



Forests

UNECE and FAO launch "Forests for Fashion-Fashion for Forests" initiative on International Day of Forests



Sustainable development is high on the United Nations agenda, but unfortunately, still a low priority in people's lives, and very often not a principle driving business. Promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns calls not only for political will and commitment, but also for communication and outreach at every level of society to change priorities, habits and unsustainable practices. Such a change is often not, or not only, a matter of affordability, but more a matter of knowledge and choice.

It is with this in mind that the Governments of Switzerland, the Russian Federation and Italy, as well as Cittadellarte, the Italian National Chamber of Fashion, the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and other partners have joined forces with the UNECE-FAO Forestry and Timber Section to launch the initiative "Forests for Fashion-Fashion for Forests" aimed at promoting sustainable fashion.

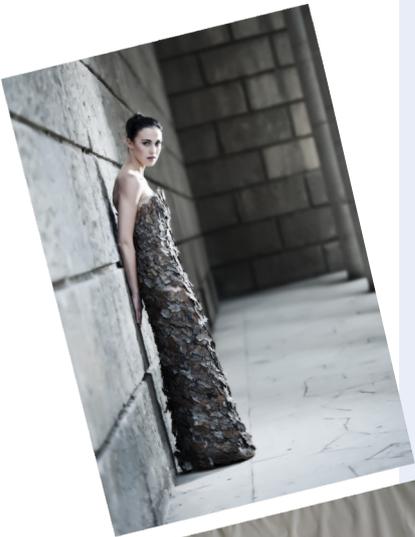
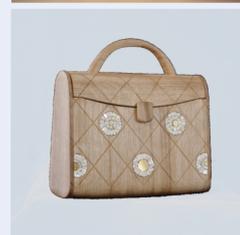
To reach the wider public and generate awareness about the various products deriving from forests and how forests can contribute to a green economy, the partners have chosen the date of **21 March, the International Day of Forests**.

The launch will consist of a series of events, including:

- **Art performance "Terzo Paradiso" by Michelangelo Pistoletto**, one of the leading figures of the Arte Povera movement, (plaine de PlainPalais, Geneva, 11:00-11:30, with the participation of more than 500 students);
- **Conference on fashion and forests** (Palais des Nations 14:30-17:00) with high level speakers from the public and the private sector, including representatives of leading textile companies and NGOs committed to promote sustainable fashion;
- Opening of a **fashion exhibit with a dance performance by choreographer Marthe Kruppenacher** (Palais des Nations 18:00-19:30). The exhibit will feature a fashion line created by young designers for the International Day of Forests.

The message of the celebrations is simple: **our choices, even on how we dress, can make a difference and lead us towards a more sustainable world**. Forests for Fashion will show this is possible.

The exhibit will be opened by Acting Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva Michael Møller; UNECE Executive Secretary Sven Alkalaj; the Assistant Director-General for Europe and Central Asia, FAO, Mr. Rakhmanin; the Ambassador of Italy to the UN in Geneva, H.E. Luigi Serra; the Ambassador of Finland to the UN in Geneva, H.E. Päivi Kairamo; the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the UN in Geneva, H.E. Borodavkin; the Ambassador of Switzerland to the WTO and EFTA, H.E. Winzap. The opening will be followed by a **talk on forests and fashion** with Maestro Pistoletto and the President of the Italian Chamber of Fashion, Mr. Boselli. □



The full programme of the various events is available at: <http://www.unece.org/forests/forestsforfashion.html>.

UNECE adopts more accurate fuel efficiency and CO₂ test for new cars (WLTP)

When buying a new car, customers will have a better understanding of the fuel consumption of the vehicle thanks to a new standard testing method agreed to at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva.

The test cycle of the Worldwide Harmonized Light-duty Test Procedures (WLTP), adopted today as a first step by the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), will be used in the future for measuring, amongst others, the fuel consumption, and therefore the CO₂ emissions, of passenger cars, vans and vehicles less than 3.5 tons. This test cycle is the result of five years of efforts at the World Forum at the request of policy makers, the industry and consumers.

The WLTP test cycle is a much more accurate testing method than the current system, known as the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC), used since 1996. WLTP better simulates real driving conditions, with more modern and realistic driving scenarios and considers other widely used factors such as air conditioning and seat heaters that drive fuel consumption upwards. It also closes many of the loopholes that existed in the current test method in order to create accurate, consistent and replicable results on fuel consumption which are thus more difficult to manipulate. As a result, it is estimated that the figures of the fuel consumption under the WLTP would be 10 to 20% higher than those under the current test cycle.

Once Contracting Parties have transposed WLTP into their national or regional legislation, consumers buying cars will feel more secure that the fuel efficiency advertised by manufacturers will be more representative of real fuel consumption, and know that there will be no surprises at the service station.

In addition, with more accurate CO₂ emission measurements, governments will have confidence to determine carbon emission limits. CO₂ emissions (in g/km) are directly linked to fuel consumption (FC in l/100 km) under the following formula:

- Diesel engine: CO₂ emissions value (g/km) $\approx 26.5 \times FC$ (l/100km)
- Gasoline engine: CO₂ emissions value (g/km) $\approx 24 \times FC$ (l/100km)

After the adoption of this UN Global Technical Regulation on WLTP, the Contracting Parties voting in favor will have one year to initiate introducing it into their national or regional law. □

The text of the Global Technical Regulation is available at:

<http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2014/wp29/ECE-TRANS-WP29-2014-027e.pdf>

Switzerland joins the Aarhus Convention and its amendment on genetically modified organisms

On 3 March 2014, Switzerland ratified the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its amendment on genetically modified organisms (GMO amendment), raising the total number of Parties to the Convention to 47 and the Parties to the amendment to 28.

This ratification is very timely as it comes shortly before the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, which will be held back to back with the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention's Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from 30 June to 4 July 2014.

As a country with a rich tradition in participatory democracy and as a Party to the Protocol on PRTRs since 2007, Switzerland has been playing a leading role in the promotion of environmental rights and the protection of the environment in the UNECE region and beyond. Switzerland's decision to join the Aarhus family has a significant added value as it bears testimony to the country's commitment to further promote effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. □

For further information on the Aarhus Convention, its GMO amendment and the Protocol on PRTRs please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html> or contact Ella Behlyarova at: ella.behlyarova@unece.org.

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Aarhus Convention

