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Russia to intensify ties with UNECE in energy, environment, transport



Deputy Foreign Minister
Alexander Yakovenko

Minister Alexander Yakovenko told Interfax on Wednesday.

“We find the current degree of interaction high. However, we believe there is potential for growth,” he said.

Russia regards its cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as successful and sees potential for further increasing interaction with the organization,

Deputy Foreign

“This applies primarily to the development of the Commission’s legal groundwork in transportation, power engineering, environmental protection and innovation,” he said.

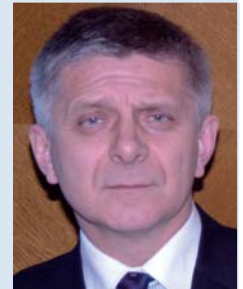
“Energy security, the effective use of energy resources and the environmental aspect of energy development are becoming a separate priority,” Yakovenko said. In this aspect of cooperation, UNECE has assumed special topicality in the light of Russia’s G8 presidency and the implementation of the St. Petersburg programme of action in strengthening global energy security.

UNECE Executive Secretary Marek Belka is now on his first official visit to Moscow.

“The visit should give fresh impetus to Russia-UNECE relations,” he said.

UNECE is the most representative of the five UN regional economic commissions, uniting 56 countries - all European nations, Russia and other CIS members as well as the United States, Canada and Israel.

Interfax News Agency



UNECE Executive
Secretary Marek Belka

India to reduce transaction costs for exports/imports by using UN Standards



Over 250 experts from all over the world attended the 9th United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) Forum in New Delhi. Mr. G.K. Pillai, Commerce Secretary, Government of

India, indicated that India aims to reduce the transaction costs of exports and imports using UN/CEFACT standards.

The United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) was also discussed. UNeDocs not only helps to reduce costs in preparing export documents, it provides a roadmap for moving from paper to paperless trade. For India, UNeDocs offers a way to leverage existing investments in its eTrade programme. It can serve as a basis for data harmonization and exchange that can be adapted to the different capabilities of trading partners.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the Indian Minister of State for Commerce, presented the important advances that India has already made in the implementation of global standards, in particular UN/EDIFACT (EDI). This progress has brought major benefits both to Indian trade and the Indian Government. “Our priority is now to bring these benefits to the wider trade community, including Small and Medium Size Enterprises, by introducing new and integrated technologies such as UNeDocs”, Ramesh noted.

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Peru joins Convention on Road Traffic



On 12 October 2006 Peru has become the sixty-fifth Contracting Party to the UN Convention on Road Traffic. The Convention on Road Traffic, which was done in Vienna in 1968, regulates all facets of driving behaviour, such as speed and distance between vehicles, intersections and obligation to give way. Moreover, it details the technical conditions for the admission of vehicles and drivers to international traffic and provides models of domestic and international driving permits.

Together with the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals, the Convention on Road Traffic provides Governments with a harmonized legal and technical basis for their national highway codes and ensures a high level of road safety in the countries that implement them. Though elaborated and kept up to date by the UNECE in Geneva, the two Conventions are global in character with Contracting Parties from all continents.

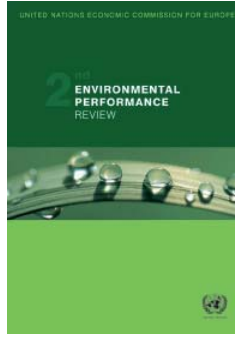
Peru’s accession to this Convention is a sign of the growing awareness of countries throughout the world about the importance of improving road safety. Other Contracting Parties to the Convention in the Latin America and Caribbean region are Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Guyana and Uruguay.

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Not an official record - For information only

Environment performance review of Ukraine

The Committee on Environmental Policy at its 13th session (9 to 11 October 2006) adopted the recommendations of the environmental performance review of Ukraine, on the basis of the outcome of the discussions held on the draft EPR report at the Expert Group on Environmental Performance meeting (5-6 October 2006) and on the report about the situation of the environment and environment management as well as progress made and measures taken since the time of the mission by Mr.S. Kurulenko, First Deputy Minister of the Ukrainian



Ministry of Environment. A number of countries expressed their interest to volunteer for a second EPR, i.e. Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uzbekistan. The Committee approved the outline for a paper on EPRs on critical issues in implementation of environmental policies as highlighted by EPR, as well noted with interest the contents of a paper on Multilateral agreements, both prepared for submission to the 2007 Belgrade Conference "Environment for Europe".

tous ces points provoquent, selon l'ONU-CEE, un remodelage important du marché mondial du bois, dont l'un des effets est "une concurrence accrue pour la matière première, dont les prix ont augmenté sensiblement pour quelques industries".

