



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

High-Level Conference on "ICT & E-Business Strategies for Development"



Jointly organized by UNECE and UNCTAD on 20-21 October, the presentations and discussion at the Conference focused on consideration of the implementation of strategies for the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) and e-business in the region. One year after the adoption of the Bucharest Declaration as the regional contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and in the perspective of the forthcoming continuation of the WSIS PreCom3, and the

WSIS itself, the Conference identified a number of recommendations and requested the UNECE and UNCTAD to forward these recommendations to the WSIS process. Addressing the Conference Ms Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, explained that the UNECE is well-placed to contribute to ICT for development, its work covers such areas as development of standards for electronic business, country readiness assessment reports, and efforts in the perspective of a Wider Europe. It can offer assistance to Governments in the development of national e-strategies. For more information contact Hans Hansell (hans.hansell@unece.org)

Committee on Environmental Policy

The Committee held its 10th meeting on 20-22 October. As part of its proceedings the Committee hosted an informal round-table discussion on the environmental implications of the EU enlargement for the UNECE region and for the future environmental work of the UNECE. A lively discussion suggested that the UNECE should focus on activities which have clear added value while EU enlargement could provide positive dynamic elements to work on the environment. The Committee discussed the key role of UNECE for regional implementation of the WSSD plan of action. It also discussed its future strategic directions, its programme of work for the upcoming biennium and how to carry out activities as reflected in the Kiev Declaration, as well the financial implications of its future work. The following were highlighted as priorities: follow-



up to the work mandated by the Kiev conference, environmental monitoring and assessment, development of multilateral environmental agreements, reinforcement of their implementation, capacity building, and integration of environmental concerns into the sectoral activities. For more information contact Christina von Schweinichen (christina.schweinichen@unece.org)

Do you want better statistics?

Obviously, we all do. Do we always tell the truth to statisticians? Hopefully yes, but mistakes can occur. Statistical data obtained from respondents contain all kinds of unintentional errors, omissions, etc. National statistical services employ complex mathematical and probabilistic methods to clean the data, that is, to replace the wrong and missing values by estimates. To improve the quality of data, statisticians also make use of modern technologies and combine the classical questionnaires with various administrative records.

This allows better quality data to be obtained within a shorter timeframe, and with less of a burden on respondents. Statisticians from 21 countries and 4 international organizations discussed these issues at the UNECE Work Session on Statistical Data Editing, which was hosted by the National Statistical Institute of Spain (INE) in Madrid, 20-22 October. For more information contact Juraj Riecan (juraj.riecan@unece.org)

Not an official record - For information only

UNECE targets international transport facilitation

UNECE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation as well as the TIR Executive Board (TIREXB), organized a Regional TIR Training Seminar in Moscow on 2-3 October, aimed at capacity building of Customs authorities for the proper implementation of the TIR Convention; its objective was to help identify, address and assist in solving a number of the issues that are



challenging the sustainability of the TIR Convention in facilitating the international movement of goods under Customs control. The conclusions stressed that combating fraud and organized crime are crucial to the sustainability of the TIR system, and that computerization of the TIR procedure and the use of risk management are essential tools in this connection. For more information contact Poul Hansen (poul.hansen@unece.org)

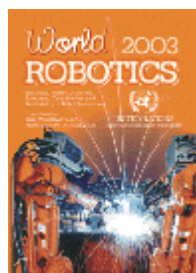
Coming up soon ...

27 October	Information Day on the Digital Tachograph
27-29 October	Working Party on Environmental Impact Assessment
27-31 October	Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs
28-30 October	Working Party on Road Transport
30-31 October	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Energy Reserves/Resources Terminology

Off the press ...

World Robotics 2003

WORLD ROBOTICS 2003, Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts, Case Studies and Profitability of Robot



Investment, prepared jointly by UNECE and the International Federation of Robotics, has just been published. It is the world's only publication that presents comprehensive global statistics on industrial robots, as well as on service robots, in uniform tables allowing consistent country comparisons. It contains detailed statistical data for some 20 countries, broken down by application area, industrial branch, type of robot, and other techno-economic variables. Data on production, exports and imports are presented for a selection of countries. Trends in robot densities, i.e. number of robots per 10,000 employed, are also highlighted. Developments in 2002 are analysed in detail and forecasts up to 2006 are presented. One section is devoted to case studies, showing actual robot installations and their effect on costs, production and employment structure as well as overall profitability. Here the reader can get "hands-on" information about different companies' actual experience in using robots. The publication is available at UN bookstores and distributors (Sales N°.GV.E.03.0.16).

GDP growth, Eastern economies

(percentage changes over previous year)

	2002				2003		
	2000	2001	2002	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Eastern Europe-15	3.9	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.5
Albania	7.7	6.5	4.7	...	...	...	...
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.4	4.5	3.7	...	...	...	...
Bulgaria	5.4	4.1	4.8	6.4	3.4	3.8	4.4
Croatia	2.9	3.8	5.2	6.5	5.9	4.9	5.0
Czech Republic	3.3	3.1	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.4	2.1
Estonia	7.3	6.5	6.0	7.7	5.7	5.2	3.5
Hungary	5.2	3.8	3.3	3.5	3.7	2.7	2.4
Latvia	6.8	7.9	6.1	7.4	8.3	8.8	6.2
Lithuania	4.0	6.5	6.8	7.7	7.0	9.3	6.7
Poland	4.0	1.0	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.2	3.8
Romania	2.1	5.7	4.9	4.4	5.4	4.4	4.2
Serbia and Montenegro	6.4	5.5	3.8	...	...	...	...
Slovakia	2.2	3.3	4.4	4.3	5.4	4.1	3.8
Slovenia	4.6	2.9	3.2	3.6	3.3	2.3	2.1
The FYR of Macedonia	4.5	-4.5	0.7	1.0	4.3	2.2	3.0
CIS-12	9.0	6.1	4.9	5.2	5.0	7.1	7.3
Armenia	5.9	9.6	12.9	11.5	17.4	11.4	16.9
Azerbaijan	11.1	9.9	10.6	12.6	12.9	7.9	12.2
Belarus	5.8	4.7	4.7	4.2	5.4	5.7	4.8
Georgia	1.9	4.7	5.6	7.3	9.2	7.2	9.9
Kazakhstan	9.8	13.6	9.5	9.5	10.7	10.4	10.0
Kyrgyzstan	5.4	5.3	-0.5	-0.1	5.5	5.2	-0.1
Republic of Moldova	2.1	6.1	7.2	5.3	10.3	5.4	7.3
Russian Federation	10.0	5.0	4.3	4.6	5.2	6.8	7.2
Tajikistan	8.3	10.2	9.1	10.1	9.7	12.1	5.2
Turkmenistan ^a	17.6	20.5	21.2	...	...	...	...
Ukraine	5.9	9.2	4.8	6.8	-3.0	7.9	7.2
Uzbekistan	4.0	4.5	4.2	0.7	7.8	2.2	5.4

Source: National statistics; direct communications from statistical offices to UNECE secretariat.

a/ Figures for Turkmenistan should be treated with caution. In particular, the deflation procedures that are used to compute officially reported growth rates are not well documented and the reliability of these figures is questionable

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>