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## **3<sup>RD</sup> UNECE PUBLIC-PRIVATE ROUNDTABLE ON GREEN ECONOMY** **LONDON, 16 JUNE**

UNECE, the London Business School and Carbon Club will co-host the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the UNECE Public-Private Roundtable on Green Economy on the theme "Carbon mechanisms and innovative financing for green infrastructure" on 16 June, 18h45 – 20h15 at the London Business School.

The UNECE Public-private roundtables on green economy will be accompanied by a number of publications, including a conference document for the Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference, 21-23 September 2011, in Astana, Kazakhstan and a larger edition on Investing in Green Infrastructure to be published by the United Nations in 2012, which will draw on the research and public policy work done by the London Business School, the larger United Nations system and other contributors.



This roundtable will look at the challenges of green infrastructure investment and discuss carbon financing and other innovative financing mechanisms as possible solutions, with a particular focus on the potential of green public-private partnerships, green bonds, and green private finance initiatives.

Panellists will include Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE, Nicholas Jennett Head, European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC), European Investment Bank, Michael Wilkins, Managing Director, Global Carbon Markets, Standard & Poors, Scott McGregor, Chief Executive Officer, Camco, James Emanuel, Director, South Pole Carbon Asset Management. □

*For further information, please visit:*  
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## **PARTIES TO ESPOO CONVENTION TAKE STOCK OF 20 YEARS OF TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN UNECE REGION**

Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context — adopted and signed 20 years ago in the Finnish city of Espoo — will celebrate the Convention's twentieth anniversary with two special events at the upcoming fifth session: a seminar focusing on law and practice under the Convention and a panel discussion examining the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities.

The fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention will take place from 20 to 23 June in Geneva and is expected to bring together over 120 Government officials and representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, from some 50 countries, mostly in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The Convention, which entered in force with 16 parties in 1997, today has 45 parties including the European Union. Over the years, the Convention has become an important mechanism for countries to notify and consult each other on potential environmental impacts of planned activities. The Convention has been applied over 700 times to date and is applied more and more often — the number of cases annually has increased from about 10 a decade ago to nearly 100 last year. This growth reflects the increase in the number of parties, but also implies that States find transboundary environmental assessment a valuable procedure for informing and consulting the authorities and the public of neighbouring countries.

In 2003, the Convention was supplemented by a Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment which came into force in 2010; it now has 22 Parties. Whereas the Convention is about potential impacts of planned projects, the Protocol requires that States integrate environmental and health considerations into the development of certain governmental plans, programmes and policies. The first session of the governing body of the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will be held in conjunction with the upcoming Meeting of Parties to the Convention.

The implementation of the Convention has resulted in substantial experience among Parties in the practical application of the Convention and awareness of its legal implications. But there is still a need to improve procedures and to develop good practices, especially with regard to certain activities. The panel on nuclear energy will address these issues with regard to the nuclear sector.

Although the application of the Convention has rarely led to disputes between concerned parties, at the upcoming



meeting a decision will address compliance with the Convention, with the Parties expected to consider a number of recommendations by the Convention's Implementation Committee, including the issue of a caution to the Government of Ukraine with regard to so-called Bystroe Canal Project (the Danube-Black Sea Deep-water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta). At the previous session of the Meeting of the Parties, in 2008, Ukraine was declared in non-compliance with the Convention but avoided a caution by committing to reconsider its decision to fully implement the project and by stating that it would not commence work on the second phase until its obligations under the Espoo Convention were fulfilled. However, the Implementation Committee has again recommended that the Meeting of the Parties issue a declaration of non-compliance to Ukraine with respect to this project, and recommended the issue of a caution.

The meeting will also consider the adoption of a declaration on strategic environmental assessment. The declaration would, among other things: recognize that strategic environmental assessment is a unique and important instrument for planning and policymaking related to greening the economy; and request UNECE to report within the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) on the contribution of the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) provided the setting for the negotiation of the Convention and its Protocol and now provides the secretariat for the two treaties. □

*For more information, please visit:*  
[http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/mop\\_5.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/eia/meetings/mop_5.htm).

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

UNECE contributed to the 27<sup>th</sup> International Women Leaders Conference on "Science, Technology and Innovation: Education and Training for Women and Girls" which was held in Haifa, Israel from 28 May to 3 June 2011.

The conference marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) and was organized in cooperation with UNESCO under the auspices of MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel.

Participants in the conference included the UN Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro and UNESCO's Director General, Mrs. Irina Bokova, in addition to distinguished ministers, members of parliament and academics from close to 50 countries and international organizations.

Malinka Koparanova, UNECE's Senior Social Affairs Officer, advocated strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national governments in closing the gender gap in science and technology. Women still form a minority in science, technology and engineering across the UNECE region, particularly at the higher levels of the career ladder. UNECE policy recommendations are reflected in the Haifa Declaration which, together with the full UNECE statement, can be downloaded from the website ([www.unece.org/gender](http://www.unece.org/gender)). □



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## **UNECE DISCUSSES THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS IN TURKMENISTAN**



A two-day workshop to enhance understanding of opportunities and procedures related to the Espoo and Industrial Accidents Conventions took place on 5 and 6 June in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The meeting, jointly organized by UNECE and

the Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan, brought together high officials and international experts to discuss possibilities for enhancing good environmental governance and promoting transboundary cooperation in Turkmenistan with the help of these Conventions.

The objective of the workshop was to familiarize participants with the procedures and benefits of the Conventions, particularly with regard to water resource management. Both the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Convention on the Transboundary

Effects of Industrial Accidents provide widely used, well-proven frameworks for fostering cooperation between neighbouring countries and assessing potential impacts when planning new activities, as well as with regard to industrial safety.

To promote sharing of good experiences, and to illustrate the tangible benefits for applying the Conventions, the workshop focused on practical application and experiences gathered internationally. Representatives from Italy, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Slovenia shared their countries' experiences in the practical application of the two Conventions.

The seminar was organized in the framework of the programme "Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management in Central Asia", financed by the Government of Germany through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in the framework of the Berlin Water Process. □

*For further information, please visit:*  
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and  
<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>.

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