

### Rio+20



### Rio first glimpses

UNECE's participation at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio started on Monday, 18 June, with the event [Forest: the heart of a green economy](#), where UNECE Executive Secretary Sven Alkalaj was one of the high-level speakers alongside Prince Albert II of Monaco and Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director General of Forestry at FAO. In his remarks, Mr. Alkalaj highlighted how "the Action Plan developed by UNECE and FAO supports the forest sector in the UNECE region so that it can make the greatest possible contribution to the emerging green economy by improving well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities."

On Tuesday, 19 June, the Executive Secretary was one of the keynote speakers at the event [Choosing Our Future: Open and Participatory Sustainable Development Governance](#), which reviewed progress made in implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Among the other speakers were Mr. Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, and Mr. Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, who shared their experience in the application of the Aarhus Convention.

On the same day, the Executive Secretary also spoke at the event [Sharing environment information in action](#), which showcased Europe's Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). In his address, the Executive Secretary said that UNECE and its multilateral environmental agreements contribute to establishing the legal requirements for access to environmental information; setting up national and regional environmental information systems; improving national capacities in this field; and developing internationally agreed environmental indicators and indicator-based assessments.

Finally, in his statement at the event [2013 International Year of Water Cooperation](#) the Executive Secretary recalled that UNECE's Water Convention is also celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. He said that this "instrument has greatly contributed to improving transboundary cooperation in the pan-European region". He stressed that "UNECE is committed to continue supporting transboundary cooperation, within and outside the UNECE region in cooperation with its numerous partners."

The Executive Secretary will speak at the following events in the coming days:

21 June: [Green growth and sustainable development regional perspectives](#), and  
[Greening the Real Estate Market: The Development of a Sustainable Real Estate Sector](#)

22 June: [What is your priority action for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy?](#) □

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/greenconomywelcome/unece-at-rio-20.html>

### Industrial Accidents



### UNECE to elaborate new user-friendly safety guidelines for oil terminals

The UNECE expert group tasked with elaborating safety guidelines for oil terminals concluded its second meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 18 June. At the meeting experts discussed a first draft, which they agreed should be finalized by the end of 2012 so that the safety guidelines for oil terminals could be published in spring 2013. The future safety guidelines are expected to promote incident-free operation and to improve understanding among the authorities and operators of the necessary safety standards to be applied at oil terminals.

The elaboration of safety guidelines for oil terminals is of utmost importance. According to the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, since the 1970s, 40 per cent of small- and medium-sized oil spills and 29 per cent of the large oil spills occurred during loading or discharging, which are typical operations at ports and oil terminals. As a result, oil spills have caused severe environmental damage to fisheries, other social and economic activities and the marine environment.

Although a number of guiding materials in this area are already available internationally, they are often too complex for effective use by many operators and authorities or too focused on particular technical elements. The UNECE safety guidelines for oil terminals aim at overcoming these and other drawbacks by providing a practical overview of the safety precautions needed for those running such a facility.

The expert group was established within a project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine, which is being implemented under the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. The project seeks to enhance and, where possible, harmonize the mechanisms and approaches for efficient and effective hazard and crisis management between the three project countries in the Danube Delta. National and international experts from Belgium,

Germany, Romania, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom, from both the public and private sectors, are involved in the elaboration of the safety guidelines. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>  
or contact Nicholas Bonvoisin at: [nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org](mailto:nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org).

## Transport

### International conference on "adaptation of transport networks to climate change", 25-26 June



As part of its efforts to promote coordinated steps to address climate change, UNECE organizes an international conference on "Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change", to be held in Alexandroupolis, Greece, from 25 to 26 June.

Climate change adaptation refers to the ability of a system, in this case transport networks, to adjust to climate change to moderate potential damage, take advantage of opportunities, and/or adjust to climate change consequence. The conference will not only raise awareness on the subject, but will also help with the identification of existing best practices in national transport policies and risk management. The event will also help with the formulation of relevant strategies to enhance the resilience of transport networks in the face of climate change, all the while taking into account specific risks and vulnerabilities.

The conference will significantly contribute to the work of a Group of Experts set up to address the adaptation of transport networks to climate change. The Group of Experts was established by the Inland Transport Committee last year to explore policy-oriented recommendations to improve the long-term sustainability of transport, with an emphasis on international connections. The results of next week's conference will be included in the Group of Expert's final report, which is expected in 2013. □

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5\\_conf\\_2012\\_june.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5_conf_2012_june.html).

## THE PEP

### Sustainable development of urban transport: challenges and opportunities in Russian cities



The Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation, Mr. Nikolay Asaul, opened the latest in a series of international workshops under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) on 7 June 2012 in Moscow.

The workshop gathered international experts and policy makers from Austria, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Switzerland, USA, the World Bank, WHO and UNECE to discuss with their Russian colleagues strategies and good practices for sustainable and healthy urban transport in cities.

Ensuring or even regaining mobility in large cities and making city centers attractive and safe are challenging tasks for city administrations and national governments, particularly in Eastern Europe given the increased use of private cars. In the city of Moscow alone 3.88 million private cars and 500 000 trucks annually produce 1 million ton of pollutants. The average speed of the road traffic in the city does not exceed 10km/h and 10-20 per cent of the city space is used for the transport infrastructure. In total, some 20 000 people die annually from transport-related pollution in the Russian Federation.

Mr. Asaul stressed that congestion and transport related pollution and traffic safety in Russian cities are key elements to address. He said that this requires an integrated policy approach, including the participation of urban transport planners, environment and health experts. THE PEP was created 10 years ago as a tripartite policy framework to encourage transport, environment and health policy makers to work together in developing strategies for sustainable and healthy urban mobility and transport in the pan-European region. THE PEP is managed jointly by WHO/Europe and the UNECE Transport and Environment Divisions. It offers a holistic approach and provides a framework under which national Ministries can work together with city officials and the international community to ensure efficient mobility and transport and to reduce its negative impact on human health and the environment.

Mr. Nikolay Lyamov, Deputy Mayor of Moscow, as well as representatives from Saint Petersburg and Rostov-on-Don briefed the participants at the workshop about specific challenges in the Russian Federation, notably the increasingly saturated transport infrastructures in cities.

The results of the Moscow workshop, together with previous workshops of THE PEP in Prague, Skopje, Batumi and Kiev, will be consolidated into policy recommendations for adoption at the 4<sup>th</sup> High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and the Environment (Paris, April 2014). □

For further information, please visit:  
<http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/welcome.html>.