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EXCOM BIDS FAREWELL TO JÁN KUBIŠ

UNECE Executive Committee (EXCOM) members gathered on 11 January at the Palais des Nations to bid farewell to Executive Secretary Ján Kubiš, just days ahead of his departure to Kabul to take up his duties as Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Ambassador Uglješa Zvekić, Chair of the Commission and the Executive Committee of UNECE, opened the meeting by recalling the highlights of Ján Kubiš's career. He thanked him for his leadership and drive to draw the attention of political circles to UNECE's work. One example of this was the participation of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the 44th meeting of EXCOM on 18 October.



In his remarks, Ján Kubiš thanked member States for the excellent cooperation extended to UNECE. He said that he had enjoyed very much his three years as the head of UNECE, an organization which "is not a talk shop" but which delivers concrete

outputs and results for the benefit of members States and their citizens. He said that he would miss the many friendly relationships he had developed with colleagues in the EXCOM and in the Secretariat. Finally, he encouraged member States to continue and complete the process of reviewing the UNECE reform in a pragmatic and transparent manner, and to strengthen the existing close cooperation with the secretariat and draw on its expertise.

In their addresses, EXCOM members expressed their appreciation for the Executive Secretary's achievements and dedication and wished him the best success in his new and very challenging mission. □

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RECEIVES KAZAKH STATE ORDER "DOSTYK"

On 12 January, Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva, awarded the Kazakh state order "Dostyk" (Friendship) of the 2nd degree during a reception at Kazakhstan's representation in Geneva.



The medal was awarded on behalf of the President of Kazakhstan in recognition for Mr. Kubiš contribution to the integration of Kazakhstan, and more broadly of all Central Asia countries, into the United Nations system, and UNECE programmes in particular.

The Ambassador said that the date of the award was particularly appropriate since 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of Kazakhstan's entry to the United Nations. He thanked Ján Kubiš for his personal involvement in the success of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), which is especially important for Kazakhstan. He concluded by extending his best wishes to Mr. Kubiš in his new and challenging mission.

In his reply, Ján Kubiš expressed his deepest gratitude to the Kazakh authorities. He was honored and touched by this mark of friendship. Recalling his 20 years of engagement with Central Asian countries, he stressed the great progress they had achieved in this relatively short period, especially in view of the very difficult situation

these countries faced at the time of independence. He concluded by saying that in his new capacity he would continue working closely with Central Asian countries.

The "Dostyk" award was created in 1995. It is awarded to individuals in recognition for their merits and deeds in promoting peace, friendship and cooperation between peoples. □



LEADING THE WAY IN PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: PPP DAYS 2012



PPP DAYS 2012

PPP Days is the premier event in the global policy making calendar for public-private partnerships. Under the UNECE's initiative, this event is being hosted in Europe for the first time at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 21-24 February 2012. The event is co-organized with the World Bank Institute and the Asian

Development Bank. The first two days will involve presentations and debates between public sector PPP practitioners, managers and experts, with a particular focus on the following:

- Identification and prioritization of PPP projects;
- Governance of PPP procurement; and
- Contract management.

A new feature of "PPP Days 2012" will be a "Business Forum" on the third day, 23 February 2012. This will give a range of countries with economies in transition the opportunity to showcase their PPP policies and project pipelines. With an audience including both public and private sectors, this will be an invaluable investment promotion opportunity.

The event will provide exceptional networking opportunities, with meeting rooms available, upon request. A "World Café", where countries that have requested stands will distribute information relating to their national PPP programmes and project pipelines, will run throughout the first three days. Such materials may be of particular interest to private sector participants attending the "Business Forum". Governments will present information in a written format for posting on the PPP Days website, thereby allowing them to bring some of their priority infrastructure projects to the attention of the private sector and practitioners in other countries.

The final day will give participants a choice between actual or "virtual" site visits. There will be a presentation of selected projects from around the world, including videos produced specifically for PPP Days, and a site visit to the Neumatt prison project in the canton of Bern. "PPP Days 2012" will be integrated with the fourth session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on PPPs, following directly on Friday 24 February, and members of which will be at hand to provide expert commentary and support. □

For further information, please visit:
<http://www.unece.org/ceci/ppp.html>
or contact Tony Bonnici at:
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FACTS AND FIGURES DONOR COUNTRIES STRUGGLE TO REACH TARGET LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

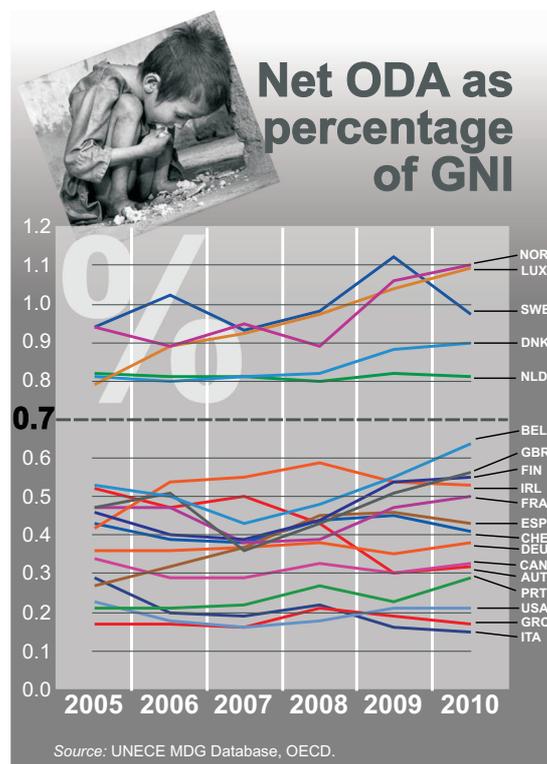
Although net official development assistance (ODA) reached a historic high of 128.7 billion dollars in 2010¹, many donor countries are still way below the target level of 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI).

The contribution of five out of nineteen observed donor countries exceeds 0.8 percent (Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden), with three of them maintaining upward trends even amidst the financial crisis.

The majority of the remaining donors contribute less than 0.6 percent of GNI, with only four of them keeping steady increases since 2008. For several others, net ODA amounts to less than 0.4 percent of GNI and has remained stable or even declined in recent years.

Development assistance plays a major role in global efforts to curb the hardship confronted by the most vulnerable and foster development trends among the disadvantaged populations in the world. For this reason, it is monitored under Millennium Development Goal 8, "Develop a global partnership for development".

In 2005, donor countries reiterated their commitment to the 0.7 percent target². The current budgetary strain on most of donor countries may challenge the upholding of current levels and preserving of the progress made so far. □



1/ Development aid reaches an historic high in 2010, OECD.
2/ The 0.7% ODA/GNI target - a history, OECD.

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