



# UNECE Weekly

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## *It's just happened ...*

### **UNECE REAG LFDP Forum launches initiative to achieve UN Millennium Development Goals**

The Second UNECE/REAG Land for Development Programme (LFDP) Forum "Financing and Market Infrastructure" (Rome, 30-31 October 2003) brought the cooperation between UNECE and many national, regional and international bodies to a new level during two days of forthright discussions on issues of implementation, on practical projects for bringing property rights to economic development and to the alleviation of poverty – an issue which is of great concern to all UNECE members. The Forum was organized by the UNECE REAG and

hosted by Tecnoborsa, an Institution of the Chamber of Commerce of Rome. A High-level Panel under the chairmanship of the economist Hernando De Soto, expert on the role of property rights in poverty alleviation, was launched to assist governments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on the financing infrastructure for land and property markets.

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### **Preparing the introduction of the Digital Tachograph**

On 27 October 2003, the UNECE Transport Division organized an Information Day in order to familiarize the relevant officials particularly in non EU-countries with the implications of the introduction of the digital tachograph. The digital tachograph is the device used for measuring the time professional drivers spend working and resting. It will be obligatory equipment on new trucks and coaches from the middle of next year in the European Union and about 2008/2009 in other ECE member countries that are Contracting Parties to the European Agreement on the Work of Crews of Vehicles Engaged in International Road Transport (AETR), administered by the UNECE Working Party on Road Transport. Unlike its predecessor, the digital tachograph will be tamper proof and will therefore

provide considerable benefits including in terms of road safety. The Information Day, in which numerous countries and organizations, companies and national associations of road transport participated, featured presentations made by experts from some EU countries that are well advanced in the preparations for the introduction of the digital tachograph and from the European Commission. Subjects covered included the type approval of digital tachographs, the approval of workshops to install and repair them, their use and maintenance, and the issuance of smart cards for drivers, controllers, workshops and companies.

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### **UNECE Staff Meeting**



This week, Mrs. Schmögnerová, UNECE Executive Secretary, organized a staff meeting during which she announced the nomination of Mr. Patrice Robineau as Acting Deputy Executive Secretary, and of the two new Division Directors, Messrs. Abdur Chowdhury and Andrey V. Vasilyev. The UNECE human resources policy was discussed, including the question of rotation of staff. Among the new initiatives that have been launched during recent months, special mention was made of the "UNECE academic discussions". These periodic meetings, during which

UNECE staff members present topics related to their work, attract good participation. The meeting concluded with a review of the major challenges that staff of the various UNECE Divisions will have to face in the coming months.



**Not an official record - For information only**

## Coming up soon ...

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 11-14 November | World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)          |
| 10-12 November | Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies |
| 13-14 November | Meeting on International Trade Facilitation and Security              |
| 13-14 November | Meeting of EECCA National Focal Points on Environmental Monitoring,   |

### Energy security risks and global financial markets appraised by OPEC and major energy and financial companies from EU, Russian Federation and USA

The UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy will launch an Energy Security Forum during its annual session on Thursday, 20 November 2003 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Salle du Conseil of the Palais des Nations. Panellists and delegates will be invited to share their views on how energy security risks and the financial markets affect each other. Some of the most critical political concerns debated recently, in particular at the UN Security Council, have direct implications for energy security and the economies of UNECE member States. The Energy Security Forum will address the persistent vulnerability and instability of world energy markets and its interaction with global financial markets. The Energy Security Forum will bring together a unique group of energy companies, OPEC, key consuming countries, major non-OPEC hydrocarbon exporters and leading financial institutions to determine how energy security risks are perceived by different constituencies and how such risks can be mitigated through dialogue. The Forum is designed to promote a dialogue for reconciling three different points of view: energy security risks as perceived by the energy industry, financial institutions and governments.

