

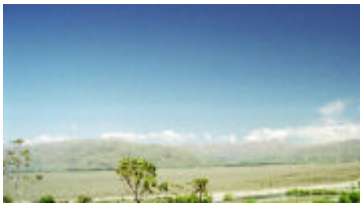


# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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## It's just happened ...



### Multi-pollutant Protocol to enter into force

Portugal has just become the 16<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. The Protocol, originally adopted in 1999 in Gothenburg (Sweden), will thus enter into force on 17 May 2005.

As well as seeking to prevent several environmental effects from air pollutants, the Gothenburg Protocol

sets emission ceilings and controls measures for emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds. The Parties to the Protocol will hold their first meeting at the time of the next session of the Convention's Executive Body in December 2005. At this meeting they are expected to initiate a first review in keeping with Article 10 of the Protocol.

For more information see press release ECE/ENV/05/P02 of 1 March 2005 or contact Keith Bull ([keith.bull@unece.org](mailto:keith.bull@unece.org))

### UNECE good practices to be used in Africa

The UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP6) was invited to present its activities and projects at the Workshop on standardization and poverty alleviation and at the General Assembly of ARSO (African Regional Organization for Standardization), held in Accra, Ghana on 23-25 February 2005.

Delegates were particularly interested in the regulatory approaches and mechanisms proposed in the UNECE Recommendation "L" (*International Model for Technical Harmonization*) and in the format provided by the UNECE *Regulatory and Standardization List* for initiating a convergence



dialogue between regulators and standardizers through the identification of national priorities.

During the meeting, the UNECE secretariat was requested to consider ways that it could contribute to capacity building in ARSO for

African standards-setting bodies in areas where UNECE legal instruments have global applications. In the coming months the UNECE will be discussing this request with its counterpart, the Economic Commission for Africa, and interested donors.

For more information contact Serguei Kouzmine ([serguei.kouzmine@unece.org](mailto:serguei.kouzmine@unece.org))

## New ...



### EcoReporting

An on-line catalogue of national periodicals on the environment (state-of-the-environment reports, environmental statistics bulletins, etc.) and environmental reports submitted by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to international bodies, such as governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements, has been launched by the UNECE Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. It

follows the ReportNet system of the European Environment Agency and aims to ensure access on-line to the publications and reports on such issues as environmental pollution, climate change, biodiversity, forests, land resources and soils, water, environmental health...

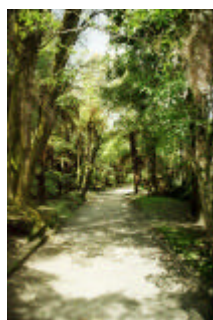
The catalogue is intended to be updated by national administrators in EECCA countries designated within the Working Group. The EcoReporting is accessible through the direct link: <http://unece.unog.ch/enhs/EcoReport/> or through the web site of the Working Group: <http://www.unece.org/env/europe/monitoring/>.

Not an official record - For information only

## Off the press...

### Certification of forestland

The UNECE/FAO Forest Certification Update for the UNECE Region 2003 has just been released.



This is the sixth in the UNECE/FAO series Geneva Timber and Forest Discussion Papers to present developments in certification of sustainable forest management in the UNECE region. This update for 2003 has chapters on developments in the major international certification systems, mutual recognition

between systems, status of forest certification, status of the marketplace for certified forest products, consumer behaviour and forest certification, government policies and forest

certification, future developments and a list of references.

The Discussion Papers provide objective, current information on forest certification and developments in certified forest products markets in the UNECE region as a basis for policy making. Their aim is to make available to a wider audience work carried out, usually by national experts, in the course of UNECE/FAO activities.

Copies of the Certification Discussion Paper may be obtained from the web site homepage of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

For more information contact Ed Pepke ([ed.pepke@unece.org](mailto:ed.pepke@unece.org)).

## Coming up soon ...

### March

- 7-8 Joint ECMT/UNECE Working Party/Group on Intermodal Transport and Logistics & UNECE Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (Paris, France)
- 7-11 Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the UNECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Berne, Switzerland)
- 8-11 World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)
- 8-11 Specialized Section on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

## Facts and figures:

### Wages per employee in industry<sup>1</sup>

*Selected UNECE economies*

*(Change over same period of the previous year, per cent)*

|                          | 2001  | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |      |      |      |
|--------------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                          |       |      |      | Q1   | Q2   | Q3   | Q4   |
| <b>New EU members</b>    |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Czech Republic           | 6.4   | 6.7  | 5.9  | 9.0  | 6.7  | 7.3  | ..   |
| Hungary                  | 14.4  | 12.5 | 9.4  | 11.8 | 10.2 | ..   | ..   |
| Latvia                   | 5.3   | 5.8  | 8.5  | 11.3 | 7.6  | 10.2 | ..   |
| Lithuania                | ..    | 2.5  | 3.5  | 0.9  | 2.4  | 4.3  | ..   |
| Poland                   | 6.9   | 3.7  | 3.0  | 6.6  | 4.8  | 4.4  | 2.4  |
| Slovakia                 | 10.2  | 7.3  | 7.3  | 10.8 | 8.3  | 12.4 | 8.7  |
| Slovenia                 | 10.8  | 9.9  | 7.6  | 8.0  | 6.6  | 7.2  | ..   |
| <b>South-East Europe</b> |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Bulgaria                 | 6.4   | -0.1 | 5.2  | 6.0  | 6.2  | 6.1  | ..   |
| Croatia                  | 9.0   | 7.4  | 5.2  | 5.2  | 5.0  | 4.7  | ..   |
| Romania                  | 51.1  | 23.6 | 19.5 | 24.0 | 23.2 | 22.9 | 22.1 |
| <b>CIS</b>               |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Armenia                  | 17.4  | 17.6 | 26.8 | 9.0  | 12.7 | 10.0 | ..   |
| Azerbaijan               | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 43.6 | ..   | ..   |
| Belarus                  | 103.8 | 48.2 | 30.9 | 31.9 | 35.7 | 36.5 | 37.6 |
| Kazakhstan               | 20.1  | 9.3  | 13.3 | 17.8 | 16.1 | 18.0 | ..   |
| Kyrgyzstan               | 20.4  | 19.5 | 10.7 | 13.5 | 9.4  | ..   | ..   |
| Russian Federation       | 42.3  | 27.2 | 25.5 | 24.9 | 23.1 | 20.3 | ..   |
| Ukraine                  | 35.0  | 17.8 | 21.9 | 26.6 | 24.3 | 24.9 | ..   |

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from CISSC and national sources.

1. Gross wages in Industry (Mining and quarrying, manufacturing and utilities).

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