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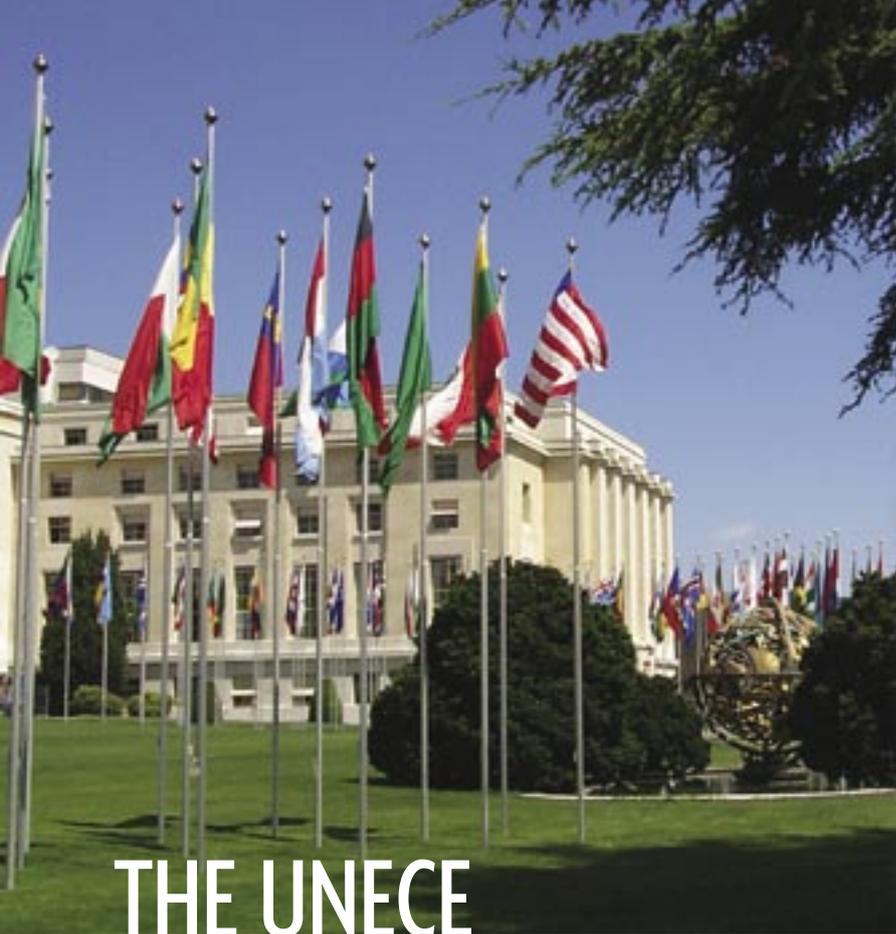
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THE UNECE IN A NUTSHELL

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations. Its major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. To do so, UNECE brings together 55 countries located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. All these countries dialogue and cooperate under the aegis of the UNECE on economic and sectoral issues. To this end, it provides analysis, policy advice and assistance to governments, it gives focus to the United Nations global mandates in the economic field, in cooperation with other global players and key stakeholders, notably the business community. The UNECE also sets out norms, standards and conventions to facilitate international cooperation within and outside the region. The area of expertise of the UNECE covers such sectors as: economic cooperation and integration, energy, environment, human settlements, population, statistics, timber, trade, and transport.



THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

2005 will be remembered as the year of UNECE reform.

An external evaluation team supported by extrabudgetary funding provided by member States conducted its work between January and June 2005. Their findings and recommendations served as a basis for the negotiations in the Open-ended Negotiation Committee, which was established in July 2005. These negotiations ended successfully on 2 December when the Commission adopted the Work Plan on UNECE reform. The outcome of the UNECE reform was subsequently discussed and approved in the Fifth Committee and in the General Assembly in December 2005 under Agenda item 124 “Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2006-2007”.

