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It's just happened ...

UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project and climate change mitigation



The 16th Session of the EE21 Steering Committee held, on 29 June, a Special Working Session on "The Implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Mitigation", organized jointly with the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy. Experts from 35 countries and a wide range of international organizations and international financial institutions, business sector, private companies and academia actively participated in the meeting. The meeting examined how energy efficiency can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and help the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

On 30 June and 1 July the Steering Committee brought together a unique group of stakeholders to review progress and provide guidance on the execution of the EE21 Project and RENEUER* and looked ahead to coming activities of the new phase of the project. In particular, the session provided further information on the developments with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the Fond Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and on the investment funds under development in relation to the EE21 Project.

* *Regional Network for Efficient Use of Energy Resources*. This project is primarily intended for countries with economies in transition in South-east Europe - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. The project's strategic goal is to promote conditions for sustainable development in the region by overcoming regional barriers and creating favourable conditions for the penetration of advanced technologies for the efficient use of local energy resources.

The new phase of the EE21 project is to assist South-east European, East European and CIS countries to enhance their energy efficiency, diminish fuel poverty arising from economic transition and meet international environmental treaty obligations under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and the UNECE.

The *Energy Efficiency 21 Project* is a region-wide project to enhance trade and cooperation in energy efficient, environmentally-sound techniques and management practices in order to help close the energy efficiency gap between actual practice and best technologies, and between UNECE countries, in particular market developed countries and economies in transition. It is the successor of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project that was launched in 1991.

The EE21 Project covers the development of carbon emissions trading standards and emissions tracking; finance for energy efficiency investments through advisory services to project sponsors and investors on bankable projects. The intention is to promote a sound business environment and corporate governance to introduce the economic, institutional and regulatory reforms needed to support energy efficiency investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. These objectives are met through energy efficiency investment project development, capacity building, involvement of the private sector, government policy and institutional reforms, standards and labels, and the development of NGOs.

For more information visit www.unece.org/ie and www.ee-21.net or contact Gianluca Sambucini gianluca.sambucini@unece.org

Towards the development of Euro-Asian land transport routes

At a meeting held in Istanbul on 27-29 June, jointly organized by UNECE and UNESCAP, Government representatives from 16 countries in the Euro-Asian region agreed on the main road, rail, inland water transport routes connecting Europe and Asia to be considered for priority development as well as on transshipment points along these routes.

“The development of Euro-Asian land transport links is necessary, not only to absorb the expected increase in trade and transport between Europe and Asia, but also to contribute to the economic development of the countries directly concerned”, said Mr. José Capel Ferrer, Director of the UNECE Transport Division. “Countries have huge investment needs and resources are scarce. It is therefore crucial to identify viable projects along the selected Euro-Asian routes.”

The selected routes include routes linking the western borders of Belarus and Ukraine, through the Russian Federation, with the port of Vladivostok in the Pacific Ocean, with branches crossing Kazakhstan and China and extending up to the port of Shanghai. They also include the TRACECA routes, linking Romania and Bulgaria, through the Black Sea, Turkey, the Caucasus countries and the Caspian Sea, with Central Asian countries and also China. In addition, they include North-South routes linking the Barents and Baltic Sea regions, through the territory of the Russian Federation, with the Caucasus countries and Iran, as well as East-West routes linking South-Eastern Europe with Iran, Afghanistan and China. Selected inland water transport links include the Danube, linking Europe with the Black Sea Caucasus countries, as well as the Volga-Don, Dniپر, Ural, Ob and Irtysh rivers.

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Facts and figures:

Real gross wages per employee, total economy, growth rates

*Selected UNECE economies
Year-on-year change, per cent*

	2002	2003	2004	2004				2005
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
EU - new members								
Czech Republic	5.4	7.6	2.8	6.0	1.6	0.4	3.2	4.0
Estonia	7.0	8.7	4.3	5.4	3.6	4.8	3.2	5.2
Hungary	12.1	6.9	-0.6	2.1	0.5	-0.4	-3.7	9.7
Latvia	6.2	7.9	3.3	5.3	2.5	0.9	4.4	9.2
Lithuania	4.6	5.7	4.6	3.1	4.6	4.9	5.4	7.5
Poland	1.5	1.9	0.7	3.9	1.1	-0.5	-1.6	-1.7
Slovakia	5.8	-2.0	2.4	2.6	1.3	1.2	4.4	7.3
Slovenia	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.2	2.1	2.4	2.2
South-east Europe								
Bosnia and Herzegovina	8.4	8.0	2.3	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.9	2.7
Bulgaria	0.7	3.8	0.9	0.2	-0.9	1.1	3.2	5.5
Croatia	4.3	2.9	4.3	4.9	4.1	4.7	3.5	1.3
Romania	3.9	7.2	9.6	9.6	9.0	8.6	11.1	7.2
Serbia and Montenegro	38.5	14.4
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4.4	3.7	4.6	2.1	4.9	5.0	6.5	5.5
CIS								
Armenia	10.9	21.0	18.7	22.4	22.5	15.0	16.5	16.3
Azerbaijan	18.0	19.0	16.4	13.3	12.1	20.8	18.9	8.6
Belarus	7.5	2.9	16.7	10.4	15.5	18.2	22.1	23.5
Kazakstan	10.7	7.4	13.5	13.7	12.4	12.8	15.0	5.8
Kyrgyzstan	13.6	14.5	11.0	10.7	10.3	6.8	15.9	12.5
Moldova	24.5	17.9	8.4	9.8	11.3	10.7	3.4	4.6
Russian Federation	16.0	9.8	11.8	16.1	14.1	12.2	6.2	9.7
Tajikistan	23.2	20.6	27.2	32.0	33.0	22.6	24.0	36.0
Ukraine	19.7	16.9	17.1	19.9	18.6	14.7	15.4	15.0

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

Notes: Real rates are nominal rates adjusted for inflation (CPI).

Coming up soon ...

11-13 July

ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

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