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Energy efficiency for global climate change mitigation

A global consensus on climate change mitigation has established energy efficiency as a key priority to address this growing problem. Government and business leaders at recent G8 Summits, the 2007 APEC Summit in Sydney, the Energy Charter and the European Union have confirmed this in their recent communiqués, statements and agreements. As a result, this has become a priority for three international organizations concerned with energy cooperation in Europe.

The Energy Charter, International Energy Agency and Economic Commission for Europe have launched a combined effort with the jointly organized conference *International Cooperation on Energy Efficiency: Working Together for a Low-Carbon Economy*, held on 28 May in the Palais des Nations.

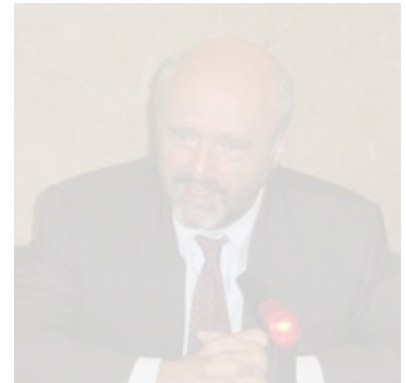
The conference was addressed by the senior officials from each organization and the State Secretary for Energy from Switzerland, host country of the United Nations Office in Europe. During the Opening Session presentations were made by Mr. Marek Belka, UNECE Executive Secretary; Ambassador André Mernier, Secretary General of the Energy Charter; Mr. Walter Steinmann, State Secretary for Energy of Switzerland; and Mr. Didier Houssin, Director, Oil Markets and Emergency Preparedness of the International Energy Agency. A Keynote address on *Energy Efficiency and Global Action on Climate Change* was delivered by Mr. Brice Lalonde, Special Ambassador for Climate Change from France.

While energy efficiency reduces environmental problems, it is also crucial to ensure the energy security of the European region. During his remarks, Mr. Belka challenged the conference to open a new dialogue on energy efficiency and

energy security which could help address global climate change. He noted that the successful cooperation in Europe could be extended beyond the region through the UN system.

Globally, 16 different agencies of the UN system cooperate through UN Energy. UNECE is a member of the UN Energy committee on energy efficiency which can help promote European regional cooperation at the global level.

The conference featured presentations by senior representatives from key countries and international organizations in Working Sessions on the drivers for energy efficiency and its role in a low-carbon economy; national and sector perspectives of what governments and industry can do; and common themes for international cooperation. Presentations were delivered by speakers from Australia, China, India, Japan, Russian Federation, European Commission and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Brice Lalonde, Special Ambassador of France for Climate Change

In a concluding Working Session on the benefits of international cooperation on energy efficiency, the Chairmen of intergovernmental bodies or senior officials from international organizations gave their views on plans for follow-up actions.

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Statistics Week

During the week of 12-16 May 2008, UNECE organized a series of meetings about the dissemination and communication of statistics, and preparations for the next round of housing and population censuses. This "Statistics Week" attracted participants representing 45 countries, nine international organizations and the private sector.

Developing systems for disseminating data

The first event, a Workshop on Developing Data Dissemination Systems, was aimed at national statistical agencies that are in the early stages of developing such systems.

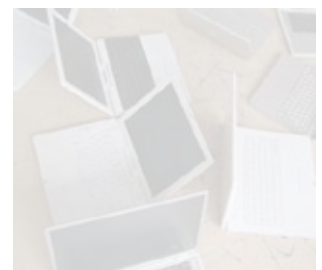
Participants discussed current practices in data dissemination, and heard how the PC-Axis suite of software tools has been developed by a consortium of statistical agencies for this purpose. Several agencies expressed a strong desire for further technical cooperation in this area, and follow-up actions are being planned.

For more details see <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008.05.dissemination3.htm>.

UNECE supports countries in preparing for 2010 Population and Housing Censuses

Most countries in the UNECE region are preparing for the 2010 round of Population Censuses. The "Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing", prepared by UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat, provide clear guidance for this purpose.

In the process of planning the census and implementing the CES Recommendations, countries benefit from exchanging their experiences on the problems they are facing. A two-day meeting on Population and Housing Censuses organized by UNECE and Eurostat provided such an opportunity. Topics discussed included census



