

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Report 2002-2003



UNITED NATIONS

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Introduction

Introduction

2002 was a key year for the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The United Nations – amongst others – has focused on different aspects of shaping globalization, such as financing for development (World Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 2002), population ageing (World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 2002), sustainable development (World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002) and the digital divide (ongoing preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, 2003).

In 2002, UNECE played a considerable role in the preparation and/or implementation of these conferences. At the Ministerial Conference on Ageing, in Berlin in 2002, the first Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing was adopted. In Bucharest, the European Regional Ministerial Conference approved the document “Towards an Information Society: Principles, Strategy and Priorities for Action”. We hope that it will have a significant impact on the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society’s resolution.

The role of the United Nations regional commissions has again been recognized in the Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which calls on them to include the three dimensions of sustainable development in their programmes of work, and to effectively pursue the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional and subregional levels.

The achievements of UNECE in 2002 include a breakthrough in cross-sectoral cooperation in transport, environment and health, marked by the adoption of the Transport, Environment and Health Pan-European Programme; the assessment of energy security in the light of recent developments and the initiation of a new project on regulations related to coalmine closures; the adoption of guidelines on condominiums; the setting-up of a network of public-private partnership units; a major international Forum on Trade Facilitation; and the 50th Conference of European Statisticians – to mention but a few. We also produced two issues of the Economic Survey of Europe, which reviewed the current macroeconomic developments and gave a short-term outlook for the UNECE region.

At the same time we have identified the new challenges facing UNECE in this and the coming years, and have explored how we could respond to them adequately. Looking at the present trends and projections, the main challenges can be summarized as follows: accelerated globalization, deepening and expanding regional cooperation (in particular achievements in EU integration and EU enlargement), faster progress in transition and the ending of transition, the emergence of new divides (digital divide, growing heterogeneity in the region), etc. To address the new challenges adequately some adjustments to the programme of work, the secretariat and the inter-governmental structure, inter-agency cooperation and coordination, etc., have to be made. The new challenges have been taken into consideration in the new cycle of pro-



gramme and budget preparation for 2004-2005, which we submitted to United Nations Headquarters at the beginning of December 2002.

The Secretary-General's new initiative on United Nations reform and the Secretary-General's Report under discussion at the General Assembly had a considerable impact on the work of UNECE and on the ongoing discussion on "Strengthening the Organization," which started at the Commission's annual session in May 2002. It was reflected in the planning and budgeting process focusing on the top priorities, on implementation, improved monitoring and assessment, streamlining activities, strengthening intra- and extra-agency cooperation, and promoting partnership with business and civil society. Some changes have been accomplished in order to make the secretariat more efficient: including organizational changes, changes in technical cooperation, increased transparency and staff participation in decision-making.

More should be done in order to better respond to the new challenges which UNECE members face. Therefore, UNECE will have to build on its old strengths through which it gained considerable recognition. At the same time, UNECE has to develop new strengths by focusing on new areas where its value added is apparent, where it has a comparative advantage – fully recognizing the multilateral role that it has played traditionally in the East-West and transatlantic dialogue.

Brigita Schmögnerová
Executive Secretary

United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe
(UNECE)

Part 1:

The UNECE Region in 2002 and 2003

The UNECE Region in 2002 and 2003

The changing economic geography of the UNECE region and new policy challenges

The most important economic and political event for the UNECE region in 2002 was the European Council in Copenhagen in December, which will be remembered for the successful conclusion of accession negotiations with ten European Union (EU) applicants. This group of countries comprises eight Central European and Baltic countries, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus and Malta. All ten are expected to attain full membership in the European Union in 2004. Bulgaria and Romania are also quite advanced in their accession negotiations and the Copenhagen summit endorsed their goal to become full EU members in 2007.

The successful completion of EU accession negotiations by eight former centrally planned economies is an important confirmation of the achievements in the process of fundamental, market-oriented economic reforms, which has been under way in the Eastern part of the UNECE region for more than a decade. It is now generally accepted that in view of the degree of systemic transformation already achieved in the most advanced reformers – the countries of Central Europe and the Baltic region – the period of transition from plan to market is nearly complete. Accession to the European Union will formally confirm the successful completion of transition in these countries.

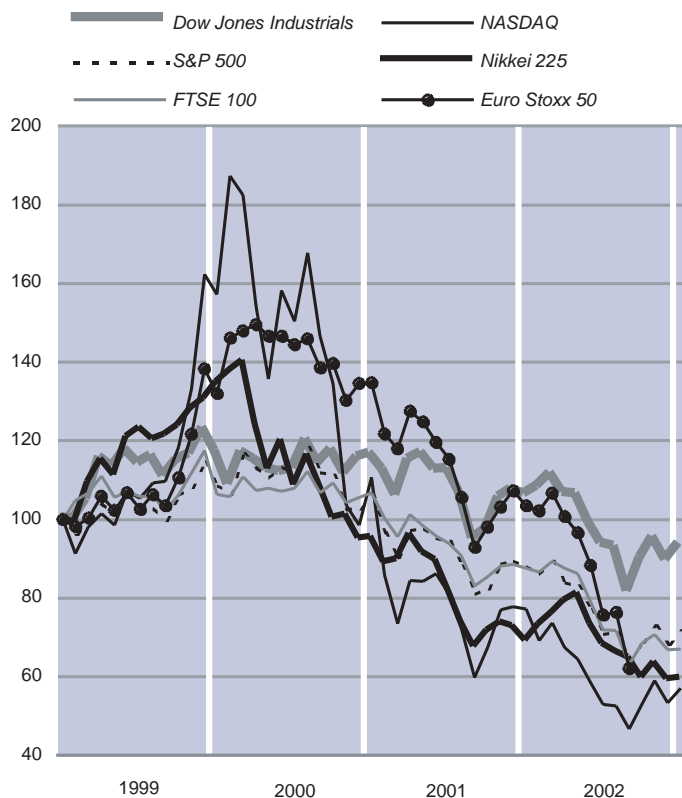
The process of eastern enlargement of the European Union will have significant economic and political implications for the whole UNECE area. In terms of its economic potential after 2004, the Union, with its 25 member States, will become one of the largest fully integrated markets in the world. The deepening of economic integration within this vast economic territory is expected to make every member country better off in the long run.

But EU enlargement is expected to have a positive impact also on economic developments in the non-applicant countries of South-Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The economic ties between the enlarged EU and these areas are likely to be further intensified, by widening and strengthening the forms of economic cooperation now embodied in the existing Stabilisation and Association Agreements (with countries in South-Eastern Europe) and Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (with CIS countries). This process will lead not only to the further liberalization of trade between EU and the non-acceding countries, but will also foster trade liberalization among the non-acceding countries themselves. Such a trend could already be observed among the current accession countries during the 1990s, when they were only “associated” with EU. Eventually, new free-trade zones could emerge in the UNECE region, which could include most, if not all, of the UNECE member States.

The further deepening of economic cooperation can be expected to go beyond the conventional liberalization of foreign trade. Already now there appears to be a growing demand both on the part of EU and on the part of some of the non-acceding countries, in particular the Russian Federation, for extending the existing economic ties to other more mature forms of economic integration such as legislative, regulatory and institutional harmonization covering standards, technical regulations, transport, customs, public procurement, competition, investment regimes, intellectual property rights, etc. This kind of regulatory convergence would undoubtedly also have beneficial effects for the acceleration of systemic reforms and economic transformation in the non-acceding countries. Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) – which has either already been achieved by some of these countries, or is on their policy agenda – would have a similar positive effect by fostering multilateral and bilateral economic ties.

The prospective closer economic cooperation and integration between the enlarged EU and the non-applicant countries, notably the Russian Federation and the other members of CIS, is embodied in the notion of a common European economic space. At this moment the idea of a common European economic space is only in its early conceptual phase and not much can be said about its prospects. But by providing the institutional framework for even deeper regulatory and legislative harmonization and further trade liberalization, it is expected to boost regional trade and investment, thus laying the ground for higher rates of economic growth throughout the region.

**Changes in international share prices,
January 1999-January 2003
(Indices, January 1999=100)**



Source: www.yahoo.com; www.stoxx.com
Note: End of month data.

Weakening growth forces in the Western market economies

In Western Europe, economic activity lost momentum after a strong rebound in the first quarter of 2002. In the United States, the quarterly rate of economic expansion was volatile, influenced by temporary special factors. But at the beginning of the final quarter of 2002, the international economic situation was looking increasingly fragile. Growth forecasts were lowered for both 2002 and 2003, and the consensus of forecasters is now that the recovery has been postponed until the second half of 2003. But this appears to be merely a mechanical rescheduling of the upswing, which ignores the restraints on growth and the considerable downside risks associated with the persistent imbalances in the global economy. Whether these will be overcome without severe disruption is one of the major sources of uncertainty.

Dominating features of 2002 were the sharp falls in equity values in international stock markets, reflecting worries about the faltering recovery in the United States and disappointing corporate profits, actual and expected. The substantial loss in financial wealth due to lower equity values will tend to dampen private consumption expenditures. Also business investment will be negatively affected on account of the higher cost of capital. Selling pressures on the equity markets were further intensified by a series of corporate financial scandals, notably in the United States, which have eroded investors' trust in profit statements and company valuations. In addition, the uncertainty created by the prospect of a military conflict in Iraq and the associated rise in oil prices also played an increasing role in restraining economic activity in the second half of the year.