By remodelling the UNECE governance structure and by redefining the priorities of the organization, member States emphasized the importance of:

- Adapting the UNECE to the changing needs of its member States;
- Adjusting to the changing institutional architecture of the UNECE region;
- Implementing at the regional level the mandates emanating from ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

The UNECE offers, so far, the first promising example of a reform undertaken in the spirit of the recommendations adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

The reform process was launched in 2005. The year 2006 will be devoted to the implementation of the Work Plan by the UNECE member States and the UNECE secretariat under the guidance of Mr. Marek Belka, the newly appointed Executive Secretary.

In order to be successful, the reform launched in 2005 will require a strong commitment by UNECE member States as well as an open and intensive interaction between the membership and the secretariat of this organization.

By adapting the UNECE to the realities and the needs of the Region, UNECE member States have already given a clear message on the importance they attach to the multilateral framework for pan-European economic integration.

Ambassador François Roux,
Belgium



THE UNECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The UNECE – Preparing a better future for the people

The UNECE has a long history of efficient and useful services to member States. During the years of the Cold War, the UNECE played a crucial role as the meeting point between the East and the West. More recently, it has guided many member States in their difficult process of transition from planned to market economies. All through its history, since its creation in 1947, the UNECE has been for many European countries like a lighthouse, which has shown them the way forward.

Currently, the UNECE is placed in the middle of two major political and economic processes: globalization of economy and trade, on the one hand, and increasing pan-European integration, on the other. In addition, a large number of member States are still confronted with political, social, economic and environmental difficulties. In order to adapt the UNECE to the new pan-European institutional environment, member States have decided to reform the organization.

The feedbacks we are getting from member States about the reform (see excerpts on pages 12-15) are very positive. Some countries have even stressed that “the whole United Nations could take the UNECE reform as a good example which deserves to be followed.”

This reform is taking place at an important moment in the history of the United Nations. Member States have decided to adapt the Organization to the new challenges of the twenty-first century and in particular to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, as a regional economic entity the UNECE is well placed to see its role enhanced for contributing to the well-being of the people of the region.

One of the outcomes of the UNECE reform, beyond the programmatic aspect, is that member States have reaffirmed a sense of ownership of the UNECE. The UNECE is here to serve them, to work for and with them, with a creative and proactive secretariat responding to their needs in a constantly evolving context.

Implementing this reform and ultimately making the UNECE more efficient and useful for its member States is a priority and challenging task for both member States and the secretariat. It has to take into account that the strength of the UNECE goes far beyond its 200 staff members: it also lies in its network of experts and decision-makers and the support and political will of its member States.

Because Europe has a particularly dense institutional framework with a great number of bilateral and multilateral institutions, another priority of the UNECE is to delimit its field of activity. Taking into account our areas of expertise and in view of our limited resources, we need to concentrate on our domains of excellence. We should also, as emphasized in the reform, not hesitate to cooperate with other organizations.

One of the most important policy initiatives in our region is the EU's neighbourhood policy. We should explore how the UNECE could help strengthen this process, based on our long-term expertise and legal infrastructure.

Another issue where we could also have an impact is energy. Member States have recognised the achievements of the UNECE and its Energy Security Forum by asking us to help prepare the forthcoming G-8 summit, which will take place in 2006 in St Petersburg.

These are only two of the many areas where the UNECE could help to prepare a better future for the people of the region.

Marek Belka
Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



THE UNECE REFORM

On 2 December 2005, the UNECE adopted in formal session a bold reform that innovates its governance structure, redefines priorities and improves cost-effectiveness and transparency. The reform has been pursued by UNECE member countries in the spirit of the broader UN-wide reform effort that is now under way.

After six months of intense consultations and negotiations under the leadership of Ambassador Roux (Belgium), Chairman of the Commission, and Michele Coduri (Switzerland), Chairman of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, member States agreed on a renewed mission statement, governance structure and set of priorities for the UNECE. Moreover, the reform promotes closer collaboration between UNECE and other organizations active in the region so that duplications are avoided and synergies fully exploited.

