



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

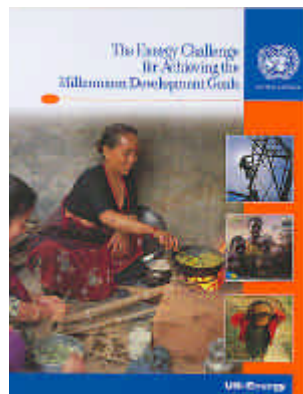
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Off the press ...

Energy challenge for achieving the MDGs

A UN-Energy report has been issued on the importance of energy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UN-Energy was created in 2004 as the principal interagency mechanism in the field of energy. Working across institutional boundaries, its purpose is to help ensure coherence in the UN system's multidisciplinary response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) – which recognized the explicit link between access to energy services and poverty reduction – and to collectively engage non-UN stakeholders.

Drafted by a team from the World Bank and UNDP, and extensively discussed and commented on by UN-Energy members, including UNECE and the other regional commissions, this paper reflects their insights and expertise and is intended to inform and vitalize dialogue on national and global policy



choice, and to support public and private sector investment in energy services to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The paper presents specific recommendations for linking production and access to energy services to poverty reduction programmes and national MDG strategies and campaigns. The paper explains that energy services – lighting, heating, cooking, motive and mechanical power, transport, telecommunications, etc –

are essential for socio-economic development; access by the poor to modern fuels and electricity are therefore important for achieving the MDGs.

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Forest and forest products country profile: Serbia and Montenegro

This report continues a series of country forest and forest products profiles which provide general information for the whole sector. Prepared by four leading national experts of Serbia and Montenegro, the profile presents the status and trends of forest resource, the wood processing industry, trade, consumption and prices of forest products as well as forest sector policy and institutions in Serbia and Montenegro. Extensive annexes provide statistics, graphs and supplementary information on forestry and forest industries.

The forest and forest products industry in Serbia and Montenegro, in common with many Balkan countries, was hard hit by the political and economic upheaval that occurred in the region, resulting in a decrease of production and processing of wood, increasing unemployment in forest regions. The forest industry in Serbia and Montenegro is, like the rest of the economy, in the process of transition, and has the potential to make an important contribution to the country's economic and social development.

Many of these potentials are not fully realized, for example much of the existing industrial wood processing capacity is not currently being utilized. As in other countries, the construction sector will play an important role in forest industry development and the report indicates

that the most important step in the transition process is privatization of forest harvest and wood-processing. Government efforts are directed towards the creation of a positive investment climate for direct foreign investments in the wood processing sector, and the establishment of joint ventures between foreign and domestic companies.

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Not an official record - For information only

Discovering the UNECE

The CD-Rom *Discovering the UNECE* is an interactive multimedia production by the UNECE Information Service in cooperation with UNTV.

The CD begins with an introduction by the Executive Secretary, Brigita Schmögnerová, who gives an insight into the orientation of the UNECE's work since its inception, as an important norms and standards setting organization, an extensive network of intergovernmental cooperation, and an independent research and analysis institution.

A brief history of the UNECE is given from its creation in 1947, when it was established on a temporary basis with the prime objective to "initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries, both among themselves and

with other countries of the world". It became a permanent body of the United Nations in 1951.

Information is given on each sector of activity – economic analysis, environment, human settlements, industrial restructuring, gender, statistics, sustainable energy, technical cooperation, timber, trade, and transport. Text and numerous video presentations by the secretariat experts describe in more detail the work undertaken in each area.

A section on its organizational and intergovernmental structure is included, together with a list of conventions, norms and standards which have been negotiated under the auspices of the UNECE, including many full legal texts. A list of publications is also given.

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Facts and figures:

Current account balance, per cent of GDP

Selected UNECE economies

	2002	2003	2004
France	1.0	0.4	-0.4
Germany	2.2	2.1	3.8
Italy	-0.8	-1.3	-0.9
Austria	0.3	-0.5	0.3
Belgium	5.7	4.5	4.0
Finland	7.5	4.0	4.0
Greece	-7.6	-7.2	-6.3
Ireland	-1.3	-1.4	-0.4
Luxembourg	11.8	8.2	8.8
Netherlands	3.1	2.9	3.5
Portugal	-6.7	-5.5	-7.5
Spain	-3.3	-3.6	-5.3
Euro area-12	0.7	0.3	0.5
United Kingdom	-1.6	-1.5	-2.0
Denmark	2.2	3.3	2.5
Sweden	4.1	7.6	8.2
European Union-15	0.4	0.2	0.3
EU new members-10	-4.3	-4.4	-4.3
European Union-25	0.2	0.0	0.1
Iceland	1.4	-5.1	-8.5
Norway	12.8	12.8	13.7
Switzerland	8.3	13.1	12.0
Canada	1.8	1.5	2.2
United States	-4.5	-4.7	-5.7

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

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