In the United States, economic activity in 2002 was supported by the considerable monetary and fiscal stimulus provided in 2001, partly also in reaction to the September 11 events. The dollar depreciation in combination with already very low

interest rates led, moreover, to more favourable monetary conditions. In early November 2002, against the background of mounting concerns over economic weakness, the Federal Reserve lowered the target for the federal funds rate by half a percentage point to only 1¹/₄ per cent, the lowest rate in more than 40 years. Real GDP is forecast to increase by somewhat less than 2.5 per cent in 2002 as a whole. The expected outcome for 2003 is only slightly better (table 1).

In the euro area, the rate of economic expansion was only moderate during 2002, reflecting to a large extent subdued growth of private consumption, falling fixed investment and a deteriorating external economic environment, which dampened export growth. Real GDP is seen to increase by less than 1 per cent in 2002. A major factor restraining growth in the euro area (and Western Europe at large) remains the sluggishness of the German economy. On the basis of the expected strengthening of the international business cycle, led by the United States, the rate of economic growth in the euro area is also forecast to pick up in the course of 2003. The consensus of forecasters is for an increase in real GDP by somewhat less than 2 per cent in 2003. The expected outcome is broadly the same for the European Union and Western Europe as a whole (table 1).

Monetary conditions tightened in the euro area in 2002 as a result of the appreciation of the euro in combination with an unchanged stance of monetary policy for most of the year despite a progressive weakening of cyclical growth forces. It was only in early December 2002 that the European Central Bank's key interest rate was lowered by half a percentage point to 2³/₄ per cent. In addition, weaker than expected economic growth negatively affected net fiscal revenues with the consequence that budget deficit targets for 2002 were not met in any of the member States of the European Union. In Germany and Portugal, the general government budget deficit in 2002 (in

the latter country also in 2001) exceeded the 3 per cent threshold fixed in the Stability and Growth Pact, which led to the launching of the excessive deficit procedure. The overall combination of pronounced cyclical weakness and the need for fiscal restraint implied by the agreed fiscal policy rules has triggered a new debate about the need for reform of the Pact, also in the light of the envisaged EU enlargement in 2004. The key problem is to find a formula that combines short-term fiscal flexibility with the need for longer-term fiscal sustainability. This could be done by putting the focus of fiscal discipline on structural budget deficits and levels of government debt.

Economic growth slows down also in Eastern Europe and CIS

Despite the unfavourable external conditions, most economies in the region managed to preserve some of their dynamism in 2002 but there was a general moderation of the pace of growth. The aggregate real GDP of all economies in transition (Eastern Europe, Baltic States and CIS) is estimated to have increased by some 3³/₄ per cent in 2002, which was a notable deceleration from the 5 per cent average rate of growth in 2001 (table 1). The adverse impact of the global slowdown has been strongest on Central Europe, where GDP grew by just 2 per cent, making it the slowest growing subregion among the economies in transition. However, this outcome was also influenced by the weak performance of the Polish economy, which has been in a state of near stagnation since the second quarter of 2001. By contrast, the Baltic States were the fastest growing subregion, with aggregate GDP increasing by some 5 per cent in 2002 compared with the preceding year. Although growth in the CIS economies was significantly weaker than a year ago, the average annual real GDP growth rate was still 4¹/₂ per cent. Real GDP in South-East Europe increased by 4¹/₄ per cent year-on-year, a rate which is just slightly lower than that recorded in 2001. Despite the weakening of output, the aver-

age rates of growth in Eastern Europe, the Baltic region and CIS were still substantially above those reported in Western Europe (see table 1).

The factors that contributed to these relatively positive outcomes varied considerably across countries and subregions, often reflecting country-specific developments. In general, the shift towards domestically driven growth – which became apparent already in 2001 – strengthened in the course of 2002, but the combination of factors supporting demand differed from country to country. In one large group of economies (Croatia, Hungary, Russian Federation and Slovakia, as well as most of the other CIS members), the main impetus came from booming private consumption. The latter largely reflected improved consumer confidence resulting from several years of strong real income growth, enhanced by the progress in disinflation. In other countries (Bulgaria, Romania and the Baltic States), both private consumption and fixed investment made a positive contribution to growth, while in some cases (Armenia and Azerbaijan), the surge in investment probably largely outweighed the other domestic factors of growth. The continuing expansion of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows – which in itself is an important sign of confidence in the prospects of the economies in transition – also contributed to the strength of fixed investment in a number of countries. Despite the general weakening of foreign trade, net exports still made a positive contribution to growth in the first half of the year in a few countries (notably in Romania and Slovakia, but also in the Czech Republic and Slovenia). However, even in cases where exports were generally subdued, exporters from a range of economies in transition managed to divert some sales from traditional to new markets, not only in Europe but also in Asia and other parts of the world. In addition, faced with weakening external markets, some exporters also benefited from the robust domestic demand and managed to redirect some of their sales to the local markets.

One of the important positive messages of these recent developments is that local producers in the economies in transition have demonstrated an increasing responsiveness to market opportunities, behaving more and more like genuine market agents. Moreover, since most economies in transition have already liberalized their markets to a considerable extent, this expansion was achieved in an environment of growing market competition. By capitalizing on new market niches, local producers have not only displayed their viability in difficult and changing market conditions but have also contributed to the strength of economic activity in individual countries and in the region as a whole.

Foreign trade activity generally lost some momentum in 2002, but the patterns were not uniform across the region. In Eastern Europe and the Baltic area, after a weak start, trade picked up somewhat in the course of the year. A number of countries in this part of the continent benefited from improvements in terms of trade, with a beneficial effect on their trade balances. In contrast, lower commodity prices impacted negatively on export earnings in the CIS region despite some increases in shipments. On the other hand, the continuing recovery of domestic demand in many CIS members gave a boost to imports, particularly from the non-CIS area.

The majority of the economies in transition made further progress in disinflation in 2002 (double-digit inflation rates are already more the exception than the rule), and the most advanced among them have already achieved a large degree of macroeconomic stability. However, structural factors of a long-term nature (such as the ongoing adjustment in regulated prices and the catch-up inflation typical of fast growing economies) are likely to feed inflationary pressures in these economies for a long time to come. The persistently high unemployment rates remain one of the major sources of strain in many economies in transition. Due to the ongoing

TABLE 1

Annual changes in real GDP in the UNECE region, 1999-2003
(Percentage change over previous year)

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
UNECE	3.3	4.0	1.3	2.1	2.7
Western Europe	2.4	3.6	1.2	1.2	2.4
European Union	2.8	3.4	1.5	1.0	2.0
Euro area	2.8	3.5	1.5	0.9	1.9
North America	4.2	3.8	0.4	2.5	2.7
United States	4.1	3.8	0.3	2.4	2.6
Eastern Europe-15 countries	1.5	3.9	3.0	2.5	3.7
CIS-12 countries	4.5	8.3	6.2	4.5	4.3
Russian Federation	5.4	9.0	5.0	4.0	3.9
Europe (East and West)	2.3	3.6	1.4	1.3	2.5
Europe (East and West) and CIS	2.6	4.2	2.0	1.8	2.8

Source: UNECE Statistical Database

painful labour market adjustments, output growth had a positive effect on unemployment rates in only a limited number of countries; in general, these rates increased in most countries, in some cases reaching record levels.

While capital flows to emerging markets on a global scale generally weakened in 2002, most economies in transition were not subject to external financing constraints: current account deficits were easily financed and capital inflows were on the rise. The increasing tendency for international investors to differentiate among countries has clearly been beneficial for those economies that have made the most progress in their market reforms. In particular, FDI, largely a non-debt creating inflow, has remained a major source of finance. On average, net FDI inflows in recent years exceeded the current account deficits of the

East European countries, suggesting a relatively low vulnerability of current account financing to potential disruptions in capital markets.

However, the shift away from export-led growth places the economies in transition in a somewhat vulnerable position. Most of these economies have chronically large current account deficits and a further weakening of their trade performance may pose certain risks for the sustainability of these deficits. In addition, the surge in domestic demand in some economies was underpinned by a notable fiscal loosening (often related to election cycles), a policy that is clearly unsustainable. Thus, it is likely that these economies – especially the countries in Eastern Europe and the Baltic region – would be more susceptible to the negative effects of a protracted weakness in the global and West European economies. Moreover, given the risks

stemming from the widening fiscal and current account deficits, a policy reversal may be needed in some of these economies to curb the growth of domestic demand and bring about the needed macroeconomic adjustment. As for the commodity-exporting CIS members, their short-term prospects improved somewhat due to the surge in some commodity prices (particularly oil and gold) in the course of 2002.

Uncertain global economic outlook

The short-term economic outlook for the global economy is subject to a number of important downside risks and uncertainties, which are partly a legacy of the boom years in the United States in the second half of the 1990s. There are persistent concerns about the financing of the United States current account deficit (which is simply the mirror image of the excess of spending over income in the private sector and the newly emerged budget deficit), which is projected to remain very high in 2003. Any sudden reversal of capital flows would risk being very disruptive for economic growth in the UNECE region and the global economy at large. Another major source of uncertainty is the magnitude and timing of the adjustment to their low savings that private households in the United States judge desirable or necessary in view of the significant deterioration of their financial balance sheets since 2000. The bad loans problem in Japan remains severe and, moreover, a priority

concern for international stability. Also, the upward pressure on the oil price associated with a potential military conflict in Iraq, would have adverse effects on purchasing power and business and consumer confidence in the oil-importing countries.