As far as its mission statement is concerned, member States agreed that the UNECE should remain a multilateral platform that facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-five members and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through, among others, policy dialogue, negotiation of international legal instruments, development of regulations and norms, exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise, and technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition. It should also contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the UN through the regional implementation of outcomes of global UN Conferences and Summits.

In order to enhance accountability, transparency and the horizontal coherence of UNECE's activities with a view to enabling it to better respond to the needs of its member States, the governance structure has also been reformed. The Commission remains the highest decision-making body of the organization, responsible for

taking strategic decisions on the UNECE programme of work and the allocation of resources. It also provides a forum for a policy dialogue at high level on economic development for the region. The implementation of the overall guidance set by the Commission is entrusted to a new body, the Executive Committee, which will in particular review, evaluate and approve in due time the Programmes of work of the sectoral committees, including intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations, based on the criteria which the Executive Committee will define and which will include the coherence with the overall objective of the UNECE, coordination with other subprogrammes and resource implications. The Executive Committee will also approve the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees, based on the criteria of their relevance to the subprogramme, resource implications, avoidance of duplication and overlap in UNECE activities. It will ensure coherence between subprogrammes, inter alia by encouraging horizontal communication within the organization. Finally it will deal with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budget issues, including extrabudgetary funding, and

discuss with Executive Secretary initiatives taken by the secretariat and the work undertaken by the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Each subprogramme of the Programme of Work is attributed to a sectoral committee which is responsible for its preparation and implementation. They will jointly prepare and submit proposals to the Executive Committee on issues and activities of common interest. The Sectoral Committees are:

- Committee on Environmental Policy
- Committee on Inland Transport
- Conference of European Statisticians
- Committee on Sustainable Energy
- Committee on Trade
- Committee on Timber
- Committee on Housing and Land Management
- Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

In areas where the UNECE was not felt to have a comparative advantage vis-à-vis other international institutions, member States decided to discontinue a number of activities. This is the case for example of macro-economic analysis, where numerous international and regional entities provide similar services.

A new programme is being launched to address the specific development problems of countries with economies in transition and emerging market economies. This programme will focus on such issues as promoting effective public investment and regulatory policies; strengthening the competitiveness of the economy through innovative development; the development of public-private partnerships, financial services and the promotion of the rule of law and effective public policies.

The reform will be implemented within existing budgetary resources (for a complete version of the Work Plan on UNECE Reform see Part V of the present report).

What member States said about it ...



Ambassador François Roux, Belgium, Chairman of the Commission and Chairman of the Open-ended Negotiation Committee

This was a productive process, which does not end here. For UNECE to be an active organization we don't have to call a reform. The reform happens once in a while. In the meantime the organization has to work by itself, that means by the involvement of member States, and my message to you today is "please, member States, remain engaged in UNECE. It is an important organization and it has a future and it depends on the participation of member States to remain active".



Ambassador Alexander Slabý, Czech Republic, as a member of the Bureau, and representing Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

The UNECE showed the courage to prepare and agree on the biggest and most important reform since 1997, if not since its creation. The outcome of the reform process is encouraging in many respects, mainly in terms of a new mission statement, a new governance structure, a renewed set of priorities as well as a redistribution of the limited available resources. Good luck to UNECE in the implementation of the new reform. The whole United Nations could take the UNECE reform as a good example which deserves to be followed.



Bob Fairweather, United Kingdom, on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine

At the beginning we set ourselves a very ambitious target, to reform from the bottom-up a UN regional commission, and I understand that we have never seen such an attempt neither in Geneva nor in New York and certainly never seen anyone succeed. What we are adopting today sees us very much as forerunners in the UN reform.

