



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## THE GLOBAL TRADE FACILITATION CONFERENCE 2011 12- 13 DECEMBER - PALAIS DES NATIONS



### Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2011

Connecting International Trade:  
Single Windows and Supply Chains in the next decade

12-13 December 2011, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

The UN Global Trade Facilitation Conference 2011 is jointly organized by the five UN Regional Commissions. It will bring together governments and trade experts from all over the world to review the progress made in the simplification and automation of trade procedures, through the implementation of Single Windows. Participants will develop a joint vision and framework to guide the future development of electronic information exchange for global supply chains. The aim of the conference is to enhance safety, security and legal compliance throughout the supply chain, and to reduce the time and costs of trade transactions.

Two papers will be presented and discussed at the conference: "Ten years of Single Window Implementation: Lessons learned for the future" and "The data pipeline".

A UNNExT Capacity Building Workshop on Single Window Planning and Implementation will follow the conference on 14 and 15 December.

On 14 December, the five Regional Commissions will meet to discuss their joint approach to trade facilitation. On the same day, the Asia Europe Alliance for Paperless Trade (ASEAL) and the African Alliance for Electronic Commerce (AAEC) will hold a meeting, while the European Port Community System Association (EPCSA) will organize a seminar on how to develop a Port Community System. □

For additional information, please visit the conference website: <http://www.unece.org/swglobalconference2011>.

## CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011 HELP US DECORATE THE "UNITED NATIONS TREE" 13 DECEMBER 2011 - PALAIS DES NATIONS

As the International Year of Forests comes to an end, it is time to gather and reflect on the significance of forests and their role in our everyday life. For that reason, and to celebrate with you what has been a fruitful year for forests, we would be delighted if you could join us at the closing celebration jointly organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section together with the United States Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and the Government of Poland on 13 December at the Palais des Nations.

The celebration will consist of a Policy Talk on "The future of forests in Europe and North America" based on the recently published ECE/FAO Outlook Studies. It will include an interactive panel discussion with high level experts answering questions on biodiversity, climate change, energy and trade related issues. The Policy Talk will be followed by a Closing Ceremony and reception. On that occasion, a "United Nations Tree" will be brought inside the Palais des Nations and decorated using contributions from Geneva-based Missions; all symbolizing forests in their countries.

During the closing ceremony, Ambassadors or their representatives from the participating Geneva-based Missions will be invited to hang their decorations on the tree, as a symbol of diversity and unity. The tree will be displayed in the Palais for a month following the ceremony before being given a second life in the UN Ariana biodiversity Park. □

**Please make sure to bring your decoration and join us for the celebration**

For more information and details on how to proceed with decorations, please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/iyf-closing.html>,

or contact **Elina Warsta** at:

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2011 · 國際森林年

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## INAUGURATION OF A SCULPTURE DEDICATED TO THE UN DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY IN CRETE

On Sunday 20 November 2011, the world day of remembrance of the victims of road accidents, a memorial sculpture dedicated to the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) was unveiled in Park "Christos Polentas" in Chania, Crete.

The sculpture represents an olive-tree growing on the wild rocks of Crete, with five roots symbolizing the permanent members of UN Security Council, five branches representing the world's continents and 193 leaves representing the number of UN member States.

The ceremony, which included a memorial service for the victims of road crashes, was organized by the regional Vice-Governor of Chania, Mr. Apostolos Voulgarakis, the mayor of Platania, Mr. Malandrakis and the President of the Association for Support and Solidarity to Families of victims of road traffic accidents, Mr. Stavros Polentas. It gathered representatives of the police and the military, local government, parliament, local and national media, automobile and motorcycle associations, first-aid agencies, hospitals, schools, members of families of the victims and some 1,000 participants from Chania and other parts of Crete.



Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis, Chief of the Transport Facilitation and Economics Section of UNECE's Transport Division, unveiled the sculpture and raised the UN flag. In his address, he thanked Mr. Polentas for his initiative and recalled that 1.3 million people die on the road every

year. He added: "Road safety is the responsibility of each and every one of us. We all have to drive responsibly and carefully and abide by traffic rules. Authorities, agencies and citizens must join forces to tackle this huge problem. Let us honour those who have lost their lives on the world's roads by acting to save the lives of others"

Mr. Voulgarakis stressed that road traffic safety is a major public health issue and stated: "I hope this monument will inspire a new collective consciousness regarding the management and review of all those factors and practices that prove fatal for Greek drivers." □

## STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TRACEABILITY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF RISKS



How do international standards contribute to sustainable development? How can regulators design measures that are proportionate to risks? How can we minimize the cost of product recalls?

These were just some of the questions examined by the Working Party on Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies, which held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Session in November, after celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.

At the session on "Standards and regulations: tool for promoting sustainable development", high-level speakers from the major international standardization bodies, such as ISO, IEC, CEN/CENELEC and GS1, shared with delegates how international standards can be used at both business and policy levels to achieve sustainable development goals. The deputy-secretary general of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Mr. McKinley, emphasized that sustainability had become a vital part of any organization's strategy and presented a toolbox of ISO standards that support such strategy. "A more sustainable pattern of production is not only vital, but possible", concluded Gabriel Barta, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Representative to UN specialized bodies.

Standards are effective only to the extent that conformity can be assured. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) presented tools to measure and certify sustainable development related projects in developing countries. These tools allow earning tradable credits counting towards the reduction of emissions. International schemes for the assessment of conformity to standards, such as those that operate under the auspices of IEC, also play an important role.

The Risks that regulators have to deal with are not limited to those related to climate change. At the session, the Working

Party approved two risk management recommendations: "Risk Management in Regulatory Frameworks" and "Crisis Management within a regulatory framework". These recommendations guide regulatory bodies and other stakeholders in consistently implementing risk management into a regulatory framework and aim at increasing the resilience of regulatory systems and providing the optimal level of safety to society.

At the workshop on "traceability: a tool for managing risks", Mr. Koreshkov – Head of the State Committee on Technical Regulation and Standardization of Belarus – emphasized that traceability allows to respond quickly to critical situations, recall and withdraw from the market dangerous products at any stage of their lifecycle, identify the source of hazardous substances, strengthen controls at identified high risk areas and minimize financial losses. The European Union, Brazil and the United States also presented the experience of developing regulations and tools to make the best use of traceability in their regulatory systems. Representatives of standardization organizations, business as well as other intergovernmental bodies, also showcased tools that can help any organization move towards increased adoption of traceability solutions appropriate and proportionate to risks. The Workshop concluded by giving the Working Party a mandate to explore solutions for providing traceability in the supply chain.

The Working Party also approved a new recommendation on "Good Practices in Market Surveillance Policies". It presents the best practice in developing the institutional setup and policies related to market surveillance. The database of market surveillance authorities, which contains data from 17 countries (including several EU members, Brazil, China, Egypt, Russia as well as countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe), and a new publication "A Glossary of Market Surveillance Terms" were also presented at the Session included. □

For more information, please visit:  
[http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/2011/2011\\_doclist.html](http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/2011/2011_doclist.html),  
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