

**Ministerial Meeting “making the Euro-Asian Transport Network Operational “  
26 February 2013, 10 – 13hours, Salle XVII**

**Mr. Sven Alkalaj, Executive Secretary of the UNECE**



**Mr. Sven Alkalaj,**  
Executive Secretary of the UNECE

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed on 8 March 2012, Mr. Sven Alkalaj of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Mr. Alkalaj served as Foreign Minister of his country and Ambassador in Washington and Brussels, and has dealt with political and economic issues at the national, regional, European, and international levels gaining particular experience in enhancing regional cooperation amongst countries in the Western Balkans as well as the Eastern European and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries.



**Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya,**

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Gyan Chandra Acharya is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. He was appointed to this position by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 14 August 2012. Currently, Mr. Acharya serves as the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations. Mr. Acharya brings to the position 29 years of experience in diplomatic service involving the articulation and promotion of bilateral, regional and global issues. From 2010 to 2011, he was Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned of the Peace building Commission. He was also a Member of the Bureau of Land Locked Developing Countries and Chair of the Commission on Social Development. From 2003 to 2007, Mr. Acharya was Nepal's representative to the UN and World Trade Organization in Geneva. From 2007 to 2009, he was Nepal's Foreign Secretary. Mr. Acharya obtained a Master of Economics degree from Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal. He is married and has two children.



**Mr. Sergey Aristov,**  
Secretary-of-State, and Deputy Minister, Transport  
Russian Federation

Sergey Aristov is the State-of-Secretary and Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation. Mr. Aristov began his career in 1973 as a tractor driver. After graduating in 1980 from the Sverdlovsk Law Institute, Mr. Aristov gained experience in investigation and prosecution in the legal sphere, where he held several high-level positions in the Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation. Mr. Aristov, from February 2002 to April 2004, was the Secretary of State, Deputy Minister of Railways of the Russian Federation. In May 2004, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation.



**Mr. Alexey Stukalo,**  
Deputy Co-ordinator, Head of Economic and  
Environmental Activities, OSCE

**Deputy Co-ordinator / Head, Economic Activities**

Alexey Stukalo was born in 1959 in Eysk, Russia. Education: degree in international relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (1985), degree in economics & management from the Russian Presidential Academy of Civil Service (1996), Ph. D in sociology from the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Science (1995). Work record: a career diplomat, including posting in Australia in 1986-90, adviser to the Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR in 1990-91, adviser to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia in 1991-96. In 1996-2005: Head of Division for General Economic Policies and Global Issues, then Deputy Director of the Department of Economic Co-operation at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Since 2005 – Deputy Co-ordinator of the OSCE  
Economic and Environmental



**Mr. Umberto de Pretto,**  
Deputy Secretary-General of the International Road  
Transport Union (IRU)

Umberto de Pretto is the Deputy Secretary General of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in Geneva. After completing his undergraduate studies in Political Science and Economics and graduate work in International Relations, at Ottawa's Carleton University, he worked between 1997 and 2001 as a Legislative Assistant for Ministers and Members of the Canadian Parliament. Umberto then moved to Paris to take on the position of Head of the Transport Division, where shortly afterwards he was named Deputy Director of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), responsible for International Commercial Practices and Techniques. In 1996 he joined the IRU as Head of Economic Affairs. He then became Policy Coordinator and Head of Strategy. He was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the IRU in 2002.

Mr de Pretto, was born in Ottawa in 1961, has dual Canadian and Italian nationality and is married with two children.



**Mr. Jean-Pierre Loubinoux,**  
Director General of the International Union of  
Railways (UIC)

Jean-Pierre Loubinoux has been Director General of the International Union of Railways (UIC) since March 2009. He also has various responsibilities in a large number of international associations and institutions. A graduate of the "Ecole Centrale" of Paris, Mr. Loubinoux joined the French railway company SNCF in 1978. He held a variety of positions there, including Chief Executive of SNCF International Freight, Chairman and CEO of SNCF International, and Director of International Development at SNCF. In September 2011, Jean-Pierre Loubinoux received his insignia as Commander of the French National Order of Merit – one of the highest decorations in France along with the Legion of Honour.