Beyond these shorter-term concerns, there remains the important challenge in the UNECE region to cope with the economic and social implications of progressive population ageing in the coming decades, i.e. the need to ensure the financial sustainability of social protection systems in general and pension schemes in particular. One of the conclusions of the UNECE Spring Seminar 2002, which dealt with "Labour market challenges in the UNECE region", was that immigration would only be able to mitigate, not solve, the fiscal problems associated with population ageing. Rather, coping with the challenges of population ageing requires the development of comprehensive national strategic frameworks that go beyond immigration policies. Such strategies will need to include, inter alia, policies to achieve sustained economic growth, higher rates of labour market participation of all age groups, an increase in the retirement age, and greater intergenerational solidarity. The principal elements of such a framework were recently agreed upon and adopted at the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in Berlin on 11-13 September 2002.¹

¹ Economic Commission of Europe, Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002. United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6, 11 September 2002.

Part 2:

Major Achievements in 2002 - Major Challenges for 2003

Major Achievements in 2002 - Major Challenges for 2003

Environment

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The contribution by the regional commissions to the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in August-September led to a better recognition of the role of the regional level in the follow-up to the Summit. The regional commissions cooperated closely to achieve this result. The UNECE side-event in Johannesburg on public participation was very well attended, in particular by delegates from other United Nations regions.
- ② The high-level meeting on transport, environment and health held in July adopted a Pan-European Programme and established a tripartite Steering Committee to guide the process further.
- ③ The preparations for the May 2003 Kiev Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' have proceeded smoothly. The negotiations of three Protocols to four UNECE environmental conventions are expected to be finalized successfully for adoption and signature at Kiev.
- ④ The Committee on Environmental Policy adopted the environmental performance reviews of Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Yugoslavia in October. At the same session it had an initial discussion on a comprehensive document on the findings of the environmental performance review programme. The report is expected to be presented to the Kiev Conference.
- ⑤ The Committee had an initial discussion on a draft outline for a UNECE environmental strategy for the next 5-10 years. The strategy will be prepared in close consultation with the UNECE environmental convention bodies and is expected to be adopted by the Committee in October 2003.

- ⑥ The first meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention attracted a great number of Ministers and high officials to Lucca, Italy. More than 100 NGOs also participated. The meeting established the management of the Convention, including a compliance regime. It also elected a Bureau with the innovative element of appointing one NGO representative as observer in the Bureau.

Major challenges for 2003

- ① The Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' to be held in May in Kiev will make important decisions on new legal instruments, subregional programmes and other substantive issues, including the future of the process itself. The final preparations and the conduct of the Conference as well as the immediate follow-up will be demanding for the UNECE secretariat.
- ② The follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region will start in earnest in the spring. The Division will actively contribute to the design of the follow-up and to consultations with key partners, liaising with the other regional commissions and the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- ③ The first meeting of the new tripartite Steering Committee on Transport, Environment and Health will be held in April. Setting priorities for practical implementation and securing sufficient resources are some of the first challenges.
- ④ The finalization of the UNECE environmental strategy and its adoption by the Committee will provide ample opportunities for in-depth consultations and cooperation with the convention bodies and other key stakeholders. The preparation of the strategy will have to take careful note of other processes under way with a bearing on the UNECE activities in this area.





- ⑤ The first review of Georgia will be one of the outputs of the environmental performance review programme. The future programme will be guided by the decisions at the Kiev Conference, which will be based on a comprehensive study of the lessons learned and the findings made by the programme since its inception in 1993 at the Lucerne Ministerial Conference. More emphasis will now be laid on implementation of the recommendations made to countries and on conducting second reviews.
- ⑥ The implementation of and compliance with existing legal instruments on the environment will be given increasing prominence. Well-focused capacity-building activities and professional guidance will be directed to, in particular, countries with problems acceding to and implementing the instruments. The regional adviser will be an important asset in this work.
- ⑦ The non-recurrent activities for the Kiev Conference and the World Summit on Sustainable Development have required extraordinary efforts from the staff as very few additional resources have been made available. Another important constraint relates to the limited capacity of many countries in transition, in particular those in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the Balkans, to implement international commitments and participate in international meetings.
- ② Amendments to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) were finalized, thus introducing the digital tachygraph as the control device for driving and rest periods of professional drivers in international transport.
- ③ A package of amendments to the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals has been prepared to improve road safety regulations. It was decided to hold the Fourth Road Safety Week in the UNECE Region from 5 to 11 April 2004.
- ④ The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations updated 42 regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement and adopted a new one. With regard to the 1998 Global Agreement, one ratification and four additional accessions were registered. The World Forum has also prepared Global Regulations on the basis of agreed priorities.
- ⑤ The Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics adopted Guidelines for socio-economic cost-benefit analysis of transport infrastructure project appraisal, continued to develop the Common UNECE/ESCAP Strategic Vision for Euro-Asian Transport Links and organized demonstration runs of block trains along two Euro-Asian routes.

Transport

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The Inland Transport Committee adopted a Resolution on the work of the Ad Hoc Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels inviting governments to implement the Group's Recommendations and requesting the Committee's subsidiary bodies to consider introducing them, to the extent possible, into the relevant legal instruments.
- ⑥ In rail transport, the European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) was extended to the Caucasus and Central Asia, and border crossings in selected East and South-East European countries were monitored.
- ⑦ In the area of inland water transport, Resolution No. 250 on Promotion of Inland Water Transport providing an Inventory of the Most Important Bottlenecks and Missing Links in the E Waterway Network and Resolution



No. 50 on Prevention of Water Pollution by Vessels were adopted.

- ⑧ The Working Party on Combined Transport examined partnership models and best practices in combined transport and the efficiency of combined transport terminal operations in order to improve the competitiveness of combined transport.
- ⑨ A new Annex to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods on efficient border-crossing procedures was adopted.
- ⑩ Amendments to the various legal instruments regulating the transport of dangerous goods by road (ADR), rail (RID) and inland waterway (ADN) in most UNECE countries were adopted and entered into force on 1 January 2003. The ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals adopted (i) amendments to the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Model Regulations and Manual of Tests and Criteria) and (ii) the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

Major challenges for 2003

- ① The Inland Transport Committee will continue updating the international agreements and conventions that are the backbone of the European inland transport system and pay special attention to their implementation.
- ② In the context of these legal instruments, it will also focus on the development of transport infrastructure in the UNECE region, including Euro-Asian transport links, and take duly into account the implementation of the Development Account Project.

- ③ In order to bring the legal instruments and resolutions in line with the current requirements of the European transport system, the following activities are expected to be undertaken: finalization of a set of amendments to the Vienna Conventions on road traffic and on road signs and signals, as well as to the European Agreements supplementing them; adoption of a new protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR); adoption of three new UNECE regulations to be annexed to the 1958 Agreement; adoption of one global technical regulation under the 1998 Global Agreement; finalization of recommendations on safety in rail tunnels; adoption of an inventory of existing legislative obstacles that hamper the establishment of a harmonized and competitive pan-European inland navigation market; adoption of amendments to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) introducing best practices for partnerships and terminal efficiency measures; extension of the AGTC Agreement to the Caucasus, Central Asia and beyond; finalization of the concept of an international e-TIR procedure; completion of a new annex 8 to the "harmonization convention" on efficient border-crossing procedures for road transport; drafting of an agreement on customs procedures for rail transit; review of the customs container convention of 1972; adoption of amendments to legal instruments concerning the transport of dangerous goods (ADR, ADN, RID) to reflect technological and industrial developments or to respond to new concerns.

- ④ In addition, the secretariat will (i) ensure the publication of the 2000 Road Traffic Census on E roads and (ii) implement, together with the ESCAP secretariat, the Development Account project on inter-regional transport linkages.





Statistics

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The Conference of European Statisticians held its 50th anniversary session in June 2002. The meeting was held at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, at the invitation of OECD. It reviewed the format and structure of future plenary sessions so that they would better respond to the major political changes affecting countries in the UNECE region. One half day was set aside for the "50th Anniversary Ceremonial Session" in which the Secretary-General of OECD, Donald Johnston, and the UNECE Executive Secretary addressed the meeting, and in which a keynote address was delivered by Lord Claus Moser of the United Kingdom, who was Vice-Chair and Chair of the Conference from 1970 to 1976.
- ② The Conference agreed that future sessions should be composed of three modules: a half-day segment for formal business; and two one-day-long seminars of priority interest to all UNECE countries, one devoted to "foundational issues of statistical systems", and the other to emerging new issues.
- ③ In addition to the regular statistical support provided to other Divisions, new projects were launched to provide more detailed statistics on foreign trade and industry, to monitor inflation, and to harmonize statistics from some economies in transition with those from Western economies.
- ④ For the Division's macroeconomic statistics database, the migration of end-use variables from economies in transition into a database environment was completed; analytical tools as aids for internal analysts were developed; and an initial Web interface for access to the database was implemented in conjunction with the Environment and Human Settlements Division.

Major challenges for 2003

- ① The new structure for organizing the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians will be implemented so as to strengthen its leading role in guiding the development of official statistics in the UNECE region and beyond.
- ② The capacity to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development through relevant and internationally comparable indicators that are part of official statistics will be created.
- ③ The Anniversary Book on the History of the Conference of European Statisticians will be published. It will outline the major accomplishments of the Conference during the past 50 years and the increasing challenges for official statisticians in the future.
- ④ A new issue of the statistical publication Trends in Europe and North America aimed at a broad readership will be released. It will provide demographic and socio-economic information for each of the 55 UNECE member countries on: population, families and households, education, employment, income and output, health, housing, transport and tourism, energy, environment, communication, participation, crime and safety. The 2003 issue has already been preceded by an update of Mini-Trends and the new country profiles available on the web site.
- ⑤ The Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work that is compiled for the 25 or so international agencies active in the UNECE region will be developed as a database and made public on the UNECE web site.
- ⑥ The UNECE Gender Statistics Database will be launched so as to improve the use of data on the status of women and men at national and international level. The focus will be on bringing the model of the regional web site into national contexts, improving the



capacity of countries to produce and disseminate gender-related data and encouraging the use of the data for programming and monitoring policy programmes.

