



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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Ten years of water protection

The fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes will be held on 20-22 November 2006, in Bonn, marking a milestone in the history of the Water Convention – the tenth anniversary of its entry into force. The meeting will be devoted to an evaluation of the successes in these ten years and the challenges for future work. During those ten years the Convention has been a key driving force for the development of cooperation in the region.

Opening of the convention outside the UNECE region

In the ten years since its entry into force, the Convention has played a crucial role in the UNECE region to support the establishment and strengthening of cooperation on transboundary waters. Convinced by this success that the Convention can play a role at the global level to foster transboundary cooperation and thereby contribute to peace and security and to sustainable water management, the Parties at their third meeting in 2003 adopted an amendment to open the Convention to countries



outside the UNECE region. In the last three years the Convention has provided a valuable contribution to solving water management problems in other regions of the world, especially through its role on transboundary issues within UN-Water* and through cooperation projects with other United Nations regional commissions

* UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency mechanism of all relevant agencies, departments and programmes involved with water-related issues and responsible for the follow-up of water-related decisions reached at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals.

For more information visit <http://www.unece.org/env/water/welcome.html> or contact Francesca Bernardini (water.convention@unece.org).

Taken from *What the UNECE Does For You No. 5*

First World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

Sunday 19 November 2006 will mark the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

In Resolution A/RES/60/5 adopted in October 2006, the United Nations General Assembly invited Member States and the international community to recognize the third Sunday in November every year as the World Day of Remembrance. This day has been recognized in many European countries for several years as the Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims.



Organizations representing road traffic victims, such as the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) and the Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT), which participate actively in the United Nations road safety work, will be organizing acts of remembrance, including religious services but also secular events such as marches or concerts.

Every day, about 3,000 people die and around 100,000 are injured on the world's roads.

For more information contact José Capel Ferrer (jose.capel.ferrer@unece.org) or Marie-Noëlle Poirier (marie-noelle.poirier@unece.org).

UNECE bestseller

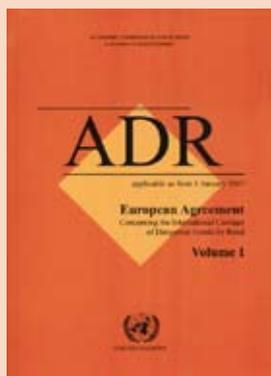
The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)

is a bestseller, according to the Sales and Marketing Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Sales of the 2005 version amounted to 7960 copies in English, 7180 in French, and 53 in Russian.

The 2007 version was issued this summer, and so far sales already amount to 6000 copies in English, and over 5400 copies in French.

The 2007 ADR is available from the UN Publications and Sales Section, Palais des Nations, Geneva (unpubli@unog.ch). Sales price is \$145 for the 2 volume set (1200+ pages), or \$225 for the 2 volume set and the complete text on CD-Rom (English/French).



Off the press ...

European Waterways

An updated map just issued shows the free-flowing rivers, canalized rivers and canals of Europe, indicating such navigational characteristics as minimum height under bridges and local limitations. It also shows locks, with an indication of their total number if applicable, ship lifts and dams with no locks.

The map gives the navigable draught of European inland waterways and classifies them into navigational zones. Waterways under construction or modernization are also shown.

Facts and figures

Is convergence of long-term interest rates over?

Long-term interest rates in the Euro area and new EU members, 2001- 2006
(EMU convergence criterion bond yields, in per cent)

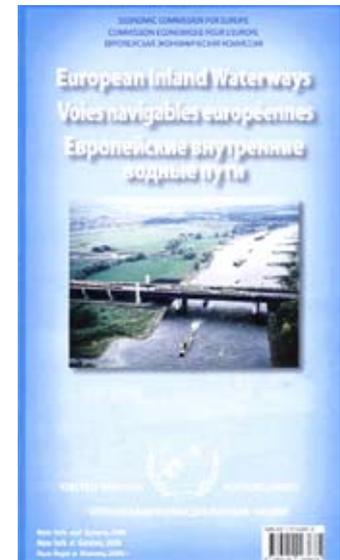


Source: Eurostat.

* The indicator for Estonia is based on bank lending rates (interest rates on new EEK-denominated loans to non-financial corporations and households with maturity over 5 years).

Long-term interest rates in new EU Member States were on a downward trend during 2001-2005. The decline was particularly pronounced until mid-2003, after which it slowed or was temporarily reversed in some cases, before resuming in the third quarter of 2004. At the same time, the gap between rates of these countries and the euro area average also declined rapidly (even turned negative in the Czech Republic) and remained low after the EU accession in May 2004. In Hungary, Poland and Cyprus, however, this was not the case.

At the base of the narrowing of the long-term interest rate gap there was a substantial progress of the institutional and economic development in these countries. Positive market expectations based on their EU membership and eventual participation in the monetary union also contributed. However, by late 2005 market confidence started dwindling regarding the state of public finances in some of the East European EU members. As a result, yield spreads between new EU Members widened in the course of 2006.



Available from the
UN Publications and Sales Section,
Palais des Nations, Geneva
(unpubli@unog.ch).

Coming up ...

20-22 November

Meeting of Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Bonn, Germany)

20-22 November

Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Migration Statistics (Edinburgh, United Kingdom)

23-24 November

Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property

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