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It's just happened ...

Executive Secretaries discuss UN SPECA conference in Kazakhstan



*Brigita Schmögnerová
and Kim Hak-Su*

On 9 March the executive secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP, Brigita Schmögnerová and Kim Hak-Su, held a number of meetings in Astana as part of preparations for an international conference to be held there in May under the auspices of the UN Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

They met with Prime Minister Danial Akhmetov, Foreign Minister Kassymzhomart Tokayev, the Minister of transport and communications, and the Minister of economy and budget planning. At a news briefing Mrs Schmögnerová noted that the idea of SPECA is to unite the efforts of the Central Asian republics and to work on matters of mutual interest like water resources, the energy sector, transport, trade, environmental protection, and also communication know-how.

For more information contact Andrey Vasilyev (andrey.vasilyev@unece.org).

Aarhus Convention compliance body to submit findings of non-compliance for decision by the Meeting of the Parties

The Compliance Committee of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) has just released its first set of findings and recommendations with regard to compliance with the Convention by individual Parties. The Committee's findings came out of its investigation of a number of allegations of non-compliance made by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The compliance mechanism is unprecedented among multilateral environmental agreements in the extent to which it gives the public, including NGOs, a role in triggering a review of a Party's compliance.

The allegations of non-compliance reviewed by the Committee related to public availability of information on the economic justification for a proposal to import nuclear waste and public participation in decision-making of high-voltage power lines in Kazakhstan; compatibility of a new Hungarian law on motorways with the Convention; possible conflict between Turkmenistan's new law on public associations and the provisions of the Convention; and public participation in the decision-

making on navigation canal through the Danube Delta, an internationally recognized wetland area in southern Ukraine.

The Committee found Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine to be out of compliance with some of the Convention's provisions and recommended various measures to improve legislative transposition or practical implementation. It considered that while Hungary had weakened rights public participation rights through its new law, it had not done so to a point that conflicted with the requirements of the Convention.

The Committee's findings and recommendations have now been referred to the Meeting of the Parties, which will be the final arbiter as to whether or not there is a case of non-compliance. The Committee's conclusions will be considered at the second meeting of the Parties (25-27 May 2005, Almaty, Kazakhstan).

For more information visit

www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance.htm or contact Jeremy Wates (jeremy.wates@unece.org).

Off the press...

Twentieth EPR is issued



The *Environmental Performance Review of Bosnia and Herzegovina* is the 20th in the series and covers twelve issues of importance to the country, including the framework for environmental policy, management of pollution and natural resources, and economic and sectoral integration. Among the issues which received special attention are the policy, legal and institutional framework, public participation in decision-making and access to information, the use and supply of water resources (including drinking water), land use, agriculture and biodiversity, management of waste and contaminated sites, eco-tourism, and energy. The EPR includes conclusions and recommendations made by the review team of international experts and adopted by the Committee on Environmental Policy.

For more information contact Christina von Schweinichen (christina.schweinichen@unece.org).

Coming up soon ...

21-23 March UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Migration Statistics
22-24 March Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics

Facts and figures:

**Women and Men as Percent of Skilled Agricultural and Fishery Workers
Selected UNECE countries**

| country | 2000 | | 2003 | |
|---|-------|------|-------|------|
| | women | men | women | men |
| Ireland | 8.3 | 91.7 | 7.5 | 92.5 |
| Cyprus | 24.1 | 75.9 | 9.1 | 90.9 |
| United Kingdom | 10.5 | 89.6 | 9.9 | 90.0 |
| Israel | 11.4 | 88.6 | 13.4 | 86.6 |
| Denmark | 15.5 | 84.5 | 13.8 | 85.8 |
| Sweden | 22.5 | 77.5 | 23.5 | 76.5 |
| Norway | 26.1 | 73.9 | 23.2 | 76.1 |
| Spain | 24.6 | 75.4 | 24.7 | 75.3 |
| Luxembourg | 20.0 | 80.0 | 25.0 | 75.0 |
| Hungary | 27.3 | 72.7 | 25.5 | 74.5 |
| Italy | 28.8 | 71.1 | 27.0 | 73.1 |
| Iceland | 27.3 | 72.7 | ... | ... |
| Belgium | 23.0 | 77.4 | 27.2 | 72.4 |
| France | 27.8 | 72.2 | 28.1 | 71.9 |
| Netherlands | 30.7 | 69.3 | ... | ... |
| Germany | 31.5 | 68.5 | 32.1 | 67.9 |
| Switzerland | 32.4 | 67.6 | 33.9 | 66.1 |
| Finland | 33.1 | 66.9 | 34.6 | 65.6 |
| Estonia | 40.4 | 59.6 | 36.7 | 63.3 |
| Czech Republic | 41.4 | 59.2 | 38.0 | 62.0 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | ... | ... | 39.1 | 60.9 |
| Slovakia | 49.1 | 51.8 | 40.2 | 58.9 |
| Bulgaria | 44.2 | 55.8 | 41.7 | 58.3 |
| Lithuania | 44.4 | 55.6 | 42.7 | 57.2 |
| Greece | 42.8 | 57.2 | 43.0 | 57.0 |
| Slovenia | 46.4 | 53.9 | 43.6 | 56.1 |
| Poland | 45.0 | 55.0 | 44.5 | 55.5 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 44.9 | 55.1 | ... | ... |
| Latvia | 49.1 | 50.9 | 45.0 | 55.0 |
| Austria | 46.7 | 53.4 | 47.7 | 52.4 |
| Portugal | 50.1 | 50.0 | 49.1 | 50.9 |
| Romania | 51.5 | 48.5 | 49.1 | 50.9 |
| Georgia | 50.3 | 49.7 | 49.9 | 50.1 |
| Croatia | 50.6 | 49.3 | 50.8 | 49.2 |
| Russian Federation | 52.6 | 47.4 | 51.8 | 48.2 |
| Republic of Moldova | 55.1 | 44.9 | 54.6 | 45.4 |
| Ukraine | 62.2 | 37.8 | 58.0 | 42.0 |

Source: Gender Statistics Database

Notes:
Data refer to employment in ISCO-88 Occupational Group 6.
May not sum to 100% due to rounding

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