- ⑦ The infrastructure for public dissemination, via the Web, of thematically organized and coherent economic reference series, especially about economies in transition, that are immediately usable without further processing will be created.

Economic Analysis

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The Economic Analysis Division aims to provide information and analysis that are helpful to a broad cross-section of policy makers and economists in government, research institutes and universities, as well as to the private business sector and the public at large. The general objective is to improve knowledge, stimulate the exchange of views and sharing of experience leading to a greater mutual understanding and a reduction of conflicts between national policies.
- ② The two issues of the Economic Survey of Europe produced in 2002 provided a review of current macroeconomic developments and an assessment of the short-run outlook in the UNECE region with special emphasis on Eastern Europe and CIS. The first issue of May 2002 also contained special studies on: technological activity in the UNECE region during the 1990s; alternative policies for approaching European Monetary Union accession by Central and East European countries; new forms of household formation in Central and Eastern Europe: are they related

- ③ to newly emerging value orientations?

The second issue of November 2002 included in addition the papers presented by distinguished experts at the UNECE Spring Seminar, which discussed “Labour market challenges in the UNECE region”. The four sessions focused on the problem of unemployment in Western market economies; the characteristics of unemployment in the economies in transition; policies to raise labour supply; and the question of whether migration can alleviate the labour market problems in Europe. The Seminar provided once again an opportunity for a free and open discussion of an important topic among experts from governments, academics, representatives of other international organizations and the private sector.

- ④

The UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, which was largely prepared by the Population Activities Unit of the Economic Analysis Division, took place from 11 to 13 September 2002 in Berlin. The Conference, attended by about 500 delegates, representing inter alia 50 member States, adopted two major documents: the Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 and the Berlin Ministerial Declaration: A Society for All Ages in the UNECE Region. The Strategy is expected to serve as a framework for future national policies in response to demographic ageing across the region. Many of its participants, including non-governmental organizations stressed the importance of an adequate follow-up. By most accounts the Conference was a success.

- ⑤

The work on the Generations and Gender Programme gained momentum during 2002. The Programme has been actively promoted among UNECE member States and, as a result, a number of them took decisions to join it or are making preparations to do so. The Programme has attracted attention in Asia,



where Japan decided to join it.

1 Major challenges for 2003

A constant challenge remains to further strengthen the analytical content of the Survey and to make relevant contributions to the discussion of issues important to member States. It is essential to ensure that the Survey continues to be a useful source of information for our readers, especially those involved in economic policy advice. Apart from economic analysis, there is a wide range of other important issues which could be discussed in the Survey. Examples are the economic implications of EU enlargement; issues of structural change and structural reforms; the problem of ageing populations; regional perspectives on issues related to the "finance for development" process such as FDI and the mobilization of domestic resources; problems related to sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. In this connection, a workshop is planned on real income disparities in the UNECE region and policies that promote catch-up processes leading to real income convergence. A major challenge will be to adapt the structure of future Surveys to the implications of the enlargement of the European Union envisaged for 2004.

2

The Spring Seminar of March 2003 will discuss the topic "Sustainable development in the UNECE region" focusing on the environmental dimension of economic growth and on sectoral dimensions of sustainable development, viz. energy and transport.

3

Subject to relevant decisions of the Commission, the secretariat could launch new population activities as a follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Ageing. The aim will be, among other things, to begin to assist the UNECE member States with an effective exchange of information, experience and best practices regarding policies in response to

demographic ageing. This would also involve cooperation with the European Centre for Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna.

4

As regards the Generations and Gender Programme, a second meeting of the Informal Working Group will take place in February 2003 to finalize the questionnaire of the Generations and Gender Survey. It is planned to carry out surveys in several countries.

5

A joint UNECE-United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) regional "Cairo+10" meeting is also envisaged in order to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and of the Recommendations adopted at the 1993 European Population Conference. Possibilities for having the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the World Health Organization join as co-organizers of the meeting are being explored.

Sustainable Energy

1 Major achievements in 2002

1

The Committee on Sustainable Energy agreed on guidelines for reforming energy prices to meet sustainable energy development objectives, and evaluated new threats to energy security through a round table with the participation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The round table provided an appraisal of energy security by experts from OPEC, EU, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to financial markets and the energy community, and was widely reported by the media.

2

The Working Party on Gas launched an inter-sector project on the development of transport corridors for the international transport of goods



by gas-driven vehicles ("Blue Corridor") as part of its work on gas industries and gas market developments, progress of reforms, issues related to security of gas supply, relationship between natural gas and environment.

③ The Gas Centre established the Task Force on the Security of Natural Gas Supplies to complement its task forces on the ramifications of the EU Gas Directive for the 15 EU countries, gas markets and gas industries as well as its implications for countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The task forces reviewed how these countries and their gas industries could best prepare themselves and benefit from the experiences acquired in Western Europe and North America.

④ The Energy Efficiency 21 Project received approval for US\$ 9 million worth of investments and a further US\$ 30 million worth of investments are under consideration by international financial institutions, targeted funds and commercial banks as part of its work on energy efficiency market formation and investment project development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in economies in transition.

⑤ The Task Force on the United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves and Resources created an inter-sector Ad hoc Group for harmonizing the terminology of all energy commodities (petroleum, natural gas, coal and uranium). The World Energy Council agreed to adopt this new classification system for its 2004 Survey of Energy Reserves and Resources. This continues the United Nations Framework Classification for Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities adopted by more than 60 countries worldwide and by selected stock exchanges.

⑥ The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power realigned its work to better respond to the challenges of the global sustain-

able development and environmental debate. A successor Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal in Sustainable Development will address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of coal in the economies in transition.

⑦ Under Regional Advisory Services, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) launched the second phase of Energy Efficiency and Energy Security in CIS. Energy efficiency projects were approved with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility support in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Belarus. The implementation of the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources with significant support from the United Nations Development Account in Central Asia completed plans for prototype investment projects during 2002.

⑧ The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Extension of Europe Electricity Interconnection agreed to create a new work programme as the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Electric Power to respond more effectively to the needs of UNECE member States and sustainable development issues. The Project Group of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) supported the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and launched a new project on the Regional Electric Power Transmission and Expansion Planning in South-Eastern Europe.

Major challenges for 2003

① The Sustainable Energy sub-programme will begin to incorporate new initiatives in 2003 with greater attention to social issues, policy dialogue, renewable energy sources, zero-emission technologies and inter-sector activities. The work programme will place more emphasis on the social implications of economic development as called for in the Millennium





Declaration, such as the restructuring in coal-mining communities in economies in transition based on the experience in Western countries. It will provide additional analysis and policy dialogue on key issues such as energy security, the liberalization of energy markets and the development of cleaner, more efficient energy systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the recommendations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

- ② The work programme will be implemented increasingly with innovative Internet applications to enhance communications and value-added information transfers within and between UNECE member States in accordance with the likely recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society. It will build on intersectoral activities initiated in the previous biennium with joint projects in environment and transport notably on reforming energy pricing policies and the 'Blue Corridor' project on the use of natural gas as a transport fuel.



Trade Development

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development held a major International Forum on Trade Facilitation, to improve the understanding of the benefits of trade facilitation for the public and private sectors; to promote mechanisms for building capacity in this area in developing and transition economies in order to give substance to the WTO Doha Development Agenda and to identify opportunities for better cooperation among governments, international organizations and the private sector. The Committee also hosted a Round Table on Trade Facilitation in economies in transition, as well as a briefing on WTO, Doha, and economies in transition, to

provide missions and country representatives with a better overall picture of the outcome of the Doha WTO meeting and its implications for countries in the region.

- ② The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and E-Business (UN/CEFACT) organized its first Forum, bringing together all of the UN/CEFACT expert groups, focusing on trade facilitation and electronic business norms, standards and recommendations. Two directories for the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) were published, and a database system as well as an Internet-based registration and dissemination system to support more efficient maintenance and publication processes for the United Nations Code for Ports and Other Locations (UN/LOCODE) were developed.

- ③ In preparation of the priorities, issues and themes to be discussed at the European Preparatory Conference on the World Summit on the Information Society, a European regional meeting was organized, to discuss ICT strategies and to launch the European and Central Asian Regional Node to promote ICT networks based in Geneva and Moscow.

- ④ The Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies organized a Forum on Market Surveillance to look at collective actions (by governments, manufacturers and consumers) to ensure the safety of products and services on markets. A pilot project entitled the "Telecom Industry Initiative" was launched, based on a proposal developed by private companies and upon a recommendation by the Working Party, to begin harmonization of technical regulations in this sector as a means of removing technical barriers to trade in the region. This proposal is now under review by member States, at the secretariat's request.

- ⑤ The Working Party on Agricultural Quality



Standards launched the project on internationally harmonized trade descriptions for fruit and vegetables to be used in electronic commerce, which has generated substantial interest from countries and producer organizations. Work on internal quality and maturity requirements was extended to more standards, and it was agreed to start research on the relationship between the provisions of UNECE quality standards and organic produce. The Asian Seminar on Safe and High Quality Food for International Trade, in New Delhi organized with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Article Numbering Association (EAN) contributed to capacity building for SMEs in the implementation of agricultural standards and their participation in global supply chains.

