



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Safety guidelines for pipelines

Pipelines are increasingly important as a means of transport for large volumes of hazardous substances over long distances in the UNECE region. Crude oil, its derivatives and natural gas are dominant among the substances transported by the region's pipelines. Only last month, the region's newest oil pipeline was commissioned. It is a 1,600 km pipeline from Baku through Georgia to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, which makes the Caspian Sea crude more accessible.

If well constructed, carefully monitored and properly attended, pipelines can be a safe, environmentally sound and economic means of transport. However, like fixed installations handling hazardous substances, they may be a serious threat to our health and our environment.

The effects of accidents involving pipelines are often very significant. External interference, corrosion and poor maintenance are among the most common causes of pipeline accidents in the UNECE region. Those involving petroleum products can have a devastating effect on the soil and water. The severe pipeline leak of some 100,000 tons of oil in the Komi Republic, in the Russian Federation, in 1994 was one of the region's most severe environmental disasters. Accidents involving gas often result in loss of human lives as was demonstrated by a 2004 gas pipeline accident in Ghiselenghein, Belgium, which resulted in 20 fatalities and 130 wounded.



Although pipelines are operated with increasing care, in the view of many UNECE countries the safety of pipeline operation needs further improvement. There is a need to raise awareness and share experience and good practices among the competent authorities, operators and the public. There is also room for harmonization across the UNECE region – regulations and requirements concerning the safety of pipeline operation differ from country to country.

Against this background, UNECE countries decided to launch a process to draw up safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines, under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Two workshops are planned within this process in order to ensure the input of all stakeholders. The first, devoted to possible environmental damage of oil pipeline accidents, was held in Berlin on 8-9 June. The Netherlands will host the second workshop in March 2006, which will concentrate on gas pipeline accidents.

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Coming up soon ...

June	
21-24	World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)
20-21	Third International Forum on Trade Facilitation
22-23	Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT)
21-22	UNECE/Eurostat Seminar on Business Registers (Luxembourg)

Not an official record - For information only

*Executive Forum on Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security
Palais des Nations, Conference Room XIX, 20-21 June*

The *2005 Executive Forum* will be an occasion for all countries, enterprises and NGOs to work together to draw a roadmap for the implementation of paperless trade to increase efficiency and security in international supply chains.

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) believes that the large-scale implementation of paperless trade will significantly facilitate cross border trade, reduce the risk of global trade through less and better data, while at the same time increasing efficiency of the trade-transaction. UN/CEFACT is the institution for developing the new set of international standards and technologies that provide the global migration path from paper to paperless trade. The migration strategy takes into account the specific requirements of traders and administrations from developed, developing and

transition economies and SMEs. This third Executive Forum will address the opportunities and initiatives for enhancing efficiency and security in international supply chains in order to assist public and private stakeholders to draw a roadmap to make paperless trade a reality.

The sessions will focus on: Government, regulatory and private sector approaches to security and efficiency; the role of paperless trade in the implementation of trade facilitation under GATT Article V, IIX and X; less and better data to improve efficiency and build trust within the supply chains; latest trends in automated information exchange; best practices and benefits from Single Window implementations; and the establishment of an interoperable roadmap and targets for paperless trade.

For more information contact Markus.Pikart@unece.org or visit the Forum's website at <http://www.unece.org/forums/forum05/welcome.htm>

*UNECE Energy Security Forum:
High-Level Meeting on Energy Security in the Caspian Sea Region
Palais des Nations, Conference Room XII, 28 June*

As new energy security threats emerge amid the continuing volatility of rising oil prices, the countries of the Caspian Sea region are of growing interest to energy importing countries and energy industries in the UNECE region. The UNECE Energy Security Forum has decided to hold the High-level Meeting to consider the role of the Caspian Sea region in enhancing global energy security. The Meeting will consider the contribution that this region could make to mitigate global energy security risks. It will discuss how the international energy community could help the Caspian Sea region to develop its oil and gas potential, the contribution that international trade and cooperation can make to enhancing the stability of the global energy market and the mitigation of energy security risks.

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Facts and figures:

**Tuberculosis incidence (per 100 000 persons)
in South-East Europe and the CIS**

Countries	1995	1999	2002
South-east Europe			
Albania	20.4	21.7	18.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	...	78.0	41.0
Bulgaria	38.6	43.0	42.4
Croatia	44.3	38.8	32.5
Romania	102.6	116.3	136.5
Serbia and Montenegro	39.8	24.9	40.2
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	40.0	27.6	33.5
Turkey	38.0	34.3	26.3
CIS			
Armenia	21.6	39.2	44.6
Azerbaijan	44.4	58.3	62.9
Belarus	49.5	73.1	51.8
Georgia	101.1	117.2	97.9
Kazakhstan	67.1	167.3	185.4
Kyrgyzstan	75.4	131.8	133.2
Republic of Moldova	63.5	63.3	89.0
Russian Federation	65.9	92.6	90.2
Tajikistan	35.8	42.1	62.9
Turkmenistan	44.8	93.3	74.5
Ukraine	41.9	66.2	83.7
Uzbekistan	43.1	62.0	81.5

Source : WHO-Europe.

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