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## GREECE TO HOST PPP SPECIALIST CENTRE ON SEAPORTS AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

On 18 May, the Minister of Maritime Affairs, Islands and Fisheries of Greece, Mr. Ioannis Diamantidis, confirmed during a meeting with UNECE, Greece's interest in hosting the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Specialist Centre on Seaports and Maritime Affairs, as part of the UNECE PPP Initiative. The Specialist Centre in Greece, which will be affiliated with the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, will be hosted at the Piraeus Port Authority, with the institutional support of the Hellenic Ports Association.



Minister Diamantidis with members of the UNECE secretariat and with Ms. Katerina Kitsili, a member of the UNECE PPP network of experts

Going further, Minister Diamantidis added "we are confident that our experience in Greece can help other countries upgrade their own port facilities in order to meet today's international maritime challenges."

Members of the UNECE secretariat also met with Mr. Yiorgos Anomeritis, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Piraeus Port Authority, Mr. Angelos Karakostas, Deputy General Manager of Piraeus Container Terminal SA, and Mr. George Kastellanos, Executive Director of the Hellenic Ports Association. All welcomed the establishment of the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence, and the affiliated PPP Specialist Centre

on Seaports and Maritime Affairs in Piraeus.

The Minister stated that "we in Greece have a long history as seafarers. Our ships become bigger and our cargoes larger. Our ports too must become bigger. They have to address increasing environmental and security challenges and must also become more globally efficient: the PPP model is a critical means to improve efficiency."

The Centre of Excellence will consist of a hub, established within UNECE in Geneva, and affiliated PPP specialist centres hosted by various countries. Each of these centres would be dedicated to one sector such as seaports, roads, water, health, food security, sustainable development, education, etc. □

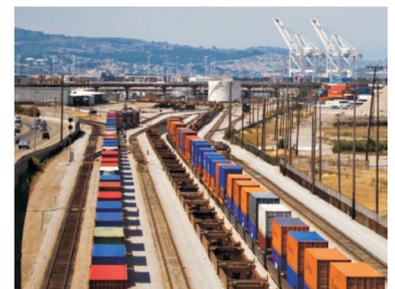
## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TRADE FACILITATION ODESSA, 1 JUNE 2011

UNECE and the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Presidency of Ukraine, are co-organizing, with the support of PLASKE JSC, a seminar entitled "The Single Window Concept and Integrated Railway Transportation to Facilitate Trade in the Pan-European Space".

The seminar will bring together experts from the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business and Institute for Strategic Studies as well as from the states where trade facilitating concepts have been implemented.

The aim of the seminar is to discuss the advantages of trade facilitation and the Single Window as an innovative mechanism of trade facilitation at the governmental and local levels with key public and private stakeholders. The advantages of the concept mechanism will be revealed by concrete examples of its successful implementation in various countries, as well as by reviewing the situation in Ukraine.

The other topic of the seminar will be the integration of the railway transportation regimes in Europe into one system. The link between the two topics will be made through the example of the new single electronic CIM/SNGS Consignment Note, which is applied in building new international "North-South" and "Europe-Asia" transport corridors and which can be included in a seamless information flow, e.g. in an important transit hub like the Ports of Odessa and Ilichovsk. Expected results of the seminar also include strengthening of the cooperation between UNECE, the European Railway transport organizations (such as CIT) and partners in Moldova and Ukraine. □



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## UNECE AND OECD SUPPORT WATER SECTOR REFORM IN KYRGYZSTAN

The fourth Steering Committee meeting of the European Union (EU) Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue (NPD) on integrated water resource management (IWRM) in Kyrgyzstan took place on 18 May in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The meeting was organized by the State Committee on Water Economy and Land Reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic and UNECE.

The National Water Policy Dialogue in the Kyrgyz Republic started in 2008 but was interrupted by the political changes in 2010. Radical changes in the government and in the institutional structure for water management have since taken place, and the renewal of NPD activities responded to the need to support continued water sector reform as well as inter-agency dialogue and intersectoral cooperation.

The National Water Policy Dialogue meeting focused on institutional aspects of IWRM, water legislation, the use of economic instruments in a planned project of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the Issyk Kul basin as well as the application of the

UNECE/WHO Euro Protocol on Water and Health. The meeting was also used for exchange of information and coordination of donor-funded activities.

The NPD Steering Committee meeting was organized with the financial support of the Government of Finland, the European Commission and the UNECE. Representatives of the OECD – a strategic partner in the EUWI, as well as the European Commission, Government of Finland, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), United Nations Development Programme (UNPD) and other international organizations and donors, attended the meeting. □

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/npd.htm>.

## SPREADING BEST PRACTICES IN STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

Over 80 delegates from 27 national and international statistical organizations participated in the recent UNECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Ms. Irena Križman, Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, opened the session and expressed her pleasure in organizing this important meeting under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians. She also stressed the importance of data editing in the statistical production process.

Statistical data editing comprises the processes between data collection and dissemination, where data are checked for quality and consistency. New ideas and techniques for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of this work were presented, and new opportunities for international collaboration were identified. Important topics included

the efficient processing of census data, the use of data from administrative registers and validating data collected via the Internet.

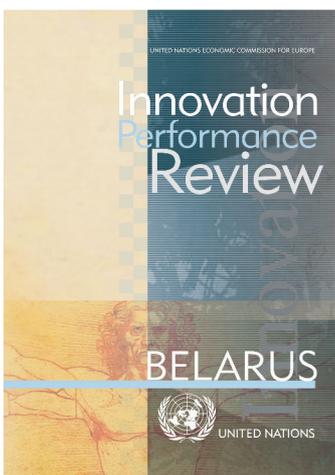
In cooperation with several countries, UNECE has developed a knowledge base on statistical data editing (<http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/kbase>). This knowledge base makes use of the UNECE wiki platform and aims to facilitate the continued sharing of ideas and good practices beyond the Work Session. □



Ms. Irena Križman, Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, in conversation with the chair of the Work Session, Mr. John Kovar (Canada).

## OFF THE PRESS

### INNOVATION PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF BELARUS



UNECE releases its Innovation Performance Review of Belarus. The publication, which just came out in print, was presented at the fourth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, Geneva, 12-13 May 2011.

The Innovation Performance Review of Belarus provides a set of recommendations and policy options to stimulate innovation activity in the country, enhance its innovation capacity and improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system. Close collaboration with the national authorities and other Belarusian experts throughout the project has helped in identifying issues of practical importance to policymakers and in ensuring the relevance of the Review conclusions and recommendations to national circumstances. H.E. Mikhail Khvostov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office at Geneva, underlined the relevance of this project and the importance attached by Belarusian authorities to innovation policies.

Mr. Antonius Broek, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Office in Belarus, stressed the significance of this initiative and expressed his hope that the "recommendations and conclusions of this report will be quickly translated into a reform agenda and supported by many partners." He added that the issues of innovation and modernization are at the centre of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework that the United Nations agencies and the government of Belarus signed recently. □

The publication is available at: <http://live.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/ceci/publications/icp4.pdf>  
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