for Europe](#). This process and its Ministerial Conferences provide a high-level platform for stakeholders to discuss, decide and join efforts in addressing environmental priorities across the 56 countries of the UNECE region.

The Extended Bureau agreed that the next Ministerial Conference will take place in Astana (Kazakhstan) from 21 to 23 September 2011. The Conference will focus on two main themes: [Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems](#); and [Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development](#). A draft agenda for the Conference will be prepared for consideration and approval by the Committee at its 17th session in November 2010.

The results of the Extended Bureau's discussion also fed into the first meeting of the UNECE Steering Group on Environmental Assessments (Geneva, 25–26 March 2010) that will work on preparing Europe's Environment Assessment of Assessments for the Ministerial Conference.

In addition, the Extended Bureau concluded the peer review of Georgia's second Environmental Performance Review (EPR) by adopting the EPR recommendations. Finally, it approved the Guidelines for Developing National Strategies to Use Air Quality Monitoring as an Environmental Policy Tool for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and of South-Eastern Europe and called upon those countries to implement these Guidelines. □

More information and meeting documents are available at:
<http://www.unece.org/env/cep/ExtBureau16-17Mar2010.html>



Not an official record - For information only

UNECE STRATEGY ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Environmental problems such as global warming, land degradation and loss of biological diversity, transboundary disputes linked to the use of water and other natural resources, the effects of unsustainable consumption – addressing these challenges requires a change of attitude in society. Education is a key catalyst of any such change for the present and next generations.

Five years ago, on 18 March 2005, the Ministers of education and environment from the UNECE region adopted a Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The region's flagship in the implementation of the UN Decade on ESD, the Strategy is a roadmap for reform of education systems in over 50 participating countries.

It promotes a shift from traditional environmental education to integrating sustainable development issues into each discipline. It also relies on life-long learning and learning in non-formal and informal ways (e.g. through on-the-job training, industry sustainability schemes, community projects and the work of civil society organizations).



A collection of several hundred successful ESD examples carried out by UNECE and UNESCO shows how much is already happening on the ground (www.unece.org/env/esd/GoodPractices/list.html).

“A lot of progress has been made in the first 5 years: 18 National Action Plans and 13 National Strategies on ESD have been or are being adopted and ESD has been incorporated into the national sustainable development policies in the region” noted Marco Keiner, Director of the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, welcoming delegates at the 5th ESD Steering Committee. “The priority should now be given to practical implementation”.

The review of implementation by countries, due to be completed in October 2010, will help to identify what has been achieved and which areas of work the program should focus on in the next 5 years. The Steering Committee has reviewed progress in work on educator competences in ESD and discussed some implementation challenges such as modification of curricula, teacher training, strengthening cooperation between environment and education authorities and technical assistance needs of the countries with economies in transition. □

For more information, please visit: www.unece.org/env/esd

BALKAN STATES MAKE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Representatives from the 5 western Balkan states: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia convened in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 17 and 18 March for the 2nd consultation meeting under the Netherlands-funded Balkans Project in cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP). The aim of the project is to assist these countries in ratifying and implementing the last 3 protocols under the Convention: the Heavy Metals, POPs and Gothenburg Protocols. These protocols combined, address some of the most harmful air pollutants, with established links to serious consequences including environmental and health degradation.

The meeting was an opportunity to show the progress the participating countries have made since the launch of the project in 2009. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia presented their National Action Plans. These include the steps each country would be required to take in order to successfully implement and ratify the protocols. With these plans in place, the three countries now enter the final phase of the project, which includes the introduction of national legislation to ensure that they are in compliance and can ratify. In addition, there was a renewed commitment from both Albania and Bosnia & Herzegovina to start work on their respective National Action Plans.

The successful completion of the project will promote the reduction of harmful pollutants covered under the protocols, including sulphur, nitrogen oxide, persistent organic pollutants, lead, and mercury amongst others. The Balkans project is one of the initiatives under the LRTAP Convention which places priority on assisting countries in transition towards improving their air quality. □

For more information, visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/programme-EECCA.html> or contact the secretariat at air.env@unece.org