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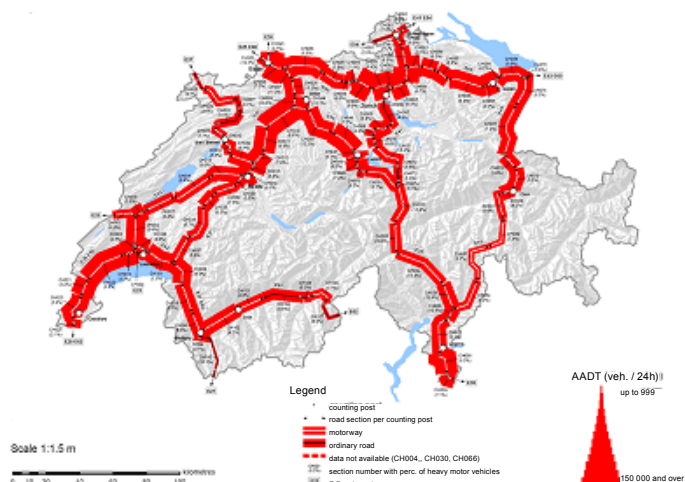
Transport statistics: an invaluable tool for effective transport policy

UNECE 2005 Road Traffic Census - Switzerland

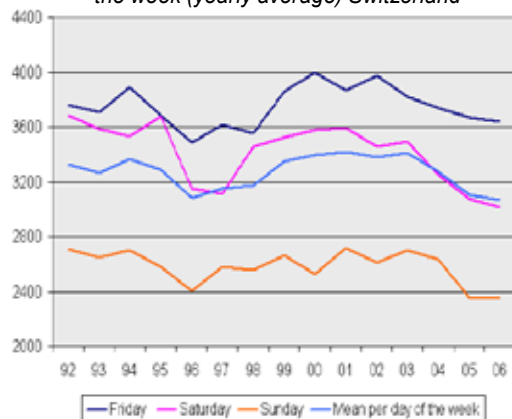
Every day, more than 70,000 cars and trucks ply E 25*, the 4-lane highway between Geneva and Lausanne, with peak hour traffic reaching up to 81,000 vehicles. While travelling on Swiss roads is relatively safe (the number of road fatalities fell by nearly 40% in the last decade), the number of accidents with injuries has decreased only slightly and Fridays continue to be the most "dangerous" day for Swiss motorists.

These and many other data are regularly compiled for UNECE member States by its Working Party on Transport Statistics which held its annual session on 28-30 May in Geneva. In addition to collecting and disseminating detailed transport statistics, UNECE experts are at the forefront of terminology and methodology development. This work is aimed at achieving harmonized and meaningful inter-country comparisons, not only among UNECE member States, but also at the global level.

The meeting adopted a comprehensive joint UNECE/EC/ITF glossary of transport statistics, and reviewed country information



Road traffic accidents (with injuries) by day of the week (yearly average) Switzerland



and best practices in data collection on transport infrastructure, vehicle stock and performance indicators for road, rail, inland water, pipeline and intermodal transport, as well as on road traffic accidents.

Data from the 2005 traffic censuses on the UNECE E-Road and E-Rail networks will be released later this year and will provide valuable tools for transport planners, researchers and policymakers. Work will start on the 2010 road traffic census programme straight away, and it is hoped many UNECE member States will participate.

Information from the UNECE statistical transport database is available at <http://www.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/>.

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Website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/wp6.html>.

* E 25 is part of the E-Road network and complies with the UNECE Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) accepted by 37 UNECE member States.



Statistics Week continued

quality assurance and evaluation, difficult-to-measure census topics, and census data editing and validation.

The meeting was followed by a Workshop on Communication and Dissemination of Census Results, where census experts and experts on statistical dissemination and communication discussed the challenges in census communication and disseminating of census results.

Communicating statistics: modern day perspectives

The Internet has changed the way statistical offices disseminate their products and communicate with customers. Interactive online databases and tools give fast, direct access to statistical information, creating a larger and more diverse group of end-users. To ensure that statistical products meet the needs of a changing society and that the information is widely used, statistical agencies communicate with the media and a multitude of stakeholders within and outside their organizations. Considerations include how to develop a mix of print and online product suites that target different user groups, such as the general public, business owners, all levels of government and decision-makers. Outreach programmes in local communities and education initiatives in schools and universities are developed to improve survey response rates, raise the profile of statistics and encourage their use for evidence-based decision-making.

The meeting on Statistical Dissemination and Communication brought together experts responsible for communication, dissemination and public relations of statistical offices, to discuss subjects such as communicating in the information age, building and maintaining relationships, ethics and independence, and managing the communication function within a statistical office.

Papers and presentations available at http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008_05_dissemination.htm.

Delivering census results

One of the largest statistical operations a country conducts is their population and housing census. Once the census questions are answered and the information is collected and processed, there is a wealth of information that must be delivered back to the community.

On the last day of Statistics Week census experts discussed issues surrounding the communication and dissemination of census results. As the 2010 round of censuses draws near, it is an opportune time for many UNECE member countries to focus on these subjects, one of the final stages of a census operation. The workshop included topics on disseminating census data to specific groups, dynamic systems on the Web, and communicating quality.

For more information see http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2008_05_dissemination2.htm.

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