At the beginning of the process we had to consider what type of reform we were looking for. Was it just going to be governance, an in depth look at the work programme or budget cuts? In retrospect I think we made the right decision to look at the role, mandate and function of the organization and not to consider budget cuts, and this allowed us to look at how best to streamline, refocus and reallocate within the limited resources available. Looking at the working plan, I think that we have achieved the majority of our initial goals. I will not list all the changes but just the ones we find notable. We substantially streamlined the governance structure by discontinuing four decision-making bodies and replacing them with an executive committee. We are establishing a new subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration to focus on countries with economies in transition. We have been able to redeploy 1 D and 18 P posts, which is about 10% of UNECE staff. Many of these posts have been redeployed in areas of importance to the EU like environment and transport and we have discontinued the Economic Analysis Division and the industrial restructuring and enterprise development subprogramme.

I don't want to deal today with why the evaluation of the UNECE was necessary, now is the time to look forward, to both what we need to do now and how best we can enhance the role of the UNECE for its recognized expertise and capacity. Once the reform is implemented, the UNECE will be better placed to meet the needs of a changing Europe and subsequently all 55 member States. Enhancing cooperation with other regional organizations is surely one of the ways which will contribute to this end.



Ambassador Pierre-Louis Girard, Switzerland

In 2004, the UNECE realised that it had to reform. Today a reform plan is ready for adoption. I would like to express the satisfaction of my authorities for the work that has been done. And to tell you that we fully subscribe to the result that has been attained.

The reform plan makes it possible for us to pick up new challenges with which this Commission and ourselves are faced in the light of the considerable changes taking place in the economic, political and institutional context in Europe. And I include in this central Asia.

The pan-European and transatlantic character of the Commission has been confirmed by the creation of a new subprogramme devoted to economic integration and cooperation which is the most important element. To this we can add the strengthening of programmes in priority areas and the development of the UNECE in areas where its comparative advantages are recognized, such as standards for agricultural produce and so on.

This reform is part of a much wider context that is the reform of the United Nations. In this respect I believe that the UNECE has shown that in-depth reforms are possible when they are clearly in the interests of member States. Now we have to implement these measures. It is a great responsibility for the secretariat and the secretariat will need the full support of member States in the same way that we have committed ourselves to this reform procedure.

Our task will not be over with the adoption of the reform, but at least the main job will have been done. What is needed is a commitment in the long-term. This commitment has to be manifested not only through the new bodies of governance in Geneva, but also in New York in the context of budgetary discussion. Since a few years, the Fifth Committee in New York has needed our participation in budgetary discussions. In conclusion I would add that the secretariat and member States have to move forward in a spirit of transparency which has been the characteristic of this process up until now.



Christina Kokkinakis, Austria

We are extremely pleased to see the positive outcome and concrete results of our common endeavour... The UNECE reform has certainly addressed the major concerns of all 55 member States. More than that, being put into the wider context of the United Nations reform, it showed how successful a reform process can be.



Andrei Savinykh, Belarus

When in 1947 the Economic Commission for Europe was first created, a significant contribution was made to international dialogue designed to increase economic cooperation and the well-being of member States. The overall geo-political changes of the last decades have meant new problems for the Commission to deal with.

We are convinced that the UNECE is a multilateral forum whose existence is in the interests of member States, which can facilitate international economic cooperation and where we will be able to continue to exchange our experience. This is a body with unique experience which can show an increasing capability in working effectively under the new economic conditions and thus help to promote the sustainable development of member States, increasing the competitiveness of national economies and the integration of various economic groupings.



Marc Giacomini, France

We find the results of this reform fully satisfactory. It will make it possible for the UNECE to fully express its added value as a pan-European institution. At a time when we are moving to the actual implementation of the reform, my delegation has two wishes to express. The first on the UNECE itself. We would like to ensure that the various competencies of the body can be fully expressed. The second is that this example will be followed at the UN level.



