



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 150 – 12-16 December 2005

It's just happened ...

Clearing House goes public

A web-based Clearing House on Transport, Health and Environment – <http://www.thepep.org/CHWebsite> – has been launched by UNECE and the European Office of the World Health Organization as part of their joint activities under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP).



What is THE PEP Clearing House?

A web portal designed to facilitate exchange of information and knowledge across the transport, environment and health sectors in the pan-European region. It aims to address, in particular, the needs of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and of South-Eastern Europe (SEE).

The Clearing House provides information on all aspects of sustainable transport and combines the services of a dedicated search engine with an information tree allowing intuitive search of information by subject areas, such as policy integration (transport, health and environment),



Did you know that ...

Freight and passenger volumes have more than doubled during the past 30 years in Western Europe.

Car crashes cause over 100,000 road deaths per year in Europe, of which about 65% occur in towns.

Coming up soon ...

UNECE turns focus to Sustainable Development

UNECE is holding its Second Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development at the Palais des Nations, 15-16 December. The strong support this event has received to date from member States underscores its topical focus: energy for sustainable development.

Delegates will seek consensus on how best to address the challenge facing the UNECE region of ensuring that economic growth, efficient and secure supplies of energy and a clean environment are all compatible objectives. Three interactive discussion sessions will focus on (i) energy for sustainable development;

(ii) industrial development and linkages to energy for sustainable development; and (iii) air pollution/atmosphere and climate change and linkages to energy for Sustainable Development. The event will culminate in the Chair's Summary of the meeting being submitted as the UNECE regional contribution to CSD-14.

The Meeting will start at 3 p.m. on 15 December in Conference Room XX, Palais des Nations.



For further information

visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/SustainableDevelopment/2Session/welcome.htm>

health and environmental effects of transport, transport demand management and urban transport. These subjects reflect the priority areas identified by UNECE and WHO/Europe member Governments as being of central importance for the promotion and implementation of sustainable transport in the pan-European region.

For whom?

It addresses in particular the needs of national and local authorities as well as transport planners in the design, communication and implementation of sustainable transport policies.

Automated features

To allow THE PEP Clearing House to provide on-line and up-to-date services at low operating costs many services features have been automated, including uploading, editing, search and translation of documents. Depending on demand and available resources, additional and more sophisticated services could be added, such as access to on-line databases and statistics, interactive fora and newsletters as well as capacity building and on-line training programmes.

The Clearing House operates in English and Russian. A French language version will be added later.



For more information contact Angela Sochirca (angela.sochirca@unece.org).

Dispute resolution for the poor

On 28 November UNECE held a meeting to discuss with a delegation of high-level officials from Tajikistan progress and next steps to improve access to information, legal advice, dispute resolution, mediation and third party arbitration services to protect land and property rights for disadvantaged men and women in Tajikistan.

Land for development

The initiative has its roots in UNECE's "Land for Development" programme, resulting in a cooperation agreement with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for joint efforts in providing out of court dispute resolution for poor people within the CIS countries and beyond. The Tajik officials enjoyed a lively professional dialogue with UNECE and colleagues from UNCITRAL*, Vienna, who contributed by videolink.



Case studies

Participants in the meeting increased their understanding of principles and "real life" case studies from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. After a sharing of lessons with Swiss Arbitration experts at the Chamber of Commerce, the Tajik delegation continued their study visit by traveling to Ukraine to see how the mechanism delivers its services on the ground in another CIS country.

Signing ceremony on partnership

On 8 December 2005 a cooperation agreement between the UNECE Committee on Human Settlements and the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Housing) was signed.

The objective of the agreement is to assist governments (in particular of the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and South Eastern Europe) in designing and implementing national



housing policies and programmes, while promoting the UN's Habitat Agenda, the UN Millennium Development Goals and the UNECE Strategy for sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the 21st century.

For more information contact [Christina von Schweinichen \(christina.schweinichen@unece.org\)](mailto:christina.schweinichen@unece.org).

The mechanism is locally known as "Third Party Arbitration Courts" (TPAC). The offices operate at low cost and local level. Disputing parties voluntarily agree to use the mechanism and appoint their own arbitrators.

For more information contact [Angelika Brustinow \(angelika.brustinow@unece.org\)](mailto:angelika.brustinow@unece.org)

* *United Nations Commission on International Trade Law*

How others see UNECE...

European Commissioner Verheugen refers to UNECE'S regulatory work



"European Conference on the 20th Anniversary of the New Approach: New Approach: A Case of Better Regulation service of European Competition"

Brussels,

30 November 2005

In his closing speech at the Conference on the "New Approach", Mr. Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and Industry, referred to the value of UNECE's "International Model" as a regulatory mechanism. He also informed the participants that the "New Approach", which was already into its twentieth year, would be reviewed to take into consideration the new circumstances. He referred in particular to the areas of market surveillance and conformity assessment bodies.

UNECE work in these two areas

The UNECE "International Model for Technical Harmonization" has been well received by a large number of UNECE member States. In particular, the Model was used as a basis for a subregional agreement on preparing model technical regulations that was developed by 12 member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The "International Model" was drawn up by the UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.

In October 2005 UNECE held its second international Forum on Market Surveillance and Consumer Protection. The Forum participants agreed that to move forward, it was important to exchange and share national and regional experiences in market surveillance.

For more information contact [Serguei Kouzmine \(serguei.kouzmine@unece.org\)](mailto:serguei.kouzmine@unece.org).

This week ...

December

12-15	Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
12-16	Joint UNECE/Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses
13(pm)-14(am)	Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development
14(pm)-15(am)	High-level Commitment Meeting of the Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
15(pm)-16	Second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development
16	Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

For further information please contact:
Information Service
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org

Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05
Website: <http://www.unece.org>