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## Facts and figures:

### Unemployment rate, total

selected UNECE economies

|                       | 2000       | 2001       | 2002       | 2002       |            | 2003       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                       |            |            |            | Q3         | Q4         | Q1         | Q2         |
| France                | 9.3        | 8.5        | 8.8        | 8.8        | 9.3        | 9.4        | 8.9        |
| Germany               | 7.8        | 7.8        | 8.6        | 8.7        | 8.8        | 9.2        | 9.4        |
| Italy                 | 10.4       | 9.4        | 9.0        | 8.8        | 9.0        | 9.0        | 8.7        |
| Austria               | 3.7        | 3.6        | 4.3        | 3.7        | 4.3        | 5.2        | 4.1        |
| Belgium               | 6.9        | 6.7        | 7.3        | 7.6        | 7.7        | 7.7        | 7.6        |
| Finland               | 9.8        | 9.1        | 9.1        | 8.0        | 8.3        | 9.5        | 10.5       |
| Greece                | 11.0       | 10.4       | 10.0       | 9.6        | 9.7        | 9.9        | 8.9        |
| Ireland               | 4.3        | 3.9        | 4.4        | 4.6        | 4.3        | 4.6        | 4.6        |
| Luxembourg            | 2.3        | 2.1        | 2.8        | 2.7        | 3.2        | 3.6        | 3.5        |
| Netherlands           | 2.8        | 2.4        | 2.7        | 2.8        | 3.0        | 3.8        | 3.9        |
| Portugal              | 4.1        | 4.1        | 5.1        | 5.1        | 6.1        | 6.4        | 6.3        |
| Spain                 | 11.3       | 10.6       | 11.3       | 11.3       | 11.5       | 11.7       | 11.2       |
| <b>Euro area</b>      | <b>8.5</b> | <b>8.0</b> | <b>8.4</b> | <b>8.4</b> | <b>8.5</b> | <b>8.7</b> | <b>8.8</b> |
| United Kingdom        | 5.4        | 5.0        | 5.1        | 5.4        | 5.0        | 5.0        | 4.8        |
| Denmark               | 4.4        | 4.3        | 4.5        | 4.5        | 4.4        | 5.6        | 5.1        |
| Sweden                | 5.6        | 4.9        | 4.9        | 4.8        | 4.8        | 5.7        | 5.4        |
| <b>European Union</b> | <b>7.8</b> | <b>7.4</b> | <b>7.7</b> | <b>7.7</b> | <b>7.8</b> | <b>7.9</b> | <b>8.0</b> |
| Cyprus                | 5.2        | 4.4        | 3.8        | 3.5        | 3.8        | 4.7        | 3.9        |
| Iceland               | 2.3        | 2.3        | 3.2        | 2.8        | 3.0        | 3.2        | 3.4        |
| Israel                | 8.8        | 9.4        | 10.3       | 11.2       | 10.3       | 10.5       | 9.8        |
| Malta                 | 7.0        | 6.7        | 7.4        | 7.2        | 7.7        | 7.7        | 7.3        |
| Norway                | 3.4        | 3.6        | 3.9        | 3.8        | 4.1        | 4.2        | 4.5        |
| Switzerland           | 2.7        | 2.6        | 3.1        | 3.3        | 3.5        | 3.7        | 3.9        |
| Turkey                | 6.6        | 8.5        | 10.4       | 9.6        | 11.0       | 12.3       | 10.0       |
| <b>Western Europe</b> | <b>7.5</b> | <b>7.3</b> | <b>7.8</b> | <b>7.8</b> | <b>8.1</b> | <b>8.4</b> | <b>8.0</b> |
| Canada                | 6.8        | 7.2        | 7.7        | 7.6        | 7.6        | 7.4        | 7.7        |
| United States         | 4.0        | 4.8        | 5.8        | 5.8        | 5.9        | 5.8        | 6.2        |
| <b>North America</b>  | <b>4.3</b> | <b>5.0</b> | <b>6.0</b> | <b>6.0</b> | <b>6.1</b> | <b>5.9</b> | <b>6.3</b> |

Source: Eurostat, NewCronos database; OECD, Main Economic Indicators; national statistics.

Notes: Quarterly unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted. Israel is excluded from regional aggregates. Definitions of unemployment comply with ILO guidelines.

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