Ambassador Paolo Bruni, Italy

We have achieved very good results but the UNECE has to demonstrate that it can work in this new framework, no longer living in the 1980s or in the 1990s. We have a completely different situation in the world and in the European framework and this reality has to be taken into account. That is why we would like to see this new beginning not as just a bureaucratic process, but also a process of intellectual reform with a view to achieving better cooperation, mainly for the benefit of transition countries in our region, and in order to achieve the results we want to achieve for the benefit of the people and the countries that belong to the UNECE.



Ambassador Kairat Abusseitov, Kazakhstan

We find the results of the negotiation process on the UNECE reform fully satisfactory. The reform of the Commission will make it possible to increase the overall efficiency of the Commission and enhance the role of the member States in directing the day-to-day activity of the UNECE.

The substantial achievements like the streamlining of the governance structure, establishment of a new subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration, as well as redeployment of the UNECE staff, will have a positive impact on the Commission. Kazakhstan supports the schedule of the Work Plan implementation with the reform entering into force at the annual session of the Commission.



Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, Armenia

Following the changes in the world, the break-up of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, there was a fundamental change in the European architecture. We had to adjust ourselves to this new emerging architecture. We happen to be, with some other countries of the region, outside some of the economic organizations in Europe, such as the European Union and the OECD, while being part of other structures such as the OSCE and Council of Europe.

The problem is that the economic components of these latter structures are not strongly expressed. For us, the reformed UNECE is not only a UN entity which enables global decisions to be channelled at the regional level, it is also a truly pan-European institution with an economic dimension which is unique for us. The fact that we have established a programme on Economic Cooperation and Integration inside the UNECE is a matter of great hope for us. We are very satisfied with the outcome of the reform and we are very happy that our delegation was forthcoming in bringing about such fundamental changes.



Ambassador Muktar Djumaliev, Kyrgyzstan

The reform process of the UNECE launched by the member States within the broader framework of the ongoing reforming process of the United Nations is a matter of crucial importance for the Kyrgyz Republic. Especially encouraging is the creation of a mechanism which, I believe, enables the UNECE to work closer together with countries in transition, to focus on their specific needs and to assist them in overcoming challenges of transformation.

The SPECA Programme is gaining new breath and my country, in close cooperation with the UNECE and other States involved, will do whatever possible to ensure better collaboration and fruitful cooperation to sustain and promote development, stability, security and prosperity for all. I believe that the UNECE empowered with a new vision, a renewed set of priorities and a new governance structure will do its noble job for the benefit of all member States.



Andrey Pirogov, Russian Federation

The UNECE has always been an important body for the countries with economies in transition, both as part of the UN system and an organization active in the transatlantic region. This reform confirmed that the Commission is important for all the member States and that it is a valuable element of the pan-European economic network.

Russia was active in the reform process and will do its best to implement successfully the decisions adopted by all the UNECE membership. Our common goal is to make the Commission more efficient, more modern, and its activities more demand driven. The UNECE region faces too many real challenges to spend precious resources, including intellectual ones, on scholastic debates and outdated programmes.

One of the results of the reform is the creation of a subprogramme focused on transition economies. This is a clear sign for us that we should play a leading role in setting the priorities of this subprogramme, elaborating its work plan to make it truly helpful. At the same time it is crucial to strike the right balance between the interests of all the countries and subregions of the UNECE so that all of them are the beneficiaries of the knowledge and expertise of the Commission.

Ambassador Dumitru Croitor, Republic of Moldova

We have participated in the negotiation process and followed very closely the developments during that process. We highly appreciate the cooperative spirit of participating member States and the openness of the secretariat, which was of good help to us.

We expect that the actual deep reform will contribute to bringing UNECE closer to member States, and that its activities will be more transparent, result-oriented and demand driven.

We hope the reform will enter into force as soon as possible. Thus, UNECE should confirm its place as a political and economic platform for deeper cooperation and the promotion of best practices and experiences. We are confident that through its new Economic Cooperation and Integration subprogramme, the Commission will get to be more transparent and more present in the transition economies, and its results will get better known in member States' governments and societies. We also highly appreciate the support of all UNECE member States for our sensitive issues that are reflected in the Work Plan.



