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UNECE fosters energy efficiency in Kazakhstan

Following recent recommendations of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the first National Energy Efficiency Centre in Kazakhstan was launched in Almaty on 16 June. The Centre serves to demonstrate the growing awareness and commitment in Central Asia to energy efficiency issues.

The Opening Ceremony, which was covered by the national media, was attended by the Deputy Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan, Mr. Duisenbay Turganov; the President of the Centre, Mr. Kalyk Abdullajev; and the UNECE Regional Adviser on Energy, Mr. Adam Sek.



Duisenbay Turganov, Deputy Minister of Energy of Kazakhstan, and Adam Sek, UNECE Regional Adviser

The general objective of the energy efficiency and energy savings programme in Central Asia is to accelerate energy efficient development and to reduce the power intensity of gross domestic product through the creation of administrative, legal, economic and scientific - technical conditions for efficient utilization of energy resources and increased power safety in the region.

Evaluations by UNECE demonstrate that the potential for energy saving in Kazakhstan is estimated to be 46 million tons of fuel equivalent, which is approximately 60% of the total potential of the Central Asian countries.

Hence, the newly opened National Energy Efficiency Centre in Almaty is a very valuable institutional tool to address and enhance energy efficiency issues not only in Kazakhstan, but also at the subregional level in the future.

The Centre is also a good example of public-private partnership in action – 50% is owned by the National Energy Institute and 50% is under private ownership. The Centre will focus on technical analysis and audit, legislation, support for energy efficiency market creation, identification of investment project priorities, raising awareness on energy efficiency and energy saving needs, and regional and international cooperation.

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Building capacity in intellectual property increases national wealth

An effective and balanced intellectual property (IP) regime increases national wealth and benefits consumers by stimulating research and investment into new technologies and innovative products, and by enabling the transfer of technology, including between countries at different stages of economic development.

However, these benefits are not automatic. Even when a good IP framework is in place, its effectiveness will depend a great deal on how it is applied by the courts and how it is used by companies, entrepreneurs and research organizations. There is significant variation across countries in the capacity to create and improve legal and regulatory IP frameworks, and in the capacity of stakeholders to make the best possible use of existing IP regimes. Without investment in these capacities, progress on the IP front will remain elusive. Much is already being done in the UNECE region, but there is a clear demand for more capacity building, and there is a clear scope for countries to learn from each other.

Experts from national intellectual property offices and ministries, international organizations, research institutions and the business community will meet in Geneva on 3-4 July to discuss capacity building in the commercialization, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in the UNECE region with a special focus on countries with economies in transition.

This 3rd annual meeting of the *UNECE Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property* * will bring together beneficiaries, organizers and donors involved in IP capacity building from throughout the UNECE region to exchange their experiences, to discuss what works and what doesn't, and to identify priorities for future capacity-building activities.

* *Palais des Nations, conference room VIII, starting at 11 am*

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Europe's Inland Waterways: UNECE works on safety and security

European network of inland waterways and ports of international importance

UNECE has developed a coordinated plan for the development and construction of a European "E Waterway network". Established through the UNECE European Agreement on Main Inland Waterways (AGN), which prescribes minimum technical and operational standards for navigable rivers, canals, ports and coastal routes, this network offers considerable capacity for the carriage of bulk freight and containers to relieve, in particular, parts of the saturated North-South European road and rail corridors.

UNECE also administers similar networks and schemes through its E-road, E-rail and C-E intermodal Agreements.

A total of 27,913 km of European waterways form part of this network of important inland waterways, as designated by relevant governments. Virtually all UNECE member States with



Not an official record - For information only

Enhancing private sector's engagement in the Committee on Environmental Policy

During a meeting of the extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) on 24 June, discussions were held with representatives of the private sector. The aim was to strengthen the involvement of the private sector in the work of the CEP and the "Environment for Europe" reform process. The group included representatives of environmentally-oriented Business and Banking umbrella associations (International Chamber of Commerce and European Savings Banks Group), as well as individual companies/foundations (Ethos Pension Fund for Sustainable Development and World Wildlife Fund).

Discussions helped to identify key priority areas from the private sector's point of view. These priority areas concerned both the terms and potential subject matter of their engagement. Key areas of concern were the format of their participation (effectively seeking a dialogue on a par with governments) and the time horizon of their engagement (they expressed a clear preference for long-term engagement, rather than ad hoc participation in CEP activities). Water, chemicals and waste management were the main priority areas that emerged during the discussions.

