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20TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY 16-18 NOVEMBER 2011 - GENEVA

The 20th Jubilee Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will focus on “Securing Affordable and Sustainable Energy”. The meeting will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations from 16 to 18 November 2011. The Committee meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, on 14 -15 November. These events comprise the UNECE Energy Week.

The high-level session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy will be opened by Dr. Fatih Birol, who will launch the World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2011 of the International Energy Agency (IEA). World Energy Outlook 2011 brings together the latest data, policy developments, and the experience of another year to provide robust analysis and insight into global energy markets, today and for the next 25 years (see <http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/>).

On the first day, participants will explore the energy and climate challenges that the world faces and the imperatives for the UN to enable those policies and investments that place us on a path to a sustainable energy future. Member States will be invited to consider



and discuss a set of draft recommendations and conclusions in order to allow for reflection and revision before they are tabled for approval on the third day.

The second day is designed to bring out the salient points that must be understood to activate the public and private sectors to act at the scale needed to deal with the energy challenges we face. The Committee will mainly concentrate on needed framework conditions for investment in primary energy resources, and policies to ensure efficient mid- and downstream energy markets.

The Committee will discuss its mandate to secure affordable and sustainable energy and will elaborate the roles that institutional actors and stakeholders must play. The outcomes of these discussions will be a series of conclusions and recommendations for action on energy topics by UNECE. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=25821> or contact Gianluca Sambucini, Secretary of the Committee at: gianluca.sambucini@unece.org.

UNECE WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT 9-12 NOVEMBER - TASHKENT

An expert workshop to enhance understanding of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and in particular the Convention's Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, opened in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, today. The workshop, which will run from 9 to 12 November 2011, brings together 20 experts from Uzbek ministries, State committees and regional authorities to discuss opportunities for using strategic environmental assessment (SEA), especially in domestic land-use and sectoral planning in Uzbekistan.

SEA offers a good methodology to promote and improve planning processes in general, and the integration of environmental aspects into policies, plans and programmes in particular. The objective of the workshop is to help participants to apply SEA methodology effectively in their daily work and to demonstrate how SEA can be applied to plans and programmes on diverse topics, and with differing dimensions and local conditions. The workshop also aims to raise awareness of what would be involved if Uzbekistan would choose to accede to the Protocol on SEA.

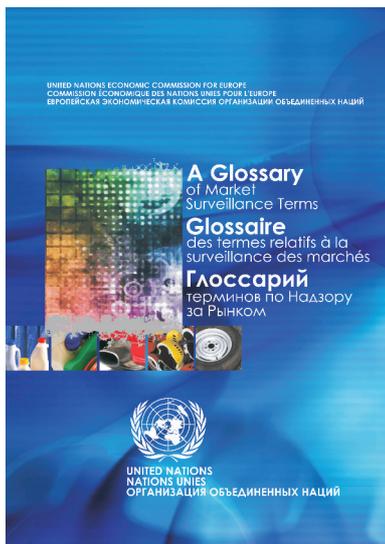


The four-day workshop is designed to improve the actors' capacities to transpose and implement international principles, standards and good practice in SEA based on practical exercises. The workshop will be facilitated by two internationally recognized experts on SEA, who will share their experience and guide the participants through a complete SEA procedure on a hypothetical spatial development plan for a "special economic zone".

The workshop is organized in cooperation with a Global Environment Facility/ United Nations Development Programme project — "Strengthening National Capacity in Rio Convention Implementation through Targeted Institutional Strengthening and Professional Development" — and is co-funded by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)-German Agency for International Cooperation Programme (GIZ), "Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management". □

For further information, please visit: www.unece.org/env/eia/welcome or contact Nick Bonvoisin at: eia.conv@unece.org.

OFF THE PRESS



A GLOSSARY OF MARKET SURVEILLANCE

What is market surveillance? Who is responsible for carrying out market surveillance activities? If a non-conforming product is found on the market, or causes harm to a consumer or worker, who is liable for the consequences?

UNECE's Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) started working on Market Surveillance in the late 1990s. Over the span of more than ten years work advising its membership, the group found that different institutions use different definitions of market surveillance and of the related terms as well as of the stakeholders and processes involved.

The Working Party then decided to start work on common definitions and terminology for market surveillance. The result is this first edition of a Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms, which provides a comprehensive list of terms used in legislative practice related to market surveillance in English, French and Russian.

The glossary contains terms and definitions relevant to market surveillance specifically for non-food products. It aims at promoting a common understanding and harmonization of the terms and definitions used in national legislation.

The terms have been taken (and sometimes adapted) from the WTO/TBT Agreement, EC legislative instruments and ISO guides and standard. □

The Glossary is available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=26843>.

FACTS AND FIGURES

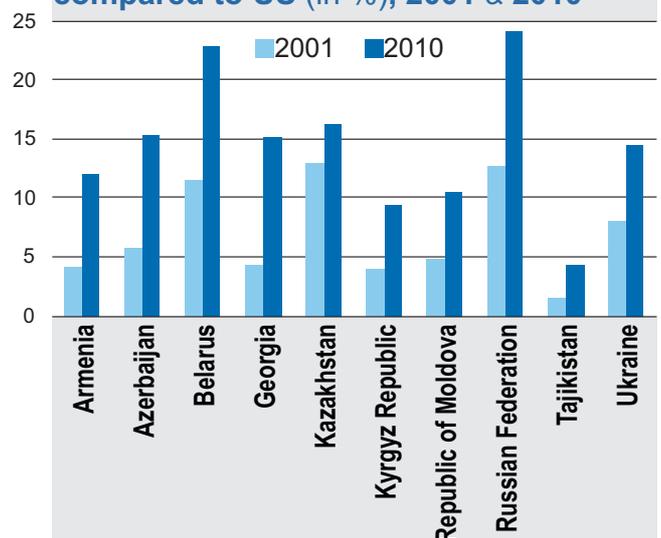
REAL WAGES GAP BETWEEN EECCA COUNTRIES AND THE US NARROWED OVER THE LAST DECADE

As a result of the higher growth rates in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region, the gap in real wages between those countries and the US has narrowed from 2001 to 2010.

Measured by the relative purchasing power of the average salaries, the real wages in Belarus, Georgia and the Russian Federation in particular have increased significantly. Tajikistan, on the other hand, has not experienced significant changes over the decade.

However, despite the recent narrowing in the gap, there are still big differences in real wages between the EECCA countries and the US. □

Real Wages in EECCA countries compared to US (in %), 2001 & 2010^a



Source: UNECE Statistical Database (<http://www.unece.org/stats/data>).
a/ GDP, Purchasing Power parity (PPP) (current international \$) has been used to deflate Gross Average Monthly Wages.

Information Service
United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 44 44
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
<http://www.unece.org>

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