L'expansion rapide des capacités de transformation chinoises est soutenue par des incitations gouvernementales et par l'implantation d'acteurs étrangers. Ses forêts ne satisfaisant qu'une petite partie de l'appétit de son industrie, la Chine est aussi devenue deuxième importateur de produits forestiers, derrière les Etats-Unis. Les forêts russes fournissent environ 70 % de ses besoins et une "part significative" provient de prélèvements illégaux, notamment de l'extrême Est russe, selon la CEE-ONU.

Mais la Chine commence cependant à importer du bois provenant de forêts certifiées pour satisfaire des marchés soucieux de protection de l'environnement, notamment européens et nord-américains. Absorbant environ 75 % de la production chinoise, le marché intérieur est lui-même très dynamique, en raison de la hausse du niveau de vie.

Selon la CEE-ONU, en dix ans, les exportations de meubles chinois ont progressé de 34 % par an : la Chine représente 43 % des importations américaines et 33 % des européennes, menaçant l'Italie, premier exportateur mondial.

Laetitia Clavreul

Article paru dans l'édition du 12.10.06

Le Monde

La Chine est devenue le premier exportateur de bois transformé

La Chine renforce ses positions dans la filière bois. La Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe (CEE-ONU) a indiqué, mardi 10 octobre, que le pays était devenu en 2005 le premier exportateur en valeur de bois transformé (meubles, planches, etc.), à 16,4 milliards de dollars

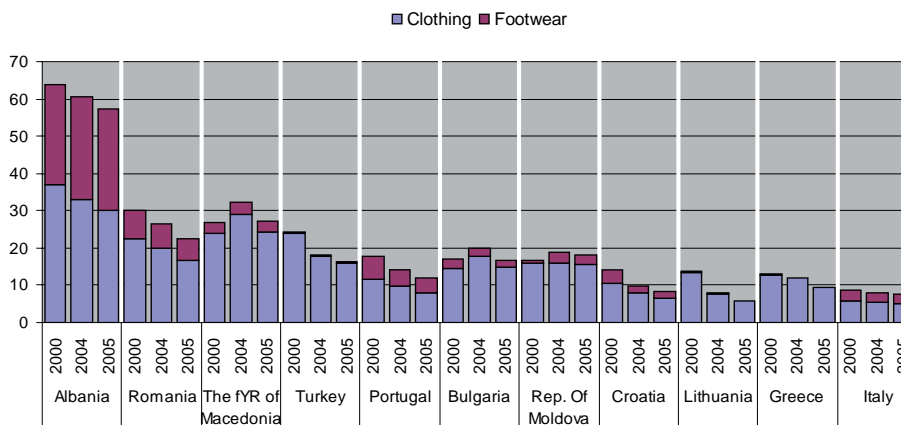
(13,1 milliards d'euros). La hausse est de 360 % depuis 1997.

Montée en puissance de l'industrie chinoise, réchauffement climatique, prix élevé du pétrole, souci de gestion durable des forêts et développement de la certification....,

Facts and figures

Importance of clothing and footwear exports stumbles in Europe

Clothing and footwear in merchandise exports
(share of total exports in per cent)



Source: UNCOMTRADE database and UNECE Statistical Division computations.

Note: Clothing and footwear refer to SITC Rev. 3 groups 84 and 85, respectively.

Over the last several years, the importance of clothing and footwear exports has been shrinking in many European economies, including traditional producers like Italy, Portugal or Turkey. The west European companies struggled to stay competitive by outsourcing their production to lower-cost regions, including south-east Europe. Very rapidly, several south-east European economies became highly dependent on exports of their clothing and footwear industries. However, since WTO Agreement on Textile and Clothing came to the end on 1 January 2005, China and other Asian countries flooded market with cheap merchandise. Many south-east European companies suffered a setback and saw their export revenues shrink. As a result, from 2004 to 2005 the share of clothing and footwear in total exports from south-east European countries dropped by 2 to 5 percentage points. The impact was mitigated by the EU-China accord of 10 June 2005, which restricts imports of several clothing items from China until 2008, and by recently introduced EU antidumping measures against Chinese and Vietnamese footwear.

Coming up ...

25-27 October

Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

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