⑥ The Multiplier Point Network of national centres for promoting the Committee's work was expanded from 29 to 51 centres. The first version of the Trade Development Directory was developed and published on the Internet. A Trade and Investment Guide on Services in Transition Economies was published and a CD-ROM was produced containing a compendium of the work on best practices undertaken by the Committee.

⑦ The project for Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the sustainable management of the Russian Timber Sector strengthened its cooperation with the Northwest Federal District (encompassing all 11 northwest regions). In response to increased demands for e-learning programmes, the project is developing a module on trade logistics and on sustainable forestry management. An overview of Sustainable Development and Certification in the Russian Forest Sector was published for local experts to better understand the issues and the terminology used in this context.

⑧ Implementation activities for trade facilitation

were strengthened, through the new United Nations Electronic Trade Documents project (UNeDocs) to facilitate the implementation of aligned trade documents in paper and electronic format, in a way that is accessible to SMEs and economies in transition using personal computers and the Internet (www.UNeDocs.org). A United Nations Development Account project was initiated on Capacity building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean. Other projects continued to implement the UNECE trade facilitation standards as well as other trade facilitation techniques.

Major challenges in 2003

① The Committee will host a second International Forum on Trade Facilitation, entitled Sharing the gains of globalization in the new security environment, on 14-15 May 2003 in Geneva, together with many other major organizations. This event will include a round table on the regional dimension in cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions.

② The implications of the European Union's enlargement, especially for the non-acceding countries, will be examined at a regional workshop on Trade, Business and Investment in a Wider Europe, which will take place in April.

③ The implementation of the new UN/CEFACT structure and the continuation of its work on the development of norms, standards and recommendations for trade facilitation will be a major challenge. UN/CEFACT is currently preparing new recommendations dealing with benchmarking of trade facilitation and a "single window" for export and import procedures, e-learning tools and assessing the status and needs of trade facilitation and electronic business infrastructure.

④ The Working Party on Technical Harmonization



and Standardization Policies has proposed establishing an ad hoc team of experts on market surveillance to follow up on its 2002 Forum and will organize a meeting of interested Governments to examine the Telecom Industry Initiative.

⑤ The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards expects to hold a seminar on food supply chain globalization to be organized jointly with ESCAP and EAN in Bangkok. Subject to available funding, the Russian Federation is also interested in hosting a training course on meat cuts in 2003.

⑥ Developing improved trade logistics for the sustainable use of biomass for energy production will be prominent in the project for Capacity Building to Improve Trade Finance and Investment Prospects for the sustainable management of the Russian Timber Sector. The focus on distance learning for the northwest region will create new opportunities for all project participants and will eventually allow a wider sharing of the project's results with other regions and countries.

Timber

Major achievements in 2002

① The Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training continued its work on the social aspects of forestry with a seminar on partnerships in forestry, addressing issues of communication and consensus building between public and private stakeholders. It also held a seminar on afforestation in the context of sustainable forest management, in conjunction with the regular session that approved its activities for the next two years.

② Data were collected on indicators of sustainable forest management in the region and will be

used in the report on the state of Europe's forests for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe to be held in April 2003.

③ The Timber Committee continued to develop the concepts linked to the sound and sustainable use of wood, notably through market analysis, collection and publication of information and the annual market discussion which provides an authoritative view of the situation and a short-term outlook for the markets, and is increasingly the starting point for a wide-ranging policy discussion, for instance on the interaction of forest and energy policies in the area of renewable energy sources.

④ A workshop on the changing role of State forest services was held. It examined how these organizations have dealt with problems of economic viability and of helping thousands of new forest owners who have received forest land as part of restitution programmes in Central and Eastern Europe.

⑤ The FAO European Forestry Commission, serviced by the UNECE Trade Development and Timber Division, reviewed the state of forest policies and institutions in Europe and identified and articulated the major policy issues at the regional level, to be brought to the attention of global forums.

Major challenges in 2003

① The publication of key parts of the European Forest Sector Outlook Studies programme will intensify policy activities within the joint integrated work programme of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission.

② A meeting on Strategies for the sound use of wood will be organized in Romania. It will help to explore policy options for the promotion of the



use of wood as a renewable energy source and environmental friendly material, and promote trade and environment issues.

- ③ The Timber Committee would like to help UNECE member States to improve their ability to monitor and provide information about their forest resources, forest products and policy processes. In that regard, the Russian Federation proposed to host a seminar (with the participation of CIS representatives) that will focus on the Timber Committee programme activities, to intensify the contacts among the various forest sector's actors and stakeholders, as well as improve the data and information collection and analysis.
- ④ A major conference on forest fire prevention and control, with a special focus on the Eastern Mediterranean, will be held in Turkey.
- ⑤ Two other joint Committee seminars will address major and sensitive topics for forest managers, especially in Central and Eastern Europe: close-to-nature forestry, increasingly desired by many stakeholders but bringing its own technical and economic problems with it, and the management of small private forests in countries in transition.
- ⑥ A new challenge will be to present the main regional forest issues to the major global forest policy forum, the United Nations Forum on Forests, to strengthen regional-global links in the sector.

Human Settlements

Major achievements in 2002

- ① The Committee on Human Settlements adopted at its session in September 2002 the Guidelines on Housing Condominiums and had

an in-depth discussion on social housing with the final decision to draw up guidelines on social housing. The Country Profiles on Albania, the Republic of Moldova and Romania were discussed with the objective of facilitating their effective implementation. Emphasis was given to the country profile follow-up activity by the reviewed countries to assess the impact of the recommendations and to understand where additional expertise is needed.

- ② The ninth Conference on Urban and Regional Research (held every four years) on "Sustainable and Liveable Cities" was held in Leeds (United Kingdom) to discuss how to make the urban environment safer, more attractive and more prosperous.

Major challenges for 2003

- ① One country profile on housing and one review on land administration will be carried out in the Russian Federation. Taking into account the size of the country and the complexity of its developments, these projects will be particularly challenging for the secretariat. In addition, the work on a Country Profile on Armenia has started. The two scheduled workshops and the preparation of the guidelines on social housing, as well as work on implementation of the guidelines on condominiums, will also be given high priority.
- ② The resource constraints in the secretariat are felt in particular in implementing the programme on in-depth country reviews on human settlements and land administration, which require much preparatory, coordination and finalization work by the secretariat. These programmes are, however, much appreciated by countries in transition. Consequently, there is often a long delay between the request by a specific country for a review and the time that the secretariat can prepare the capability to initiate one. Also, the follow-up to reviews is limited by resource



constraints.

Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development

① Major achievements in 2002

The Working Party on Industry and Enterprise Development established a Team of Specialists on Industrial Restructuring mandated to implement the UNECE programme in this area focused on providing policy advice to governments of countries in transition.

②

A new joint Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems was created under the Working Parties on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies and on Industry and Enterprise Development to promote international quality standards and quality management systems among enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

③

The first Public-Private Partnership Alliance meeting took place in March 2002 under the auspices of the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice. It dealt with the topic of how to create successful and dynamic public-private partnership units. The meeting agreed that UNECE was well placed to provide leadership in Europe on this issue. It approved the terms of reference for the Alliance, which will focus on capacity building and awareness raising among governments on the benefits that public-private partnership can bring for sustainable development and modernizing Europe's infrastructure.

④

The contribution by UNECE to the First Meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Working Group on SMEs held in May 2002 in Istanbul, Turkey, led to the creation of a unique platform to promote entrepreneurship



⑤ and exchange of experiences on SMEs among the BSEC countries.

The guide on Best Practice in Business Services presents the current state of the art of business advisory, counselling and information

⑥ service institutions in the UNECE region.

The Land for Development programme under the Real Estate Advisory Group and with support from Tecnoborsa, an Italian NGO, held its first congress in Rome, in September 2002, on ways of using land rights in the fight against

⑦ poverty.

UNECE organized a parallel event on "Building a Gender-sensitive Information Society" at the Pan-European Ministerial Conference for the World Summit on the Information Society. The event was quoted as best practice in mainstreaming gender into the Summit's regional preparatory process. Its recommendations were reflected in the Final Declaration and the Final Report from the Bucharest Conference. It established a platform for cooperation among stakeholders on gender aspects of information and communication technologies

⑧ (ICT) for the Summit's process in 2003-2005.

The subregional discussion and networks supporting women entrepreneurs in South East Europe were strengthened through the organization of round tables at the Central European Initiative Economic Summit (Skopje, November 2002) and the preparation of a publication on

⑨ women's entrepreneurship in the UNECE region.

UNECE cooperation on the economic dimension has borne fruit with the decision taken by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) 10th Ministerial Council in Porto, Portugal, on 6-7 December 2002, to renew its commitment to the economic dimension. UNECE has a close working relationship with OSCE and has taken a lead over the years in urging this development and in making the



economic dimension more relevant to conflict prevention.

