



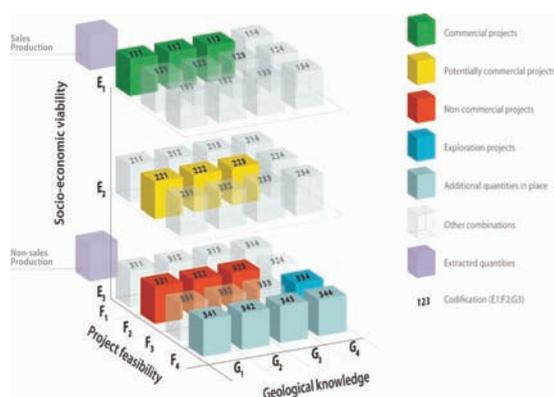
United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION Palais des Nations, 28-30 April 2010



The first session of the Expert Group on Resource Classification will take place at the Palais des Nations, 28-30 April. The Expert Group is the successor to the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology.

The Expert Group is responsible for the further development and application of the [United Nations Framework for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 \(UNFC-2009\)](#). The approval of the final text of the UNFC at the end of 2009 was a significant milestone for both the Group and the UNECE's more than 60 year history in the development of energy-related classification systems.

UNFC-2009 – the global application of which is supported by ECOSOC Resolution 2004/233 – is the only modern classification system in the world that has been developed to address both the minerals and the petroleum sectors using a single set of definitions. The key strengths of UNFC include that it can be applied directly; it provides a tool to map other classifications to one another; and, it offers a set of globally harmonized terminology and definitions for both the minerals and petroleum sectors. During the design of the UNFC, every effort was made to ensure that it met the needs of international energy and mineral studies; Government resource management; industry business processes; and financial reporting.

Key issues on the agenda for the First Session include:

- discussions on what specifications (secondary rules), if any, are considered necessary by stakeholders in order that UNFC-2009 would adequately serve their needs;
- establishment of a Technical Advisory Group to assist with UNFC-2009 application issues and mapping exercises undertaken by countries and other organizations/bodies; and
- development of a global communications strategy to ensure opportunities are maximized to promote and enhance knowledge of the UNFC and the efficiencies its application can bring.

UNFC-2009 is a global initiative and this is reflected by the participant list for the first session – experts are scheduled to participate from Africa, Asia, Australia, Central Asia, Europe, as well as North and South America. □

*For more information, please visit:*

<http://www.unece.org/energy/se/docs/egrc1.html>

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## AETR CONTRACTING PARTIES APPROVE 6-MONTH TOLERANCE PERIOD FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIGITAL TACHOGRAPH AT PAN-EUROPEAN LEVEL

At an extraordinary session of UNECE's Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) held in Geneva on 22-23 April 2010, the Contracting Parties to the European Agreement Concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) reached agreement as part of a package on a six-month tolerance period for the implementation of the digital tachograph at pan-European level, ending on 31 December 2010.



The introduction of the digital tachograph device, which monitors the driving and rest periods of professional

drivers engaged in international transport under the AETR and relevant EU Regulations, became mandatory for EU member States in June 2006, and will become mandatory to non EU-AETR Contracting Parties on 16 June 2010 following a four-year transition period. In spite of all efforts and the obvious progress made towards implementing the digital tachograph, some of the non-EU Contracting Parties may not be ready to fully implement it within the set deadline.

With this in mind, the "tolerance package" defines the conditions to be adhered to by the drivers of vehicles registered in countries that may fail to observe the deadline in order to be allowed to enter the territory of complying States until the end of this year without being subject to fines or denial of entry.

In response to concerns expressed by some of the participants the European Commission assured that technical assistance will continue to be provided through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Programme (TAIEX). □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/trans/doc/2010/sc1/ECE-TRANS-SC1-S-390e.pdf>  
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## **NEW TREATY BODY ON POLLUTION REGISTERS ESTABLISHED**



The first meeting of the governing body of the 2003 Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), which entered into force on 8 October 2009, was held in Geneva from 20-22 April. The Parties to the Protocol committed to achieve full and effective implementation of the Protocol and called on Signatories and other interested States to accede to the instrument. The meeting culminated in the adoption of a declaration and set of decisions providing the foundation for the future work under the Protocol.

The PRTR Protocol was drawn up under the auspices of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, known as the Aarhus Convention. However, the Protocol is open to States that are not Parties to the Convention. It is also open to accession by States from outside the UNECE region. Thus, despite its important link to the Aarhus Convention, the Protocol has some of the characteristics of an independent treaty with a potentially global scope.

In an opening address to the meeting of the Parties, Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, underlined the importance of the Protocol as a tool for promoting greater transparency: "The Protocol establishes a new international benchmark in securing public access to information on threats posed to our environment by toxic emissions," he said. "It will enable ordinary citizens, simply using the Internet, to find out about the major sources of polluting emissions in their immediate neighbourhoods."

He noted that most of the Protocol's 24 Parties were from countries with well-developed economies and highlighted the importance of providing technical and financial support to countries with economies in transition interested in developing PRTRs in line with the requirements of the Protocol.

The Parties adopted a declaration and a set of decisions establishing the main institutions and procedures to ensure the effective implementation of the Protocol, including rules of procedure, a compliance mechanism, a system of reporting on implementation, a scheme of financial arrangements and a work programme. The compliance mechanism follows the approach used for the compliance mechanism of the Aarhus Convention, whereby any member of the public may trigger a review of compliance by a compliance review body by submitting a complaint.

The Meeting also established an intergovernmental working group and elected a Bureau to oversee the functioning of the work programme between the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties. □

Further information, please contact visit:  
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## **35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION** **Lisbon, 27-29 April**

Senior Forestry officials from the European region are meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, for the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC). Panelists and presenters will be providing expert insight into the key role of forests in a broad spectrum of areas. Participants will also seek to highlight the need for continued coordination and collaboration in the dialogue among the various European forestry entities, to ensure that the sector receives the political attention and support needed to pursue sustainable forest management in the region. The meeting, which is taking place from 27 to 29 April, is being held with the generous support of the Government of Portugal.

Interventions on the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, water management and energy needs, highlights from the regional findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) 2010 and overviews of planned programming activities and events across the region will be central to the three-day meeting's discussions. □

For further information, please visit: <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=efc-lisbon>  
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