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It's just happened ...

Strengthening subregional economic cooperation in Central Asia

The *International Conference on Strengthening Subregional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)* was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 25-27 May 2005. The Conference was organized by the Government of Kazakhstan in cooperation with UNECE and UNESCAP. High-level representatives of the SPECA member countries, neighbouring countries, European Union, UN organizations, international financial institutions, regional and subregional cooperation organizations, bilateral donor agencies, the private sector and civil society participated in the Conference. In conjunction with the Conference multi-stakeholder forums were organized, including a business forum, a roundtable on knowledge-based economy and a roundtable on gender and economy. The Conference adopted conclusions and recommendations which *inter alia* stressed the importance of subregional economic cooperation as

a precondition for sustainable development of the countries of the SPECA region and their more rapid integration into the world economy. It supported the proposals aimed at reinvigorating SPECA; appealed to international organizations including international financial institutions and bilateral donors to support the implementation of the Programme; and strongly supported the invitation to Afghanistan to join SPECA.

Background documents prepared jointly by UNECE and UNESCAP as well as the conclusions and recommendations and other outcomes of meetings in Astana are now available, along with other information, at the following web address: <http://www.unece.org/operact/astana.doc>

СІТЕКА 90th SPECA

Care Provision in Ageing Societies: What are the policy challenges and how to address them

A workshop on this theme was held in Malta on 19-21 May, within the framework of the follow-up to the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing (Berlin 2002). It was co-organized by the UNECE and the International Institute on Ageing (United Nations-Malta), in cooperation with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (ECV), and the Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO) of the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The objective of the workshop was to promote the national and regional implementation of the commitments related to care provision contained in the *Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS)* for the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (MIPAA)*. The attending experts identified issues related to care-provision which were deemed to be

of particular policy importance and need to be addressed as a matter of priority. These included ensuring appropriate organization and financing of long-term care provision based on comprehensive needs assessment; providing for a continuum of care across health, long-term care and other social services; and recognizing informal carers, including the role of older persons as care-givers (from an economic, social, psychological, and health point of view). They also discussed the difficulties encountered so far in meeting the commitments and policy objectives laid out by the *Regional Implementation Strategy*, and offered advice on the appropriate policy measures to address these difficulties.

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Coming up soon ...

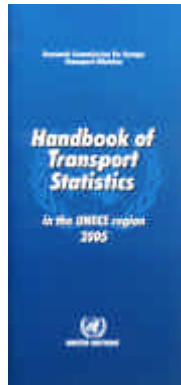
- 7-9 June Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation
- 8-9 June Workshop on the Prevention of Water Pollution due to Pipeline Accidents (Berlin, Germany)
- 8-10 June Working Party on Transport Statistics
- 8-10 June Seminar on Information Management and Public Participation (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation)

Not an official record - For information only

Just issued

The 2005 edition of the *Annual Bulletin of Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America* and the *Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America* have been issued simultaneously in English, French and Russian by the UNECE.

The *Annual Bulletin of Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America* presents the overall situation and developments regarding road traffic accidents and casualties in the UNECE countries. It provides detailed statistics on road traffic accidents and includes specific circumstances of accidents such as location, time of occurrence, road condition, personal injuries and deaths, as well as accidents provoked by the influence of alcohol. Background statistics on countries' vehicle fleets, and estimates of vehicle-kilometres run and population by age group are also given. The bulletin shows, for example, that over the decade 1993-2003 there were annually on average over 150,000 persons killed and about 6 million persons



injured in 4 million road accidents in the UNECE region.

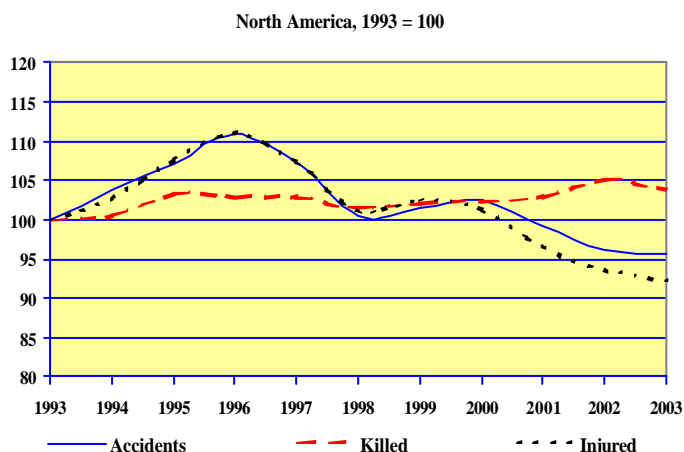
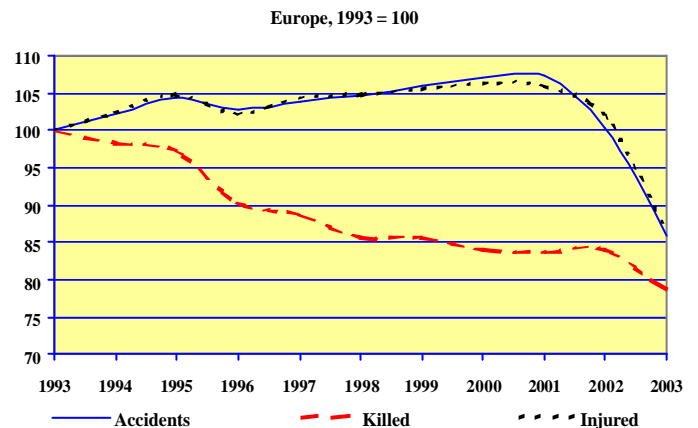
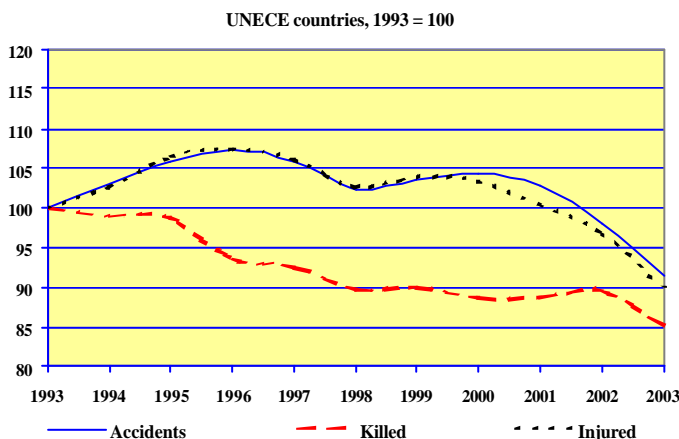
The *Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America* provides basic data for the UNECE region on transport activity, equipment and infrastructure by mode (rail, road, inland waterway, maritime, intermodal and oil pipeline). General information on population, energy consumption in transport and on road traffic accidents is also provided.

UNECE has also published a booklet, the *Handbook of Transport Statistics in the UNECE Region 2005*, which provides, in a handy and easy reference format, selected data on the transport sector of most UNECE member countries. It contains data on the vehicle fleet and rolling stock, traffic volume by mode and road accidents. It also compiles for each country the length of motorways and roads, as well as rail lines and inland waterways. The majority of the data is taken from the above-mentioned bulletins.

The annual bulletins are freely available as PDF documents at the following web page: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/transstatpub.html>. The Handbook can be obtained from Ms. Caroline Jeunet at +41 (0)22 917 32 42. For more information contact stat.trans@unece.org

Facts and figures:

Trends in road traffic accidents, 1993-2003



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