



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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It's just happened ...

Workshop on “EU Enlargement: Regulatory Convergence in Non-acceding Countries”

The UNECE workshop organized in Athens on 7-8 November, with the strong support of the Government of Greece, was one of a series designed to help limit the prospect of new divisions arising in the region by promoting a better understanding of the need for coordinated efforts to prevent new divides after EU enlargement, and to look at the new shape of relations between the enlarged EU and non-acceding countries. The importance of regulatory convergence is more increasingly recognized by non-acceding countries in the context of their future participation in globalized markets, firstly because implementing common rules and standards will assist economic operators of non-acceding countries to compete in the EU market and international markets when they move away from their domestic markets – their success or failure will often depend on how familiar

they are with the regulations and standards in export markets. Secondly, trade liberalization and the adoption of common rules and standards are the fundamental components not only for creating greater market integration between the enlarged EU and non-acceding countries, but also for creating greater trade and market integration among the non-acceding countries themselves. Harmonization of regulatory measures, such as technical regulations, standards and product specifications, stimulates markets and creates common understandings between market operators, and thus facilitates trade. For non-acceding countries it is crucial to adopt international standards so as to make their products competitive, thus increasing their export capacity and their participation in global trade. For more information contact Maria Misovicova (maria.misovicova@unece.org)

General Directors of Railways from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe meet in Lucerne

On 28-29 October 2003, the General Directors of Railways from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe met in Lucerne at the joint invitation of the UNECE Trans-European Railway (TER) Project and the Swiss Federal Railways. The meeting discussed railway issues of interest to the participating countries including modernization of infrastructure, restructuring of railways, implementation of related EU Directives, new services in passenger traffic and in promoting freight and/or combined transport. It was concluded *inter alia* that combined transport should be further developed by setting up

appropriate railway infrastructure of satisfactory quality and capacity; technical harmonization of the rolling stock, railway equipment and implementation of railway interoperability should receive more attention; and the elaboration of the TER Master Plan, expected to be completed by September 2004, would assist in the identification of a consistent investment strategy of priority projects for modernization of railway infrastructure and increase the quality of railway services in the region. For more information contact Michalis P. Adamantiadis Michalis.Adamantiadis@unece.org

UNECE TER Project Seminar on railway infrastructure and track maintenance



The Seminar, organized on 21-22 October 2003 in Alsace, France, was one of the UNECE TER Project activities supporting the transfer of know-how and expertise, as well as sharing of European experiences in the railway sector. It offered participants the possibility of getting acquainted with the latest

developments in railway infrastructure projects in France, in particular the modernization of standard

lines and construction of new TGV sections. Developments in fastening devices, construction of ballasted or concreted new tracks, maintenance and renewal of railway networks, the latest machines for track maintenance and renewal as, for example, the tamping-lining and levelling machines, safety products and signalling systems, manufacture of various types of rails, weldings and concrete sleepers etc., were also among the topics introduced.

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Coming up soon ...

17-18(am) November	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development
17-18 November	Working Party on Land Administration
17-19 November	Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice
18(pm)-19 November	Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power
19 & 21 November	Committee on Sustainable Energy
20 November	Energy Security Forum
20-21 November	Task Force on Access to Justice

Panellists for the Energy Security Forum (see UNECE Weekly N°. 41)

H.E. Mr. Alvaro Silva-Calderon, Secretary General, OPEC; Mr. Red Cavaney, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Petroleum Institute; Mr. Vagit Alekperov, President and CEO, Lukoil / Mr. Dmitry Tarasov, First Vice President, Lukoil; Mr. Bruno Porro, Chief Risk Officer and Member of the Board, Swiss Re; Mr. Robert McFarlane, Chief Executive Officer, Energy and Communication Solutions; Mr. Albert Bressand, Executive Senior Vice President, Shell International; Mr. Trevor Pitman, Group Managing Director, Fitch Ratings; Mr. Matthew Harris, Managing Director, Co-Head Global Energy Group, Credit Suisse First Boston; Mr. Igor Makarov, President, ITERA Group; Mr. Victor Kaluzhny, Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Envoy of H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation; Mr. Alan Banks, Chief Executive Officer, Core Ratings; Mr. Magne Seljeflot, Chairman, Aon Energy Group; Mr. Togrul Bagirov, Executive Vice President, Moscow International Petroleum Club; Mr. Wilfried Czernie, Senior General Manager, Ruhrgas; Mr. Leonid Bokhanovsky, Senior Vice President, StroyTransGas; Mr. Igor Solyarsky, Vice President, Transneft; Mr. Stanislav Tsygankov, Director of Department, Gazprom; Mr. Nigel Alington, Executive Director, Aon Risk Consulting.

A press conference with selected speakers will be held in Salle III at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday 20 November.

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Facts and figures:

Roundtable on Facilitating Investment in the Electricity Sector in the Transition Economies Palais des Nations, Geneva, Salle XIX, 19 November at 10.30 a.m.

The lack of investment currently noted in the electricity-generating sector in a number of UNECE economies in transition may by 2012 jeopardize the regulated electricity market. This Roundtable will serve to highlight the challenges and barriers to investment in the electricity sector in the transition countries, and also to debate how these issues might be overcome in order to seek solutions that would create the appropriate environment to encourage investment.

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Registered unemployment rates, end-of-period (per cent of labour force) selected UNECE economies

	1999	2000	2001	2002		2003	
				Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Albania	18.2	16.9	14.6	16.0	15.8	15.5	15.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	39.0	39.4	39.9	42.3	42.7	43.1	43.1
Bulgaria	16.0	17.9	17.9	17.4	16.3	15.7	13.7
Croatia	20.8	22.6	23.1	21.7	21.5	21.0	18.9
Czech Republic	9.4	8.8	8.9	9.4	9.8	10.0	9.5
Estonia	6.7	7.7	7.7	6.8	6.8	7.4	6.5
Hungary	9.6	8.9	8.0	7.8	8.0	9.0	7.8
Latvia	9.1	7.8	7.7	8.7	8.5	8.9	8.6
Lithuania	10.0	12.6	12.9	10.5	10.9	11.8	9.4
Poland	13.1	15.1	17.5	17.6	18.1	18.7	17.8
Romania	11.5	10.5	8.8	8.4	8.1	8.3	7.1
Serbia and Montenegro	27.4	26.6	27.9	31.0	32.0	...	...
Slovakia	19.2	17.9	18.6	16.6	17.4	16.5	14.6
Slovenia	13.0	12.0	11.8	11.7	11.3	11.3	10.8
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	...	45.0	42.0	45.3	45.3	...	46.0
Eastern Europe-15	14.3	14.8	15.3	...	15.5	15.5	15.2
Armenia	11.5	10.9	9.8	9.3	9.1	9.1	9.0
Azerbaijan	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Belarus	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.2
Georgia	5.6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kazakhstan	3.9	3.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.4
Kyrgyzstan	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Republic of Moldova	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.5	2.2	1.8
Russian Federation	12.2	9.8	8.7	7.6	8.8	8.9	8.0
Tajikistan	3.1	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6
Ukraine	4.3	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.7
Uzbekistan	0.5	0.6	...	...	...	...	...
CIS-12^a	8.3	7.1	6.4	...	6.5	...	...

Source: National statistics; CIS Statistical Committee; direct communications from statistical offices to UNECE secretariat

Notes: Russian Federation: unemployment figures are based on monthly Russian Goskomstat estimates according to the ILO definition.

a/ Excluding Georgia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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