



# UNECE Weekly

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## *It's just happened ...*

### **Energy Security Forum invited to contribute to G-8 Summit on Energy Security in 2006**

With oil prices rising to US\$ 60 per barrel, the leaders of the industrialized countries have given their support to Russian President Vladimir Putin's plan to make energy security the priority subject for the Group of Eight meeting to be hosted by the Russian Federation next year. During their annual summit at Gleneagles, the G-8 leaders said that they had mounting concerns about rising energy prices and that they supported Mr. Putin's decision to make energy security the priority during the Russian Federation's presidency of the G-8 in 2006.



Indeed, in their concluding statement from the Gleneagles meeting, the G-8 leaders agreed to take action to **“address the strategic challenge of transforming our energy systems to create a more secure and sustainable future”**. The leaders **“welcomed the Russian decision to focus on energy in its Presidency of the G-8 in 2006 and the programme of meetings that Russia plans to hold.”**

During his presentation to the UNECE Energy Security Forum on 28 June, Mr. Igor Yusufov, Special Envoy of President Vladimir Putin on International Energy Cooperation, stated that **“We appreciate greatly the activities of the Energy Security Forum in addressing this acute problem. We are interested in establishing close cooperation with the Forum to use its conclusions and recommendations in our discussions on global energy security issues in the framework of our leadership of the G-8 summit next year”**. The Energy Security Forum was held during the annual session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy on 27-30 June.

For further information about the Energy Security Forum, consult the UNECE website <http://www.unece.org/ie> or contact Alexandre Chachine ([alexandre.chachine@unece.org](mailto:alexandre.chachine@unece.org))

### **Caspian Sea Region countries issue statement on global energy security**

High-level representatives of Caspian Sea Region countries have issued a joint Statement following their discussions on emerging energy security risks and risk mitigation of the Caspian Sea Region in a global context. The representatives of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkey addressed these problems, challenges and related opportunities of this region in enhancing global energy security during the UNECE Energy Security Forum held in Geneva on 28 June. The Statement clearly reflects the policy direction of the governments concerned and the specific initiatives they are currently pursuing.

The representatives note that: *“the energy import dependence of most UNECE member countries will continue to rise in the foreseeable future, particularly for oil and natural gas, increasing their vulnerability to emerging energy security risks.”* Policymakers in the Caspian Sea Region showed their awareness of the strategic importance of their energy resources but stressed that greater energy exports would require significant investments in new oil energy production. Enhanced energy transport facilities and new transport corridors would be needed.

For the full text of the Statement see the UNECE website.

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## Facts and figures:

### Roadmap to paperless trade



The “Roadmap towards Paperless Trade” was launched at the International Forum on Trade Facilitation: “Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security”. The “Roadmap” is the result of a worldwide dialogue engaged in by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) since July 2004. Paperless trading will support economic development through secure, simpler border crossing and reduced corruption in the movement of goods. On this roadmap the reader can see what activities and tools will make the journey a success.

This third international forum on trade facilitation took place on 20-21 June, with representatives of 61 countries and 88 international organizations and NGOs. It focused on the numerous benefits and challenges of switching to paperless trade, especially for customs clearance, trade logistics, banking, port management and air transport.

The Centre has now adopted the new, global United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) standard for digital trade documents, which will develop both paper and electronic documents for cross-border trade, and approved the first five Business Requirement Specification standards. These cover a wide spectrum of business knowledge for the automated invoicing process; payment between customer and supplier; the global procurement process for the air industry; electronic tendering; and automated certification of import of agricultural products.

The Centre also approved the four principles of its intellectual property rights policy: “waiver”, “disclosure”, “exception handling” and “warranty”. M. Palmer, Vice-Chair of UN/CEFACT, United States National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) lauded this as “a breakthrough for cooperation with private companies in developing ‘plug-and-play’ business software solutions using trade facilitation and e-business standards”.

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### Share of women in national parliaments in UNECE countries (per cent)

Country	1997	2001	2005
<b>EU-15</b>			
Austria	27	27	34
Belgium	12	23	35
Denmark	33	37	38
Finland	34	37	38
France	6	11	12
Germany	26	31	33
Greece	6	9	14
Ireland	14	12	13
Italy	11	11	12
Luxembourg	20	17	23
Netherlands	31	36	37
Portugal	13	17	19
Spain	25	28	36
Sweden	40	43	45
United Kingdom	10	18	18
<b>New EU members-10</b>			
Cyprus	5	7	16
Czech Republic	15	15	17
Estonia	13	18	19
Hungary	11	8	9
Latvia	9	17	21
Lithuania	18	11	22
Malta	6	9	9
Poland	13	13	20
Slovakia	15	14	17
Slovenia	8	12	12
<b>South-east Europe</b>			
Albania	12	5	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	17
Bulgaria	13	11	26
Croatia	8	21	22
Serbia and Montenegro	..	..	8
Romania	7	11	11
Turkey	2	4	4
<b>CIS</b>			
Armenia	6	3	5
Azerbaijan	12	..	11
Belarus	..	..	29
Georgia	7	7	9
Republic of Moldova	5	8	16
Russian Federation	10	8	10
Ukraine	4	8	5
Kazakhstan	13	10	10
Kyrgyzstan	1	2	10
Tajikistan	3	15	13
Turkmenistan	18	26	..
Uzbekistan	6	7	18
<b>Others</b>			
Iceland	25	35	30
Israel	8	13	15
Norway	39	36	38
Switzerland	21	23	25
Canada	18	21	21
United States	12	14	15

Source: Interparliamentary Union and UNECE.

Definition: Percentage share of women in the total number of members of the lower or single house of the national parliament (in January of the year indicated).