① **Major challenges for 2003**

Organization of the Second UNECE Forum of Women Entrepreneurs (17-18 March 2003), which will discuss problems related to financing and access to ICT for small and medium-size companies run by women. The Forum is expected to gather over 350 participants from member countries including countries in South Eastern Europe, CIS, Central Asia and the

② **Caucasus.**

The Forum on Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship in Countries in Transition to be held on 19 March 2003 in Geneva, will be the fifth in a series of similar events and will highlight the achievement of the

③ **SME sector in Croatia and Slovenia.**

The Expert Meeting on How to Become a Supplier of Large National Companies and Transnational Corporation to be held on 20-21 March in Geneva, will help SMEs to acquire a better understanding of the global markets and the process of internationalization in both countries in transition and advanced market

④ **economies.**

The main challenge in enterprise development and restructuring will be to improve the enforcement of laws and standards in the face of deepening European economic integration. In this regard the work will give special attention to improving governance in public and private sectors. One of the weak spots is the lack of governance amongst SMEs, which prevents commercial banks providing them with loans. Improvements in the transparency and accountability of businesses will greatly facilitate the

⑤ **funding of business, especially SMEs.**

As follow-up to the First Regional Conference on Youth, UNECE will strengthen the activities of the Team of Specialists on Entrepreneurship

in Poverty Alleviation orienting further activities towards the development of young entrepreneurship. A workshop on young entrepreneurship will be held in March 2003 in Chisinau, jointly with BSEC and the Konrad Adenauer

⑥ **Foundation.**

The organization of the UNECE Regional Forum on handling social aspects and financing of industrial restructuring in economies in transition scheduled for November 2003 will require a coordinated contribution from a number of international organizations, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNECE in the first instance. The Forum is expected to examine the accumulated experience of economies in transition and develop

⑦ **recommendations to their governments.**

Good governance for SMEs will be the subject of the UNECE Expert Meeting to be held during the Enterprise Development Week in October

⑧ **2003 at the Palais des Nations.**

Support the process of mainstreaming gender into economic and ICT policies through the organization of a regional symposium in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women, New York, autumn 2003, and a parallel event at the World Summit in Geneva in December 2003.

Technical cooperation (See also Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development)

① **Major achievements in 2002**

UNECE carried out more than 30 technical cooperation projects in environment, energy, transport, trade, statistics, entrepreneurship, the development of SMEs and property



markets. Among the most prominent projects were: Energy Efficiency 21, Energy Efficiency Investment Project Development for Climate Change Mitigation, Trans-European Railway Project, Trans-European North-South Motorway Project, environmental impact assessment, Project on Visa Regime in SECI, and the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) project on the efficient use of water and energy resources.

UNECE also provided advisory services to 21 transition and emerging market economies in 2002 on issues such as gender mainstreaming, institutional environment for SMEs, youth and women's entrepreneurship, e-strategy and e-governance.

UNECE technical cooperation was concentrated on capacity building (training of nationals; transfer/exchange of expertise); project elaboration (formulating, designing and implementing projects); institutional build-up; and policy formulation.

The bulk of the UNECE technical cooperation concerned the exchange/transfer of expertise, mainly in the form of workshops, seminars or forums, but also in the form of technical missions or study tours. Other capacity-building activities were associated with the implementation of projects mentioned above and the build-up of institutional capacities in countries in transition to help them implement the UNECE conventions.

Most of the technical cooperation activities of the UNECE Regional Advisers implemented in 2002 fell under the mandates of the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, or 48 per cent of all the resources of the Technical Cooperation Programme (Section 21). They were followed by the activities mandated by the Inland Transport Committee (21 per cent).

In 2002, 50 per cent of UNECE advisory services related to project elaboration were implemented in the area of energy and transport in response to the mandates of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Inland Transport Committee. Fifty per cent of the capacity-building activities were carried out in the area of transport and statistics. UNECE technical cooperation in the area of institutional development was concentrated on creating an environment supportive of entrepreneurship and SME creation and development. Cooperation in policy-formulation was predominantly carried out in areas under the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

The geographic distribution of the UNECE Regional Advisers' activities reflected the sub-regional priorities of the UNECE technical cooperation. In the energy sector and environment, UNECE technical cooperation focused mostly on the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially Central Asia. This is not surprising, considering the strategic importance of energy and water issues in these subregions.

In 2002 UNECE expenditure on technical cooperation amounted to more than \$7 million, of which \$2 million were funded from the United Nations Regular budget (Sections 21, 33 and 18) and \$5 million from extrabudgetary sources. Some of the donors of extrabudgetary funds were: UNDP (for statistics - US\$ 355,078), UNAIDS/WHO (US\$ 23,000 for the First UNECE Forum on Youth), the Netherlands (US\$ 266,000 to the UNECE Local Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to improve trade finance and investment for the Russian Timber Sector); the United States (US\$ 75,000 for UNECE technical cooperation activities in SECI).

Part 3:

Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure

Governing Bodies

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Chairperson: Mr. Clyde Kull (Estonia)
Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Yaakov Levy (Israel)
Mr. Michel Adam (Belgium)
Mr. Mykhailo Skuratovskyi (Ukraine)

Principal Subsidiary Bodies

Timber Committee

Chairperson: Mr. F. Borlea (Romania)
Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. J. Serveau (Canada)
Mr. H. Pajuoja (Finland)

Committee on Environmental Policy

Chairperson: Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt (Netherlands)
Vice-Chairpersons: Mrs. Helena Cizkova (Czech Republic)
Mr. Sergey Tveritinov (Russian Federation)
Mr. Jon Kahn (Sweden)
Ms. Sibylle Vermont (Switzerland)
Mr. Metodija Dimovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
Ms. Lynette Poulton (United States of America)

Conference of European Statisticians

Chairperson: Mr. S. Longva (Norway)
Vice-Chairpersons:
Mr. L. Cook (United Kingdom)
Mr. H. Snorrason (Iceland)
Mr. T. Toczynski (Poland)
Mr. Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation)
Ms. Katherine Wallman (United States)

Inland Transport Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. V. Tanase (Romania)
Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. P. Paffgen (Germany)
Mr. N. Matyschenko (Russian Federation)

Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

Chairperson: Mr. A. Safarik-Pstrosz (Czech Republic)
Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. A. Öktem (Turkey)
Mr. T. Toichubaev (Kyrgyzstan)
Mr. J.-R. Van Kuik (Netherlands)

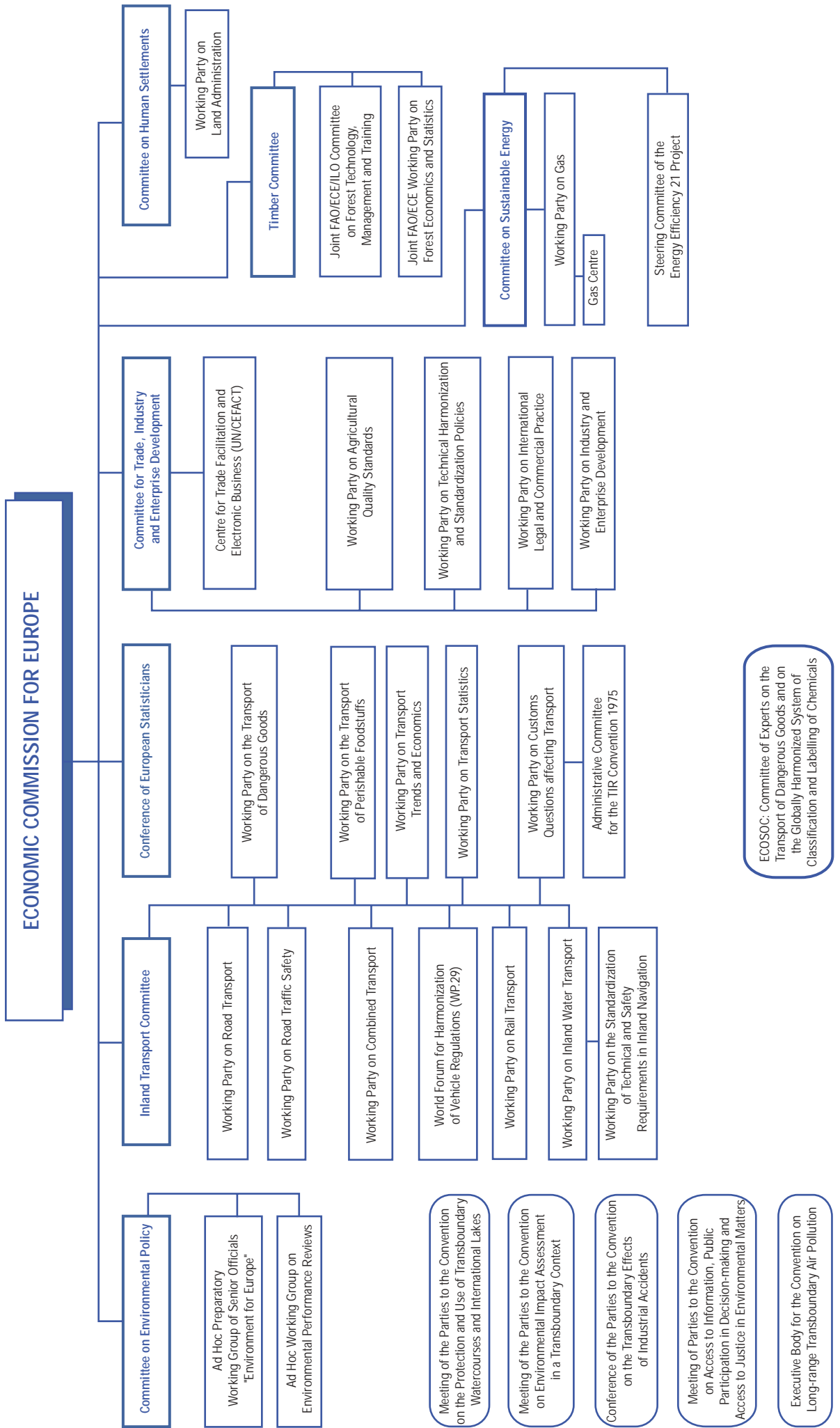
Committee on Sustainable Energy

Chairperson: Mr. Miles Greenbaum (United States)
Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Bruno Zluwa (Austria)
Mr. Sergei Mikhailov (Russian Federation)
Alternate: Mr. Boris Reoutov (Russian Federation)
Mr. Trajce Cerepnalkovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland)
Mr. Laszlo Molnar (Hungary)
Mr. Michel Hors (France)

