



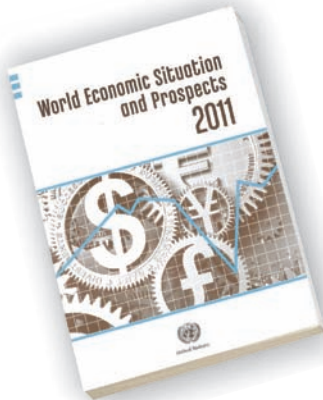
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PRESS CONFERENCE TO PRESENT THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS 2011



UNECE and UNCTAD (the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) presented the **World Economic Situation and Prospects 2011 (WESP)** report at a press conference at Palais des Nations on 18 January 2011, with a focus on Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Robert C. Shelburne, UNECE Senior Economic Affairs Officer, was one of the speakers, alongside Heiner Flassbeck, Director of UNCTAD's Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, and Alfredo



Robert C. Shelburne Heiner Flassbeck Alfredo Calcagno

Calcagno, Senior Economist in the same division.

The reports finds that the recovery of the world economy has started to lose momentum

since the middle of 2010, and that all indicators point at weaker global economic growth. **WESP 2011** forecasts that the world economy will expand by 3.1% in 2011 and 3.5% in 2012 – far from sufficient to enable recovering the jobs lost because of the crisis. **WESP 2011** emphasizes that the outlook remains uncertain and surrounded by serious downside risks.

During the press conference, Heiner Flassbeck stressed that the Keynesian stimulation plans implemented to counter the effects of the crisis had been successful, with the world economy recovering in 2010 with a growth rate of 3.6%. The speakers explained that developed economies are expected to grow by some 2% in 2011 and 2012, while economies in transition would grow at approximately 4% and developing countries at around 6%. They stressed, however, that in all three groups, growth figures would remain below their pre-crisis levels.

Speaking about the economies in transition of southeast-Europe (SEE), the CIS and about the EU new member States (NMS), Robert C. Shelburne, stressed that “this group of countries is particularly interesting in that

they were the most negatively impacted region in the world during the financial crisis. This was remarkable in that residents in these economies, unlike Western Europe, owned few of the US sub-prime assets which were at the heart of the crisis”. The exception in the region was the Central Asian countries, which all experienced positive growth in 2009 and are doing reasonably well in 2010, with the exception of Kyrgyzstan.

“In 2010, the NMS have achieved growth of 1.9% which is quite similar to the rest of the EU. The CIS have bounced back to 4.1% while the SEE hardly registered any growth (+0.1%). The forecast is that growth will continue at 4% in the CIS and slowly improve over the next several years in the other two regions. However, unemployment remains a key concern, and financial conditions remain fragile as banks de-leverage and try to restore their access to global markets. Some countries have high levels of non-performing loans. Thus investment and credit growth remain low”.

WESP 2011 also highlighted 5 major global policy challenges:

- The need for additional fiscal stimulus
- Redesigning fiscal stimulus and other economic policies to lend a stronger orientation towards measures that directly support job growth, reduce income inequality and strengthen sustainable production capacity on the supply side.
- Finding greater synergy between fiscal and monetary stimulus, while counteracting damaging international spillover effects in the form of increased currency tensions and volatile short-term capital flows.
- Ensuring that sufficient and stable development finance is made available for developing countries, including resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and investing in sustainable and resilient growth.
- Defining credible and effective policy coordination among major economies.

The **World Economic Situation and Prospects** is produced at the beginning of each year by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions. □

The report is available at:
<http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess/wesp.html>.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GHS IN THE EU LEADS CHEMICAL INDUSTRY TO NOTIFY 24,529 SUBSTANCES

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has reported that the chemical industry submitted more than 3 million notifications of 24,529 hazardous substances for the Classification and Labelling Inventory by 3 December 2010. By this deadline, companies manufacturing or importing hazardous substances in the European Union were required to notify the

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classification and labelling for all chemical substances placed on the EU market that are hazardous according to the CLP Regulation (Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals) or subject to registration under the REACH Regulation (Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals).

The data collected by ECHA will enable the establishment of the first European inventory of hazardous substances and harmonized classifications. The largest number of notifications, over 800,000, came from Germany. Over 500,000 notifications were submitted by the United Kingdom and nearly 300,000 by France. All together over 6,600 companies notified at least one substance.

The CLP Regulation, which entered into force on 20 January 2009, aligns the EU classification system with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

Classification is essential to determine whether a chemical is dangerous for human health and the environment and determines the information which has to be included on labels of chemicals that workers and consumers use.

According to the transitional provisions for application laid down in Article 61 of the CLP Regulation, from 1 December 2010 substances shall be classified in accordance with both the Substances Directive in force before the adoption of the CLP Regulation (Directive 67/548/EEC) and the CLP Regulation and shall be labelled and packaged in accordance with the CLP Regulation (i.e the GHS). As a

For more information on the GHS, please visit:

http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html

The GHS can be purchased through the United Nations Publications Division in the six official languages of the United Nations:

<https://unp.un.org/Details.aspx?pid=21128>.

consequence of the entry into force of this provision, the hazard pictograms used so far under the Substances Directive will be replaced by GHS pictograms.



The GHS offers a single, globally harmonized system to address the classification of chemicals, labels, and safety data sheets. Substances and mixtures have to be classified in specific hazard classes and categories and labelled with appropriate hazard pictograms, signal words, hazard statements and precautionary statements. This is important to ensure that information is passed on appropriately to all users in order to enhance the protection of human life and the environment during the handling, transport and use of these chemicals.

Since its initial publication in 2003, the GHS has been updated every two years. The third revised edition was published in June 2009 and a fourth revised edition will be published in 2011. The secretariat of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is provided by UNECE's Transport Division. □

UNECE DRAFTS CORE EDUCATOR COMPETENCES IN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Experts from academia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations finalized the drafting process of core educator competences in ESD and recommendations for policy makers, during the 5th Meeting of the UNECE Expert Group on Competences in ESD, which took place in Geneva from 10 to 12 January 2011.



The UNECE Strategy for ESD aims to equip people with knowledge, skills, understanding, attitude and values compatible with sustainable development. A priority of the Strategy is to engage educators in ESD. However, Ministers identified the lack of educator competences as a frequent bottleneck in achieving ESD at the Belgrade Ministerial Conference in 2007.

The UNECE Expert Group on Competences in ESD addressed this challenge by producing a set of competences, which are as far as possible concrete and of a

nature and character that could be monitored and reasonably assessed. This framework for the professional development of educators will serve as a tool to facilitate the integration of ESD into all educational programmes, at all levels.

In addition, the Expert Group drafted general recommendations for policy makers in order to provide them with a tool to integrate the framework of competences in ESD into relevant policy documents. Those recommendations are to support the creation of an enabling environment for the development of educator competences across all sectors of education, with particular focus on formal education.

The outcomes of the Expert Group's work will be presented for approval at the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD in April 2011. □

To learn more about the UNECE Strategy on ESD please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/env/esd/>

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