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UNCTAD-UNECE WORKSHOP ON "CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT NETWORKS" 8 SEPTEMBER 2010

UNECE and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organize a joint Workshop on "Climate Change Impacts on International Transport Networks", which will be held on 8 September 2010 in Room XXI of the Palais des Nations. The event is organized as part of the twenty-third session of the UNECE Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics and as part of a series of UNECE and UNCTAD activities focused on climate change and transport



climate change impacts and adaptation requirements present for international transportation - a complex set of issues that has so far received little attention. It is hoped that it will provide a platform for fruitful and considered discussions and set the pace for future work on how best to bridge the knowledge gaps related to our understanding of climate change impacts on transport networks with a view to identifying adequate adaptation responses. Discussions are expected to cover issues relating to different modes of transportation in international supply-chains, taking into account the situation in both developed and developing countries. □

The joint Workshop is expected to raise awareness among UNECE and UNCTAD member States, transport industry stakeholders, and intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations about the potentially important challenges,

*Documents and other additional information pertaining to the workshop may be downloaded from:
<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=20101>
and
http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_workshop4.html.*

UNECE WORKS ON A STANDARD FOR SOUND DEVICES TO EQUIP SILENT VEHICLES

On 7 September 2010, the Working Party on Noise (GRB), a subsidiary body of the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), organized a live demonstration of sound devices that could equip "silent cars".

GRB members, United Nations colleagues and the media could witness how silent these vehicles are when driven at low speed (between 0 and 20 km/h) and how sound devices can help pedestrians gather information about the vehicle, its position and speed. The demonstration was jointly organized by the European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA) and GRB's Japanese delegation.

"Silent cars" are electric and hybrid vehicles that do not emit the noises caused by combustion engines. While they constitute a key contribution to reducing carbon emissions and rising consumer awareness about climate change, they may also prove to be an additional risk for pedestrians and other road users.

The noise emitted by classical vehicles provides very useful information to pedestrians and other road users on the



presence of one or more vehicles, their approximate speed, whether the vehicle is accelerating or decelerating, etc. By nature, "silent vehicles" do not offer this information. They may thus constitute a safety risk for blind or visually impaired people, but also for all pedestrians, especially children and the elderly, as well as for cyclists and other vulnerable road users.

In order to tackle this risk, the WP.29 decided in March 2009 to establish a GRB Working Group with the mandate to come up with a proposal for a UNECE Regulation on a sound device for silent vehicles that would provide this sound information.

At the meeting of the GRB held from 6-8 September 2010, the GRB Working Group on Quiet Road Transport Vehicles (QRTV) reviewed a first progress report on the group's work. The mandate of GRB is to come up with a proposal for a draft Regulation at the latest in February 2012.

"The development of acoustic warning devices for electric

and hybrid electric vehicles, which market share is rapidly growing in many countries, will be an important element to enhance the safety of these vehicles", declared GRB Chair Christian Theis (Federal Ministry of Transport, Germany). "A UNECE Regulation will ensure a consistent approach across the industry, which is key for the effectiveness and acceptance of such devices." □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp29/wp29wgs/wp29grb/grbinf52.html>
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Entrepreneurship is an important avenue for women's income and economic independence. Women entrepreneurs in South-East Europe face particular challenges in the access to information, capital, markets and networks in a highly uncertain environment related to a painful economic transition to market-based economies and post-conflict repercussions. The First Forum for South East European Women Entrepreneurs will bring together international and regional organisations, national women entrepreneur

FIRST FORUM FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS Istanbul, Turkey 21-22 September 2010

associations and women entrepreneurs to discuss the challenges women entrepreneurs face in the region ranging for the regulatory frameworks within which their businesses operate, to issues of financing, education and training, innovation capacities, and networking opportunities.

The Forum is part of a joint project with the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) to promote women's entrepreneurship in South East Europe. It is organized in cooperation with the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development Administration of Turkey (KOSGEB) and the RCC within the framework of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) by the Republic of Turkey. □

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FACTS AND FIGURES

ARE WOMEN STILL SIDELINED IN DECISION-MAKING?

Equal access and participation of women and men in decision-making is a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken into account. However, judging by the share of women working at key institutions, most UNECE countries are far from attaining gender equality in decision making.

For instance, the share of women among the members of the national parliaments, government ministers and central bank board members rarely reaches one fifth in UNECE countries. Their median share fluctuates between 18 per cent in the executive branches and 20 per cent in the national parliaments. Among the depicted countries in the chart, Sweden is the only exception where the gender parity has been almost achieved in at least two categories.

More equitable representation of men and women at all levels of decision making is not merely a demand for justice, but rather a tool for addressing gender-sensitive growth strategies. Women, if they are better represented at decision-making forums, could shape policies in a way that gender-specific values and experiences are taken into account. □

Source: UNECE Statistical Database (www.unece.org/stats/data).
 Countries are ranked according to the women representation in the national parliaments in 2010.

Share of women in decision-making bodies, latest available year (2006-2010)