Committee on Human Settlements

Chairperson: Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia)
Vice-Chairpersons: Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania)
Mr. Wolfgang Förster (Austria)
Ms. Daniela Grabmüllerová (Czech Republic)
Mr. Jens Wolters (Denmark)
Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands)
Mr. Marek Zawislak (Poland)
Mr. Bengt Kjellson (Sweden)

Intergovernmental Structure

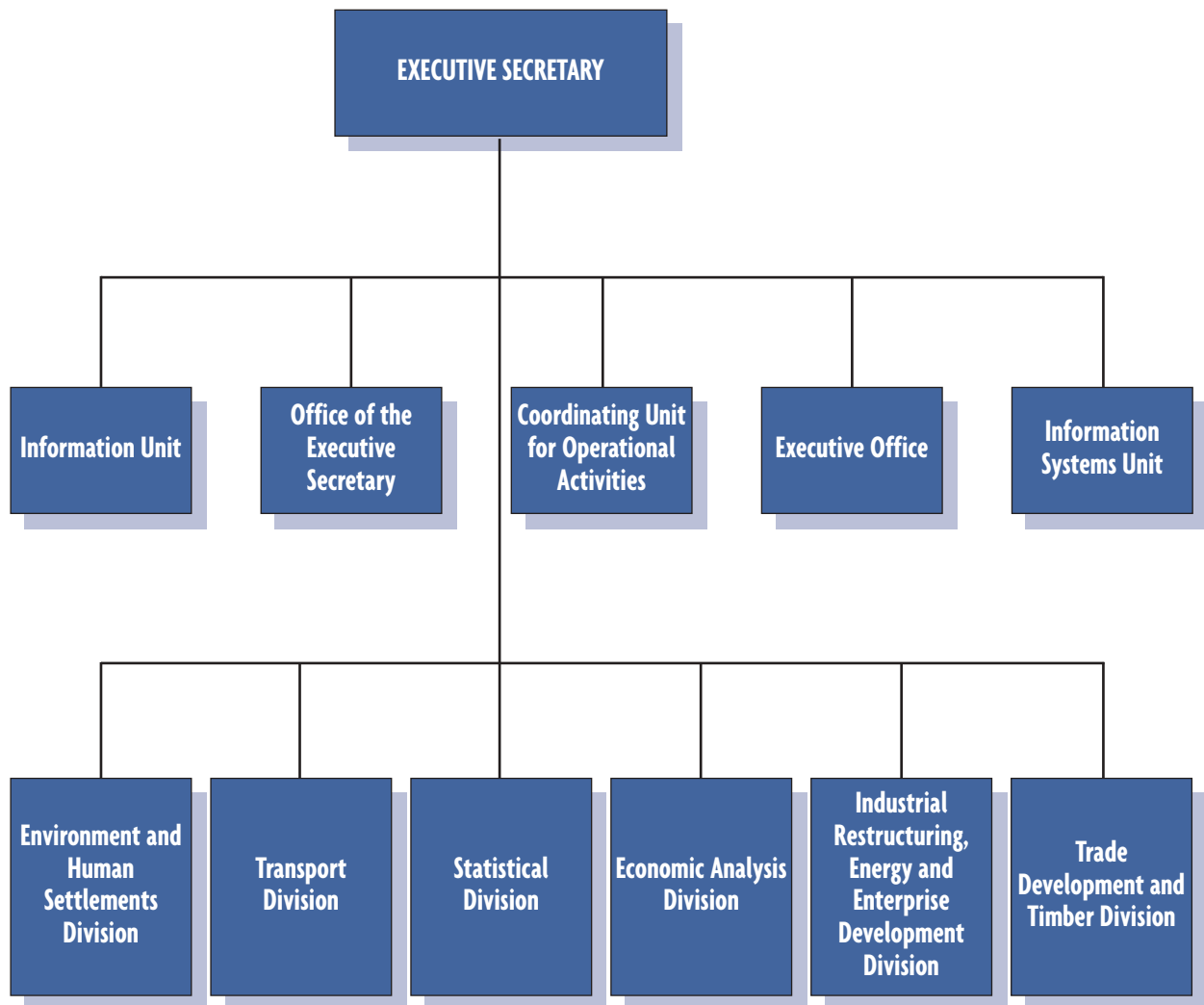


ECOSOC: Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Member States and Member States Representatives

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Andorra	H.E. Mr. Francesc BONET CASAS
Armenia	Mr. Zohrab MNATSAKIAN
Austria	H.E. Mr. Wolfgang PETRITSCH
Azerbaijan	Mr. Murad NAJAFOV
Belarus	Mr. Sergei ALEINIK
Belgium	H.E. Mr. Michel ADAM
Bosnia and Herzegovina	H.E. Mr. Milos VUKASINOVIC
Bulgaria	H.E. Mr. Dimiter TZANTCHEV
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Romania	H.E. Ms. Anda FILIP
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Slovenia	H.E. Mr. Aljaz GOSNAR
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Uzbekistan	-

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Management



Executive Secretary

Brigita
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**Technical
Cooperation**

Larissa Kapitsa, Director



**Office of the
Executive Secretary**

Paolo Garonna, Deputy
Executive Secretary



**Environment and
Human Settlements
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Director



**Trade Development
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Carol Cosgrove-Sacks,
Director



Susan Bartolo, Special
Assistant
to the Executive
Secretary and Secretary
of the Commission



**Statistical
Division**

Heinrich Brünger,
Director



**Transport
Division**

José Capel Ferrer,
Director



Patrice Robineau,
Senior Adviser to the
Executive Secretary



**Industrial Restructuring,
Energy and Enterprise
Development Division**

George Kowalski,
Director

Budget

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)

	2000-2001 final expenditures	2002 allotment
I. REGULAR BUDGET (SECTION 18)		
Post items	36,456.1	18,623.9
Non-post items	2,706.6	1,511.3
TOTAL:	39,162.7	20,135.2
II. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (SECTION 21)		
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	2,246.3	1,400.5
Other non-post items	541.7	135.2
TOTAL:	2,788.0	1,535.7
III. UN DEVELOPMENT FUND (SECTION 33)		
Non-post items	1,086.4	1,420.1
TOTAL:	1,086.4	1,420.1

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES (in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF FUND	2000-2001 final expenditures	2002 allotment
General Trust Funds (including UNFIP)	7,311.8	5,010.7
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	3,208.1	3,400.4
UNDP/UNFPA Projects	675.1	616.5
TOTAL:	11,195.0	9,027.6

2002 Publications (selected)

UNECE Compendium of Press Releases

July-December 2002 - ECE/INF/NONE/2003/2

January-June 2002 - ECE/INF/NONE/2002/21

UNECE Compendium of Legal Instruments, Norms and Standards

ECE/INF/NONE/2003/01 – E,F,R

The UNECE Works for Quality and Safety: Norms and Standards

ECE/INF/NONE/2002/28 – E,F

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Development in Europe, North America and Central Asia: Progress Since Rio

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

ECE/CEP/84 – May 2002 – E,F

Environmental performance reviews

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (forthcoming)

Albania (forthcoming)

Uzbekistan # 14 - Sales # E.02.II.E.5 - ISBN 92-1-116801-5 - US\$ 35 – E,R

TRANSPORT

Construction of vehicles

World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) – How It Works, How to Join It

Sales # E.02.II.E.9 – ISBN 92-1-116806-6 – US\$ 25 – E,F,R

Customs Conventions and TIR

TIR Handbook

ECE/TRANS/TIR/6 – March 2002 – E/F/R

(Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian forthcoming)

International Directory on TIR Focal Points

(restricted to Customs officials)

January 2002 - E/F/R

Transport of dangerous goods

Restructured ADR – applicable as from 1 July 2003

European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Vols. I & II

ECE/TRANS/160 - Complete set of two volumes

Sales # E.02.VIII.1 - ISBN 92-1-139079-6 (Vol. I)

– 92-139081-8 (Vol. II) - US\$ 120 – E,F (R forthcoming)

Also available on CD-ROM (full text in pdf format)

As from 1 July 2003

Sales # E.02.VIII.3 – ISBN 92-1-139085-0 -

US\$ 190 (forthcoming)

Statistical publications

Main Transport Indicators in the UNECE Region – 1998-1999

ECE/TRANS/NONE/2002/10 (forthcoming)

Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America Vol. XLVII, 2002

Sales # E/F/R.03.II.E.2 - ISBN 92-1-016355-9 - US\$ 40

Others

Cost Benefit Analysis of Transport Infrastructure Projects

Sales # E.03.II.E.22 - ISBN 92-1-116837-6 - US\$ 10

Map – International Railway Lines, 2002

European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) – E/F/R

International E Road Network Map, 2002

European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR) – E/F/R

Recommendations

TRANSPORT
OF
DANGEROUS
GOODS

Manual of Tests and Criteria

Third revised edition
Amendment 1



STATISTICS

Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Vol. 19 (2002)

1/2

3 – Special issue on electronic data reporting
ISSN 0167-8000. Published for the United Nations by IOS Press

