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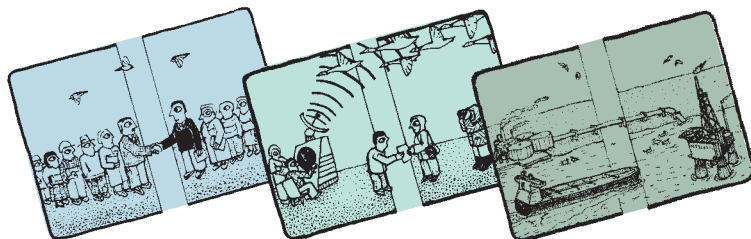
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TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE ESPOO CONVENTION'S IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE 11-13 JANUARY 2011, GENEVA

The twentieth session of the Espoo Convention's Implementation Committee will be held in Geneva, from 11 to 13 January 2011. This is expected to be the Committee's final session with Matthias Sauer of Germany as Chair. Mr. Sauer joined the Committee in 2004 and was elected Chair in 2008, overseeing a transformation in the Committee's work reviewing compliance by the Parties with their obligations under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Since he became Chair, the Committee has six times examined information from sources other than Parties (mostly from NGOs), as well as a submission by one Party having concerns about another Party's compliance. In addition, the Committee has examined in detail 10 specific compliance issues identified through the Convention's national reporting mechanism, which in the case of Azerbaijan led the Committee to offer technical advice on the implementation of the Convention. The Committee aims to assist Parties to meet fully their commitments under the Convention.



In this session, the Committee will review further the Government of Ukraine's strategy to implement fully the Convention, as well as the Government of Armenia's latest report on actions it has taken to implement recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. The Committee expects to consider replies received from the Governments of Belarus and of the Republic of Moldova regarding specific compliance issues, in response to enquiries sent on behalf of the Committee. The Committee will also be informed of progress in arranging the technical advice to the Government of Azerbaijan. In addition, the Committee should finalize preparations for the upcoming fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in the week 20–24 June 2011. Finally, if time allows, the Committee may examine any other compliance matter of which it may become aware. □

For more information, please visit:

http://www.unece.org/env/eia/implementation/implementation_committee.htm

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PARTIES ADOPT NEW AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED AREAS OF WORK FOR THE AIR CONVENTION

The twenty-eighth meeting of the Executive Body (EB) of the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (LRTAP) took place in Geneva on 13-17 December 2010 concluding successfully months of preparations and hard work. This year's meeting brought historic decisions for the LRTAP Convention, which will significantly expand the scope of the Convention.

The Parties to the Convention adopted a Long Term Strategy for the implementation of the Convention and its work plan, which provide strategic directions for the Convention for the next 10 years and beyond. They also decided to include specific provisions for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone), with a view to completing this process by the end of 2011. One priority will remain providing assistance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in ratifying and implementing various protocols under the convention.

Various bodies of the Convention tackle black carbon, which is an important air pollutant and at the same time one of the short-lived climate forcers.



Black carbon is to be included in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol as a component of particular matter. In the medium and long term, the Convention will investigate more

closely the tropospheric ozone with all its precursors, including methane – a potent greenhouse gas and carbon monoxide.

With black carbon in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, the Convention is the first international agreement to tackle a short lived climate forcer in the context of air pollution on a policy level. Climate Change is a global and long-term problem, but combating it can be also successfully done on shorter time scales and through implementing abatement policies on a regional scale first in Europe and Asia and then in other regions. □

The [Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution](#) addresses some of the major environmental problems of the UNECE region through scientific collaboration and policy negotiation. Created in 1979, the Convention is extended by [eight protocols](#) that identify specific measures to be taken by Parties to cut their emissions of air pollutants. Parties develop policies and strategies to combat the discharge of air pollutants through exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring.

The 1999 Gothenburg [Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone](#) entered into force in 2005. The current Protocol sets emission ceilings for 2010 for pollutants such as sulphur, NO_x, VOCs and ammonia. The Protocol also sets tight limit values for specific emission sources (e.g. combustion plant, electricity production, and vehicles) and requires best available techniques to be used to keep emissions down. The upcoming revisions will focus upon establishing new targets and including new pollutants in light of recent scientific findings.

Short-lived climate forcers (SLCFs) are substances like black carbon, tropospheric ozone and methane that have relatively short lifetimes in the atmosphere ranging between days and weeks (black carbon and ozone) and up to several years (methane) and which contribute to global warming by negatively influencing the Earth's radiative budget through absorption of solar radiation. Moreover, black carbon when deposited on ice and snow fields reduces surface albedo and thus increases absorption of solar radiation by the surface.

OFF THE PRESS

EUROPEAN AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS BY ROAD (ADR) - APPLICABLE AS FROM 1 JANUARY 2011



The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), adopted on 30 September 1957 in Geneva under the auspices of UNECE, entered into force on 29 January 1968. The Agreement has been regularly amended and updated since its entry into force. This version has been prepared on the basis of amendments applicable as from 1 January 2011.

The Agreement is intended to increase the safety of international transport of dangerous goods by road. This version contains in particular revised provisions concerning the carriage of dangerous goods packed in limited quantities and the carriage of substances which are toxic by inhalation, new criteria for the classification of environmentally hazardous substances, revised requirements for the construction and testing of pressure receptacles, tanks, battery-vehicles and MEGCs, including conformity assessment and periodic inspection, as well as revised provisions for the training of drivers, the safety obligations of unloaders and instructions in writing to be carried on board the vehicle. □

This version is available in English and French, and will soon be available in Russian.

To order it, please visit the United Nations Publication website at:

<https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=20544>

For more information on the agreement, please visit:

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr_e.html.

DEVELOPING GENDER STATISTICS: A PRACTICAL TOOL

This manual aims to guide statistical organizations in the production and use of gender statistics. It represents a consolidated reference for any organization or individual interested in producing information about gender differences, guides producers of gender statistics and assists in improving the availability of high-quality information on women and men.

It represents the result of several years of productive cooperation among the members of UNECE's Task Force on Gender Statistics Training for Statisticians with contributions from various experts.

Chapters 1 and 2 of the manual explain the importance of producing and analyzing statistics on gender differences. Chapter 3 provides guidance on data production and Chapter 4 looks in detail at selected topics relevant to gender statistics and the implications for data collection. Chapter 5 examines methods for improving the use of gender statistics through communication strategies and dissemination platforms such as interactive databases and websites.

Chapter 6 provides guidance on advocacy and partnership building, or how to 'make it happen' through campaigning for top management support, creating legislation and defining a gender statistics program. □

The manual is available at:

http://www.unece.org/stats/publications/Developing_Gender_Statistics.pdf.



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