



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Trade facilitation – a collaborative approach is needed

The UN Economic Commission for Europe organized, in cooperation with 12 other international organizations, a Second International Forum on Trade Facilitation – a topical event in the light of the preparations for the forthcoming Fifth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancún, Mexico, in September.

Even though a large part of the debates at the Forum focused on the positions of various actors within the WTO, it was emphasized that whilst the WTO remit remains focused on the legal



framework, practical work on developing international standards and recommendations remains the responsibility of other organizations, such as the UNECE and the World Customs Organization.

Integrated assessment of air pollution in Europe

In order to provide the basis for negotiations on the review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution discussed the preparation of baseline scenarios up to the year 2020 at its twenty-eighth meeting held in Haarlem (Netherlands) on 7-9 May. The main elements of the scenarios include the

technical and economic measures to abate pollution, the atmospheric dispersion of pollution, and the effects on ecosystems and human health. The Task Force reviewed progress in preparing databases and model elements covering these issues. Much of the work is being carried out in parallel, and in cooperation, with the European Commission's Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme, which aims to update its National Emission Ceilings Directive in the coming years.

Workshops on Human Development indicators

The Statistical Division, in collaboration with the Regional Support Center of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, conducted from 5-10 May in Bratislava two workshops on standard statistical indicators for National Human Development Reports (NHDR). The workshops addressed two sets of countries: South East Europe and the CIS. The objectives of the

meetings were to (i) review and validate a proposed core set of standard statistical indicators for NHDR; and (ii) train the participants on the use of statistics for analytical purposes. In both meetings, participants welcomed the training and gave positive feedback on the usefulness of the discussions. They agreed on the framework of standard indicators proposed by UNECE, pointing out issues related to informal/hidden economy, social inclusion/exclusion, quality of education and quality of health.

Integrated monitoring of the effects of air pollution

Scientific issues and monitoring techniques for integrated monitoring were discussed in a one-day workshop held by the Task Force of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring. The Task Force meeting, held in Helsinki on 8-10 May, and organized jointly by the Finnish Environment Institute, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Finnish Meteorological Institute, the Geological Survey of Finland and the

Finnish Ministry of the Environment, also discussed the progress in its work, including that on dynamic modelling and the estimation of fluxes of pollutants moving through ecosystems. The Task Force further decided on its work programme for 2003-2004, and agreed on the publication of several technical reports and scientific papers.

Environmental Performance Reviews 17 countries on a new CD-ROM

A new CD-ROM containing the Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) of countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia has just been issued by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

It contains a detailed evaluation of the state of the environment of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria - Second review, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro (Yugoslavia), Slovenia, the former Yugoslav



Republic of Macedonia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine. It also includes reports on Environmental Policy in Transition: Lessons Learned from Ten Years of UNECE Environment Performance Reviews and on Sustainable Development in Europe, North America and Central Asia.

Available from United Nations Bookshops: Sales No. GV.E.03.0.11, ISBN 92-1-101055-1, US\$ 45.

Coming up soon ...

16-20 Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport
17-20 Meeting of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Facts and figures:

Censuses in UNECE, population by sex

Selected Countries

| | Census Date | Males | Females | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Croatia | 31 Mar 2001 | 2,135,900 | 2,301,560 | 4,437,460 |
| Czech Republic ¹ | 01 Mar 2001 | 5,019,381 | 5,273,552 | 10,292,933 |
| France ² | 08 Mar 1999 | 28,419,419 | 30,101,269 | 60,185,831 |
| Romania | 18 Mar 2002 | 10,581,350 | 11,116,831 | 21,698,181 |
| Russian Federation ¹ | October 2002 | 67,557,300 | 77,624,600 | 145,181,900 |
| Slovenia ³ | 31 Mar 2002 | 958,576 | 1,005,460 | 1,964,036 |
| Spain | 01 Nov 2001 | 20,021,850 | 20,825,521 | 40,847,371 |
| United Kingdom | 29 Apr 2001 | 28,579,869 | 30,209,325 | 58,789,194 |
| United States | 01 Apr 2000 | 138,053,563 | 143,368,343 | 281,421,906 |

Source: UNECE Statistical Division, based on results published by national statistical offices.

Notes:

- 1) Preliminary results.
- 2) Metropolitan France.
- 3) Population figures compiled from traditional census and population registers.

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