The extended CEP Bureau itself thereafter discussed future steps to enhance the engagement of the private sector. It was decided that a larger roundtable meeting with representatives of the private sector should take place in October, during the meeting of the CEP Bureau. Two sessions were envisaged, one more general on the nature and modalities of participation, and a more focused one looking at one specific area where CEP could claim extensive expertise and comparative advantage. Of the various ideas discussed, water and water services (delivery, sanitation etc) attracted most attention.

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European network ... (continued)

navigable rivers have ratified the AGN, most recently Belarus, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The AGN, its technical and operational standards, as well as numerous resolutions on technical, safety and environmental principles and practices in inland navigation, are constantly kept up to date by UNECE experts. They recently met in Geneva (16-18 June) for a meeting of the UNECE Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation.

European Code for Inland Waterways



Major European inland waterways such as the Rhine, Danube, Sava, Volga and Dnepr are currently experiencing a rise in traffic. Responding to this increase requires further harmonization of rules that ensure safe, secure and efficient passage.

The main instrument that provides such regulations is the European Code for Inland Waterways (CEVNI). It includes visual markings and sound signals for vessels, waterways signs and markings, comparable to those applicable on the roads.

CEVNI is also administered by the UNECE Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation. At its June meeting, a comprehensive package of amendments to CEVNI was considered, to respond to newly arising safety and security concerns. It is expected that a revised European Code could be adopted in 2009.

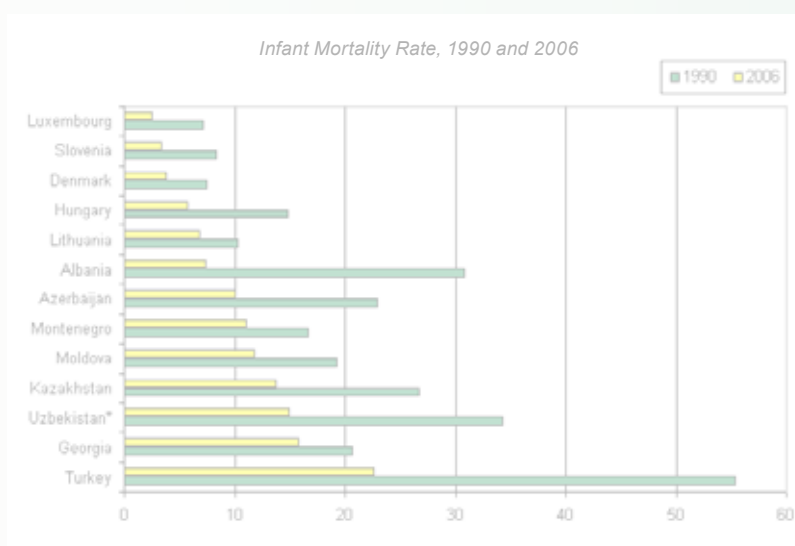
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Facts and Figures

According to official figures, the proportion of children dying under the age of one has fallen by nearly a half in the last fifteen years UNECE-wide. Yet, despite that progress, infant mortality rates in many low- and medium-income UNECE countries remain high, due in part to a lack of investment in the primary health services and child care support structures. In fact, in at least one out of four UNECE member countries there are currently more than 10 infant deaths per 1000 births in the same year, while the lowest recorded rate in the region is below 3 deaths per 1000 births.

As the chart attests, progress in reducing infant mortality was fastest in countries that had the highest rates at the outset of our observation period: compared with 1990, Turkey, Albania, and Uzbekistan currently have 33, 24, and 19 fewer deaths per 1000 live births, respectively. There was also a noticeable reduction in the infant mortality rate (IMR) in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. The data presented in the chart come mostly from official registration systems, and may be partially affected by differences in the methodology employed. UNICEF publishes survey-based estimates (that correct in part those differences) which for Central Asia and the Caucasus indicate a somewhat lesser progress: on average in that region about 40 infants out of 1000 births died in 2006 before reaching their first birthday.

Infant mortality declines visibly in the UNECE region



Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database

Note: The infant mortality rate (IMR) is defined, for a given year, as the total number of deaths of children of less than one year of age out of 1000 live births in the same year.

* 2005 instead of 2006.