Annual subscription (four issues): € 364/US\$ 332

Trends in Europe and North America - The Statistical Yearbook of the Economic Commission for Europe, 2003 (forthcoming)

World Robotics - Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts, Case Studies and Profitability of Robot Investment, 2002

Sales # GV.E.02.0.8 - ISBN 92-1-101047-0 - US\$ 120

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Economic Survey of Europe, 2002 No. 2

ECE/EAD/2002/3 – Sales # E.02.II.E.8 – ISBN 92-1-116805-8 – US\$ 40 – E

Economic Survey of Europe, 2002 No. 1

ECE/EAD/2002/1 – Sales # E.02.II.E.7 – ISBN 92-1-116803-1 – US\$ 70 – E, F (Chapter 1 only), R

Population

The Dynamics of Fertility and Partnership in Europe: Insights and Lessons from Comparative Research, Vols. I and II

Sales # E.02.E.10 – ISBN 92-1-116807-4 – US\$ 60 (Vols. I & II)

An Evaluation of the Fertility and Family Surveys Project UNECE/UNFPA/Institut national d'études démographiques (INED)

Sales # E.01.II.E.23 – ISBN 92-1-116790-6 – US\$ 25

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Low-rank Coal Utilization – International Codification System

ECE/ENERGY/50 – August 2002 – E/F/R

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Technical harmonization and standardization policies

ECE Standardization List

ECE/STAND/20/Rev.5 – July 2002 – E,F,R

Recommendations on Standardization Policies

ECE/STAND/17/Rev.4 – July 2002 – E,F

Trade and investment promotion

Trade and Investment Guide # 6 – Services in Transition Economies

ECE/TRADE/285 - Sales # E.02.II.E.1 - ISBN 92-1-116797-3 - US\$ 20

Trade facilitation

Trading into the Future: E-Services for Trade, Investment and Enterprise

ECE/TRADE/286 - Sales # E.02.II.E.3 - ISBN 92-1-116800-7 – US\$ 25

Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations – United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

ECE/TRADE/279 – February 2002 – E,F

Facilitation Measures related to International Trade Procedures – Recommendation 18

ECE/TRADE/271 – February 2002 – E,F,R



**United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents –
Guidelines for Application
Informative Annex to Recommendation 1**

ECE/TRADE/270 – March 2002 – E,F,R

TIMBER

Timber Bulletin, Vol. LV (2002)

ISSN 0259-4323

Annual subscription (six issues): US\$ 150
(surface mail), US\$ 185 (air mail).

Unit price: US\$ 30

**#6 Forest Products Markets: Prospects for 2003 / Marchés
des produits forestiers: perspectives pour 2003**

ECE/TIM/BULL/2002/6 – E/F

**#5 Forest Products Trade Flow Data, 1999-2000 /
Statistiques des courants commerciaux des produits
forestiers, 1999-2000**

ECE/TIM/BULL/2002/5 – E/F

**#4 Forest Fire Statistics, 1999-2001 / Statistiques des
incendies de forêt, 1999-2001**

ECE/TIM/BULL/2002/4 (forthcoming)

#3 Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2001-2002

ECE/TIM/BULL/2002/3 (E,R)

**Timber and Forest Discussion Papers,
ECE/TIM/DP/series (E only)**

Forest and Forest Products Country Profile - Georgia

by Kate Metreveli

ECE/TIM/DP/26 - Sales # E.03.II.E.19 -
ISBN 92-1-11633-3 - US\$ 10

**Forest Certification Update for the UNECE Region,
Summer 2002**

by Jenni Raunetsalo, Heikki Juslin, Eric Hansen
and Keith Forsyth

ECE/TIM/DP/25 – Sales # E.02.II.E.16 -
ISBN 92-1-116814-7 - US\$ 10

**Forecasts of the Economic Growth in OECD Countries and
Central and Eastern European Countries for the Period
2000-2040**

A study prepared for the European Forest Sector
Outlook (EFSOS) by NOBE, Independent Centre
for Economic Studies

ECE/TIM/DP/24 – Sales # E.02.II.E.13 –
ISBN 92-1-116812-0 – US\$ 10

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

**Guidelines on Condominium Ownership of Housing for
Countries in Transition**

ECE/HBP/123 - Sales # E.03.II.E.20 –
ISBN 92-1-116834-1 – US\$ 15

*Country Profiles on the Housing Sector
Albania* (forthcoming)

Republic of Moldova ECE/HBP/125 – E only

Romania ECE/HBP/124 – E only

**Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for
Europe and North America, Vol. XLI, 2002** (forthcoming)

INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Industrial Restructuring in European Transition Economies:
Experience to Date and Prospects**

**Summary Proceedings of the Round Table held in Geneva,
12-13 February 2002**

ECE/TRADE/291 – Sales # E.02.II.E.11 –
ISBN 92-1-116810-4 – US\$ 25 – E,F

Benchmarking governmental SME policies

**Forum on Best Practice in the Development of
Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition:
The Croatian and Slovenian Experiences (Geneva, 19 March 2003)**

TRADE/WP.8/AC.5/SEM.10/2001/1 – Information
Notice



Best Practice in the Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition: The Polish Experience (Papers presented at the Forum on Best Practice in Development of Entrepreneurship in Countries in Transition, Geneva, 24 October 2001)

OPA/AC.24/2 – Report issued by the Polish Ministry of Economy – 2002

Forum on Best Practice in Development of Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Countries in Transition: The Belarusian Experience (Geneva, 24 October 2001)

ECE/TRADE/302 & OPA/AC.22/2 (Report)

Entrepreneurship and SME development

Expert Meeting on "How to Become a Supplier of Large Enterprises and Transnational Corporations" (Geneva, 20-21 March 2003)

TRADE/WP.8/AC.5/SEM.6/1-3

Development of Entrepreneurship and Small Businesses in the Russian Federation

OPA/AC.31/1 (forthcoming)

Developing Entrepreneurship and a Sustainable SME Sector in BSEC Countries

ECE/TRADE/292 & OPA/AC.26/1 – Sales # E.02.II.E.12 – ISBN 92-1-116811-2 – US\$ 12

Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists on Quality Management Systems

OPA/AC.28/10 – February 2002

Report of Regional Advisory Services

TRADE/WP.8/2002/6 – December 2001

Investment promotion

INVESTIGUIDE 2002-2003 – Project Opportunities and Contacts for the CEI Region

UNECE – Central European Initiative (CEI) – November 2002 (forthcoming)

Public private partnership

Guidelines for Private-Public Partnerships (forthcoming)

Women entrepreneurship

Women's Entrepreneurship in the UNECE Region

ECE/TRADE/310 & OPA/AC.29/1 (forthcoming)

First UNECE Forum of Women-Entrepreneurs (Geneva, 22 October 2001)

OPA/AC.21/6 - December 2001 (Final report)

Information and communication technologies

Towards a Knowledge-Based Economy

- Regional Assessment Report – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/1 – Sales # E.03.II.E.9 – ISBN 92-1-116823-6 – US\$ 10

- Armenia – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/3 – Sales # E.03.II.E.5 – ISBN 92-1-116817-1 – US\$ 10

- Belarus – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/6 – Sales # E.03.II.E.7 – ISBN 92-1-116820-1 – US\$ 10

- Bulgaria – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/4 – Sales # E.03.II.E.6 – ISBN 92-1-116819-8 – US\$ 10

- Georgia – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/10 – Sales # E.03.II.E.16 – ISBN 92-1-116830-9 – US\$ 10

- Kyrgyzstan – Country Readiness Assessment Report

ECE/TRADE/311/7 – Sales # E.03.II.E.14 – ISBN 92-1-116828-7 – US\$ 10



- **Latvia – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/8 – Sales # E.03.II.E.8 –
ISBN 92-1-116822-8 – US\$ 10

- **Lithuania – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/11 (forthcoming)

- **Russian Federation – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/2 – Sales # E.03.II.E.4 –
ISBN 92-1-116816-3 – US\$ 10

- **Slovakia – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/9 – Sales # E.03.II.E.15 –
ISBN 92-1-116829-5 – US\$ 10

- **Ukraine – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/12 (forthcoming)

- **Yugoslavia – Country Readiness Assessment Report**
ECE/TRADE/311/5 – Sales # E.03.II.E.13 –
ISBN 92-1-116827-9 – US\$ 10

First Regional Forum on Youth: Security, Opportunity and Prosperity (Geneva, 26-28 August 2002)

OPA/AC.33/2 – Final Report

The Role of the Economic Dimension in Conflict Prevention Proceedings of the Colloquium (Villars, Switzerland, 19-20 November 2001)

ECE/TRADE/303 – Sales # E.02.II.E.14 –
ISBN 92-1-116813-9 – US\$ 15

Others

High Level Task Force on Valuation and Capitalization of Intellectual Assets (First meeting, Geneva, 18-19 November 2002)

OPA/CONF.1/2002/2 – Final Report

The Impact of the Enlargement of the European Union on a Non-applicant Country in Transition: Case Study of the Russian Federation with references to other countries concerned

OPA/AC.34/1 – 10 May 2002

The Impact of the Enlargement of the European Union on a Non-accessing Country

- **The Republic of Belarus**

OPA/AC.34/2 – 27 February 2002

- **Ukraine**

OPA/AC.34/3 – 27 February 2002



Information Unit Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 44 44
United Nations Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 05 05
Economic Commission for E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Europe (UNECE) Web site:
Palais des Nations <http://www.unece.org>
CH - 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

