

Energy



How to attract foreign investment in advanced fossil fuel technologies

This week, the United Nations is holding a conference in Almaty on attracting foreign investments in advanced fossil fuel technologies. The two-day conference, on 14 and 15 November, will provide opportunities to exchange views with Government officials from nine countries—Afghanistan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan— as well as with representatives of investment and development banks and providers of advanced fossil fuel technologies.

Discussions will include foreign investment flows and ways to strengthen public-private partnerships in cleaner electricity production. They will also examine sustainable energy scenarios and opportunities arising from the green economy. And participants will learn about investment opportunities in cleaner electricity production and related technologies.

The event is the final output of a [project](#) being implemented jointly by the UNECE, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The conference is organized with the support of the Kazakh Ministry of Industry and New Technologies and in collaboration with the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation programme (CAREC). □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30411>
or contact Marina Murina at: marina.murina@unece.org.

Water Convention



Portugal approves amendment to water convention, narrowing gap for convention to go global

On 8 November 2012, Portugal became the twenty-fifth country to approve the amendment to articles 25 and 26 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

Following Portugal's deposit of its instrument of approval with the United Nations Secretary-General, only two more countries which were Parties to the Convention in 2003 need to finalize the acceptance procedures before the amendment enters into force, making the UNECE Water Convention a global treaty.

The entry into force is expected to happen soon since several countries which were Parties in 2003 have also informed the secretariat about the completion of their national ratification procedures. The deposit of their respective instruments is expected to take place shortly.

The forthcoming globalization of the Water Convention — opening it to accession by all United Nations Member States — will be one of the most important topics at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and its high-level segment, to be held in Rome in the Chamber of Deputies from 28 to 30 November 2012. The meeting will be attended by representatives, including ministers, of more than 20 non-UNECE countries, which underlines the worldwide interest in the Convention. Some non-UNECE countries considering accession to the Water Convention might announce their intention to do so at the meeting, and have already started working in this direction, with the help of the secretariat and other organizations. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/water/>
or contact Francesca Bernardini at: francesca.bernardini@unece.org.

Expert Opinion

"What trust is in these times?"

This week, Tim McGrath, UN/CEFACT Bureau Vice Chair Responsible for Supply Chain and Methodology and Technology, asks, after Shakespeare, "What trust is in these times?" □

Find out for yourself! <http://www.unece.org>.





Following up on the 2012 Vienna Ministerial Declaration on Ageing

UNECE's Working Group on Ageing will hold its fifth annual meeting on 22 and 23 November in Geneva. After the recent Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna (19-20 September 2012), the Working Group will now decide how to translate the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Conference into concrete activities in the UNECE region.

It will decide on its work programme for 2013-2017 and review the component on monitoring the regional implementation strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. It will provide an update on the work being done by the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. During the meeting, a special session will be dedicated to presenting the progress that has been made in the work on the Active Ageing Index. □

The meeting will take place at Palais des Nations in Room VII (3rd floor). Registrations are open at:

<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30415>

Cyprus joins the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) welcomes the ratification by Cyprus of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), thus becoming the thirty-first Party to the Protocol as of 5 November 2012.

This ratification is timely as it comes shortly before the second meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, which will be held in Geneva on 20 and 21 November 2012. The meeting is expected to review a number of issues, including progress in implementing the Protocol's programme of work and the global promotion of the Protocol.

The Working Group of the Parties will also discuss capacity-building activities and technical assistance on the basis of survey results that were circulated to national focal points and stakeholders earlier this year. As Cyprus is currently holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), it is coordinating the EU position at the meeting. □

For further information, please visit:

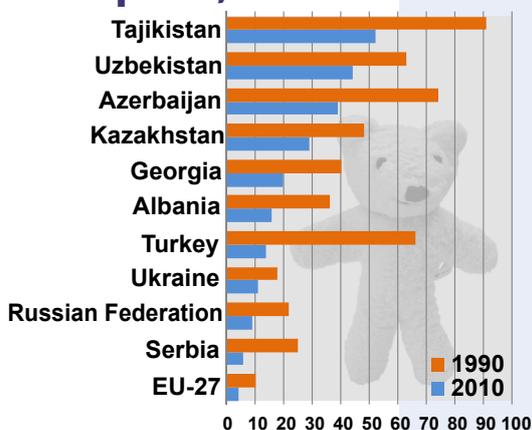
<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>

or contact Ella Behlyarova at:

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UNECE region's infant mortality rate falling

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births



Source: UNECE MDG Database (international estimates for the countries) and Eurostat (for the EU average).

The infant mortality rate is the probability of a child born in a specified year dying before reaching the age of one.

In the past two decades, countries in the UNECE region witnessed a remarkable decline in infant mortality from around 30% in Uzbekistan to nearly 80% in Turkey. Thus, the countries made a huge step towards the fourth Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality.

However, the gap in the infant mortality rates remains large between the different UNECE subregions. For example, although Tajikistan showed a 40% reduction in infant mortality from twenty years ago, the mortality there now is still 13 times the average level of the current EU Member States. This is up from 9 times the EU average in 1990, because the reduction of the infant mortality in the EU was more rapid than in Tajikistan.

The most impressive drop of infant mortality occurred in Turkey. In 1990, Turkey had the highest rates of infant mortality in the UNECE region, along with Central Asian and Caucasus countries. Almost 80% decline in 20 years brought Turkey close to the level of Eastern European countries such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Although the relative improvements in countries of Central Asia and Caucasus were significant, these countries remain the group with highest infant mortality in the UNECE region. □