



# UNECE Weekly

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## Information and communication technology policy and legal issues

## New Director for Technical Cooperation Unit

Over the past decade, information and communication technologies (ICT) have become strategic ingredients of national competitiveness and sustainable development. These technologies, if efficiently applied, and if supported by appropriate policies, have the potential to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and to work as a catalyst for innovative development. However, their application also gives rise to a variety of legal and regulatory issues and challenges for policymakers.



A national capacity-building seminar on ICT policy and legal issues was held on 1-2 July in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Communications and Information Agency of Uzbekistan and the UNDP office in Uzbekistan.

The Seminar was one of a series of capacity-building activities which UNECE has been conducting in Central Asia to support senior national ICT policymakers in their endeavour to create an enabling ICT policy and regulatory framework. It is also part of the activities that UNECE is undertaking in the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs) which is implemented together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The objective of the Seminar was to provide ICT policymakers with structured knowledge and skills that would help them better deal with some of the difficult legal and regulatory issues, potential threats and challenges. To assist ICT policymakers in dealing with these challenges, UNECE has prepared a publication “ICT Policy and Legal Issues for Central Asia – Guide for ICT Policymakers”, available in English and Russian.

In recent years, the Government of Uzbekistan has been making considerable progress in developing its legislative basis for ICT and eCommerce development. Policymakers and legislators in Uzbekistan are committed to ensuring that these efforts correspond to best international practices. The Seminar provided them with opportunities to learn and exchange relevant experiences on ICT policy and legal issues such as legal ICT infrastructure; legal certainty, legal ICT security, legal protection and issues related to ICT crimes. ❖



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Ms. Zamira Eshmambetova from Kyrgyzstan has been appointed Director of the UNECE Technical Cooperation Unit.

Prior to joining UNECE, Ms. Eshmambetova worked at the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) in New York.

She was in charge there of system-wide coordination, monitoring and reporting, advocacy and resource mobilization for the implementation of the programme for the least developed countries (LDCs). The Programme for Action for the Decade 2001-2010 for LDCs is a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, which covers all areas of development (economic, social and environmental).

From 1999 to 2003, Ms. Eshmambetova worked in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) as a Municipal Administrator and later as a Senior Political Adviser to the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, a post which she combined with her responsibilities for the Office of Gender Affairs.

As Municipal Administrator, she oversaw a range of issues, including implementation of housing, municipal building and infrastructure reconstruction projects, quick impact projects, return and reconciliation projects, and disarmament and reintegration projects.

She also served in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in 1995-1996, during which time she oversaw the implementation of various aspects of the Dayton Agreement (General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Following a Senior Lectureship at the Osh State University in Kyrgyzstan, Ms. Eshmambetova held various posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993-1995, including Deputy (1994-95) and subsequently Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations in New York (1996-1999).

Amongst other roles, she served as Vice-President of the General Assembly and President of the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ms. Eshmambetova initiated the work of the General Assembly on



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the establishment of the nuclear weapon free zone in Central Asia and on sustainable mountainous development and also promoted the participation of her country in UN peacekeeping operations. Her achievements were recognized by her country through the award of the highest Dank (Glory) medal.

Ms. Eshmambetova holds a Masters Degree and a Doctorate in Social Science from Moscow State University. She brings to UNECE an in-depth knowledge of the work of the United Nations and its funds and programmes, a wealth of experience working with economies in transition, including post-conflict countries as well as structurally weak, vulnerable and small economies, combined with hands-on experience in managing, monitoring and evaluating projects. ❖

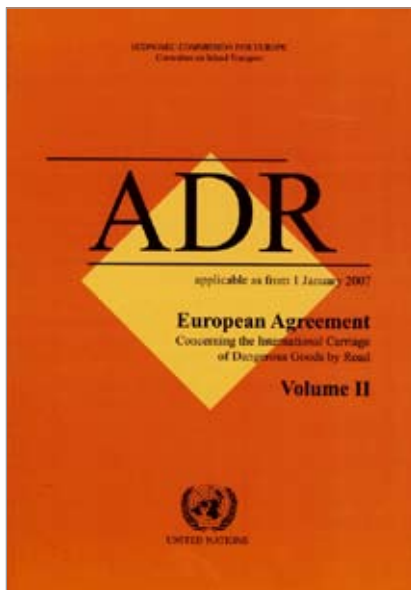
### International carriage of dangerous goods

The latest amendments to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) have been circulated by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for approval by United Nations Member States.

The proposed amendments contain in particular new provisions concerning the carriage of dangerous goods packed in excepted quantities, new criteria for the classification of environmentally hazardous substances (aquatic environment) and revised requirements for the construction and testing of pressure receptacles, aerosol dispensers, small receptacles containing gas (gas cartridges) and fuel cell cartridges containing liquefied flammable gas.

The amendments will be deemed accepted unless at least five Contracting Parties object within a three-month period. ❖

For more information see: <http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/depnoti/CN.461.2008-Eng.pdf>.



## Facts and Figures

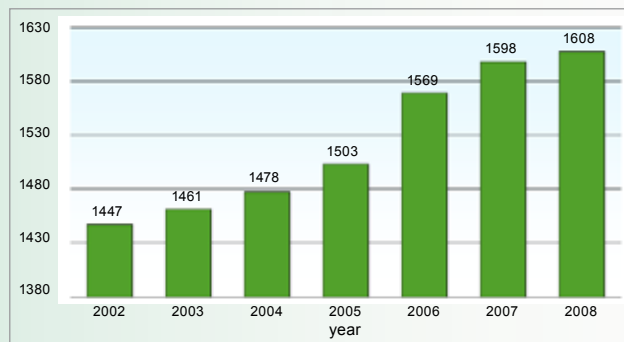
### UNECE Legal Instruments on Transport

Since its creation in 1947, UNECE has become a centre where multilateral agreements are created and maintained.

In the field of inland transport, global trends in economic development and the opening up of markets have had huge impacts on transport network organization and infrastructure: the number of vehicles on the road is rising rapidly, cross-border traffic is intensifying, pollution from vehicles is contributing to global warming, and road traffic crashes are estimated to become the third leading cause of death and disability in the world by 2020.

To tackle these and similar challenges, UNECE administers 56 legal instruments that facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes. The goal is to improve competitiveness, safety, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector, whilst taking steps to reduce the adverse effects of transport on the environment.

The table shows the increase in the number of contracting parties to UNECE legal instruments on transport between 2002 and 2008.



The map shows the geographical scope of the 93 Contracting Parties to the Convention on Road Traffic of 19 September 1949.

