



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## Cooperation agreement signed

On 25 January 2007 Mr. Marek Belka, UNECE Executive Secretary, and Mr. Petr Zverev, Executive Secretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (IPA-EurAsEC), signed a Cooperation Agreement.

a programme of activities in support of the law-making work carried out by EurAsEC IPA which aims



at improving trade, customs, transport and other relevant procedures and promoting economic cooperation, as well as the implementation of UNECE international legal instruments in the areas of trade, transport and environment, to which member States of EurAsEC are Parties. In particular, EurAsEC IPA, when necessary, could request support from UNECE to review and advise whether draft legislation developed under the aegis of IPA-EurAsEC complies with relevant UNECE internationally agreed norms, standards, regulations and

legal instruments.

IPA-EurAsEC and UNECE will regularly exchange recommendations, regulatory and legal acts, analytical reports and other official documentation, in order to ensure a comprehensive knowledge about each other's activities.

All member States of EurAsEC are also members of UNECE. ✪

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## United Arab Emirates joins transport conventions

The United Arab Emirates has acceded to the following United Nations Conventions on transport: the Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals, of 1968, known as the Vienna Conventions; the Convention on Road Traffic, of 1949, known as the Geneva Convention; and the Convention on the Temporary Importation



of Private Road Vehicles, of 1954.

The accession of the United Arab Emirates to the

Vienna Conventions brings the total number of Contracting Parties to those instruments to 66 and 55 respectively. Accession of the UAE to the Geneva Convention brings the number of Contracting Parties to that Convention to 93, while accession to the Temporary Importation Convention brings the total number of Parties to this Convention to 81.

The Vienna Conventions provide Governments with a harmonized legal and technical basis for their national highway codes and ensure a high level of road safety in the countries that implement them. UNECE recently amended them in order to introduce new road safety provisions or strengthen existing ones. A new provision introduced was, for example, the prohibition of the use of a handheld mobile phone while driving.



The Convention on the Private Importation of Private Road Vehicles allows the temporary admission in a country Party to the Convention of private road vehicles registered in another country Party to the Convention without payment of import duties or taxes for the vehicles. ✪

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## Gas Week

From 22 to 25 January there was another UNECE "Gas Week".



A Round Table on the security of gas supply in the context of sustainable development in the UNECE region, gathered together senior managers representing major gas producing (Russian Federation,

Norway), transporting (Ukraine) and consuming countries (Italy, Poland), as well as from the Energy Charter Secretariat and Cambridge Energy Research Associates.

The Working Party on Gas devoted special attention to the status of the Blue Corridor project, aimed at establishing transport corridors in Europe for heavy-duty vehicles using natural gas as fuel, instead of diesel. In the St. Petersburg Plan of Action (Global Energy



(continued)

Security) the G-8 Group called for further development of the Blue Corridor project.

The chairman of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas, Mr. A. Karasevich (Russian Federation) put forward a proposal to hold an International Week of Rational Use of Gas in Moscow later this year.

Representatives from the major gas companies of the UNECE region and North Africa who attended the Executive Board Meeting of the Gas Centre welcomed RWE Transgas from the Czech Republic as a new member. The Gas Centre's main focus in 2007 will be on transportation/tariffs, new EU and national energy/gas legislation, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and security of natural gas supply.\*

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## Coming up

29 January  
Ad Hoc Expert Group on Conceptual and Technical Aspects of Computerization of the TIR Procedure

30 January-2 February  
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport

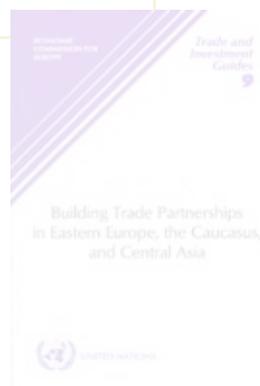
## Off the press

The countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) have long been working towards the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional trade. A booklet just issued on building trade partnerships reviews trade integration results so far, mainly those achieved in the contact of the Eurasian Economic Community and of bilateral trade agreements negotiated under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The analysis covers not only the tariff preferences, but also other aspects, such as: harmonization of technical regulations and standards, trade facilitation, rules of origin, and commercial dispute settlement.

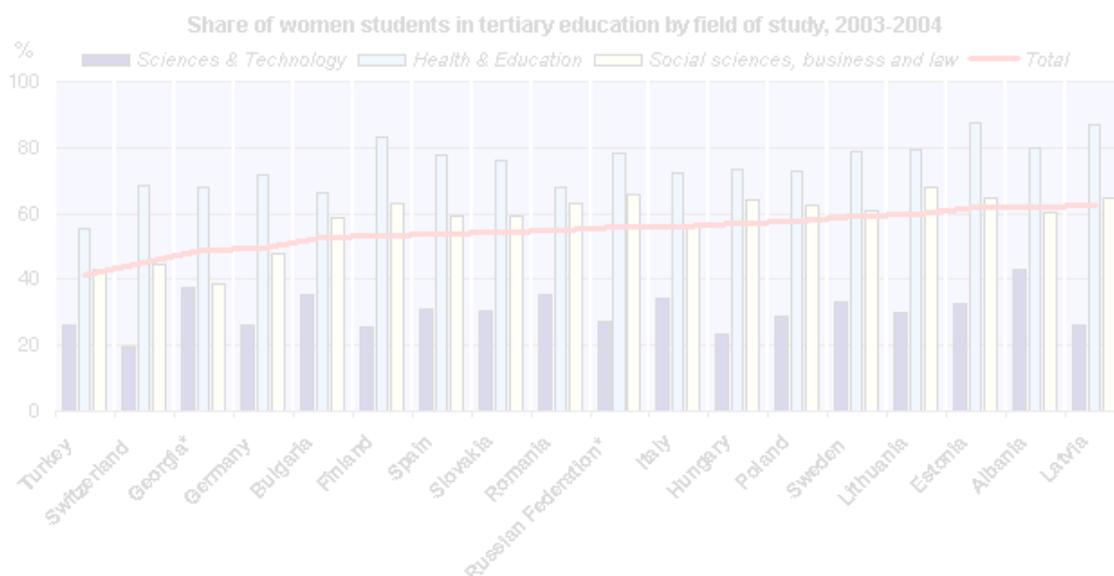
*Building Trade Partnerships in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Trade and Investment Guide No 9)* is available from the UN

Publications and Sales Section, Palais des Nations, Geneva ([unpubli@unog.ch](mailto:unpubli@unog.ch)).



## Facts and figures

### Women students: Field of study and the gender issue



Source: UNECE Gender database.

\*Data for Georgia and the Russian Federation refer to the 2002-2003 academic year.

On average, across the 34 UNECE countries for which comparable data are available, women account for about 55% of tertiary students. However, the relative proportion of women students varies widely between major study fields. Women clearly predominate in the fields of health and welfare, and education, where their share ranges from 56% in Turkey to 88% in Estonia, whereas in science and technology it is below 40% in all countries except Albania. Social sciences, business and law are somewhat closer to gender parity in many countries.

The educational decisions and achievements of tertiary students can largely determine the jobs and societal roles available to them. The question remains open, however, which among the most often suggested factors is decisive in women's choice of a study field in different countries: opportunities on the job market, differences in earnings among sectors, or the admission policies and practices of tertiary education institutions?