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WATER CONVENTION TO INTRODUCE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

On 1 February 2012, following two years of negotiations, the Legal Board of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) finalized the proposal for a mechanism to facilitate implementation of and compliance with the Convention. The decision on the establishment of the Implementation Committee will be taken by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to be held in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 30 November 2012.

According to the proposed text, the Implementation Committee will consist of nine independent members — outstanding professionals with legal and/or technical expertise — serving in their personal capacity. The Committee will render practical case-tailored assistance to prevent water-related disputes and support Parties in their efforts to implement the Convention.



A unique advisory procedure, which distinguishes this body from many other similar mechanisms, enables sensitive and facilitative

engagement by the Committee and also provides opportunities for the involvement of non-Parties in the procedure upon their consent. The Committee should also be able to facilitate external assistance, e.g. technology transfer and capacity-building, when the lack of these hinders implementation of the Convention.

The package agreement, reached by the Legal Board, includes the core rules of procedure which would make the future Implementation Committee immediately operational following the election of members. □

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GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



Gabriel Gamez

On January 24 in Bishkek, UNECE presented the Global Assessment report of the National Statistical system of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The report, based on an extensive review conducted by a team of experts from the UNECE, the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European free Trade association (EFTA), provides

guidance and recommendations for the development of statistical capacities in Kyrgyzstan, including further improvement of the compliance of national statistics with international and European standards. Gabriel Gamez, UNECE Regional Adviser in Statistics, led the Global Assessment.

More than 60 high-level participants from ministries, the administration and international organizations attended the presentation. Jantoro Satybaldiev, Head of the Cabinet of the President, made an opening speech

where he highlighted the importance of the report for the long-term development of impartial, reliable and timely statistics in the country.

The World Bank also presented the draft Strategic Plan for Statistical Development in the Kyrgyz Republic that builds on the recommendations provided by the assessors.

The event was organized jointly by the World Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Global assessments allows national authorities, international organizations and other bilateral partners to better coordinate and prioritize statistical capacity building programmes. UNECE conducted so far global assessments of the national statistical systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine and is in the process to start similar exercises in Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan. □

*The report is available at:
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/Kyrgyzstan_global_Eng.pdf.*

WOOD CONFIRMED AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN EUROPE

Wood energy accounted for 3% of the total primary energy supply (TPES) and 47% of the renewable energy supply (RES) in the UNECE region in 2009, confirming its role as the leading source of renewable energy. Wood covered almost 20% of the total energy demands of Sweden and Finland and accounted for well over half the renewable energy supply in the Nordic and Baltic states as well as in Serbia and the Czech Republic. Around 44% of all mobilized woody biomass supply is used for energy purposes. Despite the increasing rate of wood consumption for energy, the region's forests are increasing in area as well as standing volumes.

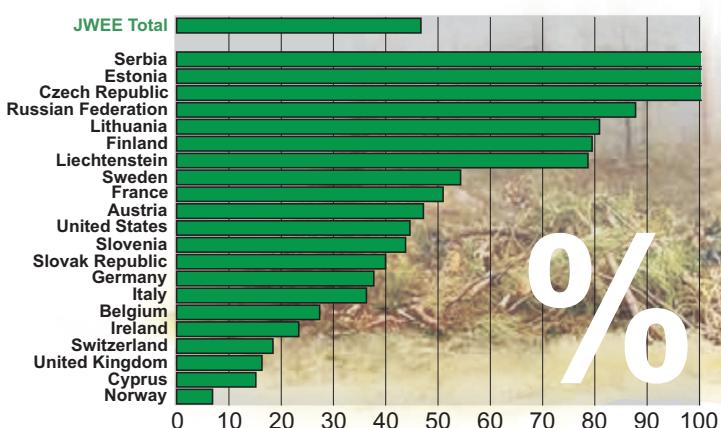
These are the main conclusions of the UNECE/FAO [Joint Wood Energy Enquiry \(JWEE\)](#), a biennial questionnaire that aims to shed light on the real role of wood energy within the region by promoting cross-sectoral communication and cooperation between the energy and forestry sectors. The next round of the enquiry will be launched later this year following a capacity-building event to train national correspondents from participating countries.

Sources of wood energy

The main sources of wood energy are:

- Co-products and residues from forest-based industries, including processed wood fuels with improved energy content such as wood pellets, briquettes and charcoal (also called indirect sources) contributing 57%.
- woody biomass from forests and other wooded land (also known as direct sources) such as logging residues, thinnings and clearings, which represent 40% of consumption.
- recovered waste wood (mainly waste from construction, but also packaging and old furniture) which accounts for 3% of wood energy supply.

**Share of woody biomass in RES
2009**



Uses of wood energy

Wood energy is consumed in roughly equal measure (approximately 39% each) by forest-based industries and households. The highest shares of industrial use are in the Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Slovakia, Sweden and the United States.

Residential use, mainly dependent on direct supplies of firewood, is prevalent in Southern and Central Europe with Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Serbia and Switzerland reporting this category as their primary use. Wood energy use by private households is often higher than anticipated as it may not be fully accounted for.

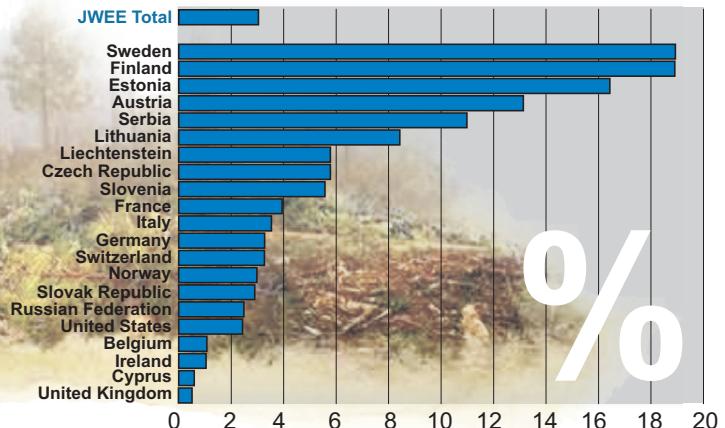
The power and heat sector is the most important consumer of wood energy in the United Kingdom, and has relatively large shares in the Baltic region, Germany and Sweden. Overall it represents 20% of wood energy use.

Main Trends

Between 2005 and 2009, the amount of wood used for energy purposes grew annually by 2.7%. One of the biggest movers, in relative terms, is the United Kingdom where wood now accounts for 16.3% of renewable energy supply (up from 8.2% in 2005) and 0.52% of total primary energy supply (up from 0.15% in 2005).

The role of wood in total primary energy supply grew whereas a slight decline in the role of wood energy among renewables was recorded. This, perhaps, reflects a faster rate of growth by other sources of renewable energy such as wind and solar. The structure of sources for wood energy has been relatively stable whereas there has been a growing trend to use wood for power and heat combined with a decrease in the use of wood energy in the residential sector. □

**Share of woody biomass in TPES
2009**



*The complete datasheets can be downloaded at:
<http://www.unece.org/forests/mis/energy/jwee.html>.*

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