



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 22 – 30 June-4 July 2003

It's just happened ...

UNECE Conference on SPECA

A conference on the implementation and perspectives of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), 23-24 June, revealed a widely-shared concern with and desire to stabilize the situation in the Central Asian sub-region, whose strategic importance will increase in the forthcoming decades. Central Asia is one of the key transit points between the rapidly expanding and lucrative markets of Europe and Asia; disturbances there would thus unavoidably interrupt the smooth flow of goods and services and raise transaction costs. Consequently, factors threatening stability in Central Asia – water shortage, continuous



environmental degradation, rising administrative barriers at border-crossing points, inter-state rivalry and, hence, lack of cooperation – were on the top of the agenda. At the same time, its abundant natural resources, especially energy resources, make this sub-region vital in the context of the global supply-demand relationship. It is not surprising

therefore that many speakers devoted much attention to the issue of energy. A Cooperation Agreement (MoU) was signed between UNECE and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), symbolizing the readiness of both organizations to establish another bridge between Europe and Asia.

UNECE Brainstorming

On 25 June the UNECE held the first in a series of academic discussions which will provide an opportunity to brainstorm in a less formal setting. The topic for the first discussion was "UN Reforms: What Analytical Foundations?" and introductory remarks were made by Mr. Paolo Garonna and Mr. Yves Berthelot, former Executive Secretary of ECE. Mr. Garonna introduced 6 major issues in UN reform: peacemaking and conflict prevention, new security challenges, reaching out to people, governance, implementation and credibility, and efficiency and adaptability; he emphasized the need for evidence and a science-based approach in academic discussions concerning reform. Mr. Berthelot also shared several areas that he believes need to be addressed in UN reform, such as the clarification of principles that can lead to interventions in sovereign States. He stressed the importance of stimulating, competent reports in developing meaningful change. Mr. Berthelot also hoped that the academic discussions will develop internal debates that will continue to improve the quality of what the UNECE produces. After the opening remarks, a lively debate ensued which covered many topics from the appropriate paradigm or framework for reform to the need for intellectual honesty and balance. This debate highlighted the important role of both idealism and pragmatism in the future of UN reform.



Advancing Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses

UNECE participated for the first time at the World Conference of the International Council for Small Business. Under the title "Advancing Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses", the ICSB 48th World Conference, organized on 15-18 June in Belfast, was an occasion to exchange best practice in SME start-up and support. It also provided the context for forming stronger international networks in support of entrepreneurship, trade, research and education. UNECE representatives made presentations on women's entrepreneurship and on development of the SME sector in transition economies, and moderated sessions on "Women's enterprise-developing worldwide" and on "Developing and emerging economies – the role of SMEs".

Coming up soon ...

30 June-1 July Forum on Online Dispute Resolution
 30 June-4 July ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
 2-4 July Meeting of Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health
 2-4 July Joint UNECE/Eurostat/FAO/OECD Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe

7 July, Room VIII at 3p.m: Briefing on the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancún on issues of interest to countries with transition or emerging market economies. The briefing will be organized jointly by AITIC (Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation) and the UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division. For further information contact: Romi Chopra, romi.chopra@unece.org. For information about AITIC, see <http://www.acici.org/aitic/>

Facts and figures:

Most popular baby names, latest year

selected countries

	Latest year	Girls names				
		1	2	3	4	5
European Union:						
Austria	2000	Julia	Anna	Sarah	Lisa	Laura
Belgium	2000	Laura	Marie	Sarah	Emma	Manon
Denmark	2000	Julie	Sofie	Sara	Cecilie	Emma
Finland	2001	Laura	Veera	Anni	Roosa	Emma
France	2000	Léa	Chloé	Manon	Camille	Emma
Germany	1999	Marie	Maria	Sophie	Anna/Anne	Laura
Ireland	2000	Aoife	Sarah	Ciara	Emma	Chloe
Spain	2001	Maria	Paula	Laura	Andrea	Marta
Sweden	2001	Julia	Emma	Hanna	Elin	Wilma
United Kingdom ^a	2001	Chloe	Emily	Megan	Jessica	Sophie
Other Western Europe:						
Cyprus	2000	Maria	Eleni	Androulla	Georgia	...
Iceland	2000	Sara	Anna	Gudrun	Kristin	Maria
Norway	2001	Julie	Ida	Sara	Thea	Emilie
San Marino	2001	Beatrice	Sara	Martina	Alessia ^b	Anna ^c
Switzerland	2000					
- German part		Laura	Michelle	Sarah	Lea	Julia
- French part		Léa	Laura	Sarah	Chloé	Jessica
- Italian part		Sara	Chiara	Alessia	Martina	Giulia
- Rumantch part		Laura	Leonie	Alexandra	Alessia	Anna
Central and Eastern Europe:						
Czech Republic	2000	Tereza	Katerina	Veronika	Lucie	Michaela
Estonia	2001	Laura	Anna	Maria	Alina	Diana
Hungary	2000	Viktória	Vivien	Anna	Alexandra	Fanni
Latvia	2001	Anastasija	Anna	Viktorija	Laura	Diana
Lithuania	2001	Gabriele	Gabija	Karolina	Viktorija	Kamile
Romania	2001	Maria	Ioana	Mihaela	Ana	Nicoleta
Slovenia	2000	Nika	Ana	Nina	Sara	Anja
Commonwealth of Independent States:						
Armenia	2001	Anna	Lilit	Milena	Elen	Hayk
North America						
Canada	2000	Sarah	Emily	Jessica	Megan	Samantha

Source: UNECE secretariat. Data collected from national statistics and international organizations.

Notes:

a/ England and Wales only.

b/ Equal preference accorded to Elisa and Sofia.

c/ Equal preference accorded to Giulia and Francesca.

For further information please contact:

Information Service
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44 Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org Web site:
<http://www.unece.org>