Ambassador Dejan Šahovic, Serbia and Montenegro

The UNECE reform made perhaps a modest but certainly important contribution to the efforts to implement broad and deep changes in the United Nations system as the Organization was marking this year its 60th anniversary. The reform was carried out as a result of a genuine desire of the Commission's member countries to make it more useful and efficient. It was a members-driven process, characterized by concrete and in the UN context short and businesslike negotiations in the final stages, which rendered a very successful outcome. The UNECE now appears to be better structured to address the needs of its members and to better interact and cooperate with other organizations in the wider European economic area, which have compatible agendas.

However, in a sense we are just beginning major work. UNECE member countries now have to ensure that changes are effectively implemented and to utilize as much as possible the capacities of the Commission to their benefit. This is especially true for the least developed countries of the UNECE area, such as mine – Serbia and Montenegro. In the final analysis, members have to be proactive and act within the UNECE in a manner that will ensure that in the longer run this reform process proves to be as meaningful as it seems now.

UNECE WORKING FOR RESULTS IN ...

ENVIRONMENT



Mr. Zaal Lomtadze,

Chairperson of the Committee on Environmental Policy

How is environmental policy evolving in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia?

While in some countries of the region the environmental code has been moderately developed, it has usually not been matched by proper implementation. Recent political changes have created new circumstances. As a general pattern, new governments promptly address issues of transparency and accountability of the government itself, and elimination of widespread corruption. Ultimately, these measures are expected to result in more efficient administration, indeed improving the possibilities for more effective national policies.

How does this affect environmental policy?

The urge to focus government actions more efficiently on the acute problems (and, not least, to fulfil the promises made to the electorate) also causes overall reconsideration of country priorities. Typically, these do not include the environment, at least not in the short-term. Instead, they are oriented towards creating a healthy business environment, lowering barriers and cutting red tape as much as possible. While these are definitely justified, the definition of “barriers” becomes essential. There is a risk of perceiving environmental regulations as “barriers”. At this point, international cooperation can help to keep environmental standards at least at a minimum acceptable level during the hard times of transition.

Are there improved possibilities for more effective environmental policies?

In a nutshell, yes – the possibilities have improved. Still, much effort will be needed to use these possibilities properly. ■■■■■



Major achievements in 2005

Since more than 10 years UNECE has been engaged in assessing the environmental situation in Eastern Europe and the CIS in the form of Environmental Performance Reviews. In 2005, the second EPRs of Belarus and of the Republic of Moldova were completed and adopted. These EPRs assess the progress made in the environmental situation and management in these countries since the first review. They focused on implementation, financing of environment protection, and integration of environmental concerns into economic sectors and promotion of sustainable development. They discussed in particular the mechanisms for compliance and enforcement and the management of eco-funds in the two countries.

The UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a practical instrument for promoting sustainable development in the region through education, was adopted at a High-level Meeting of Environment and Education Ministries, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in March. The Meeting launched the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the UNECE region.

The UNECE also assessed the situation in the region with respect to air pollution, climate change, energy and industrial development, at the second Regional Implementation Forum for Sustainable Development within the UNECE region, held in December. This assessment will be forwarded to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

News of the environment conventions

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) was amended by its Parties to extend the rights of the public to participate in decision-making on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Parties adopted Guidelines on how they should apply the principles of the Aarhus Convention in other international environment-related forums and endorsed recommendations on electronic information tools to increase public access to environmental information.

The first ratifications of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental

Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context, were received.

An assistance programme for EECCA (Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian countries) as well as South-East European countries was launched under the Industrial Accidents Convention earlier in the year. A process to draw up safety guidelines/good practices for pipelines was launched within the framework of the Industrial Accidents and the Water Conventions.

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution celebrated the entry into force, on 17 May 2005, of its most recent protocol, the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol on Abatement of Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. All eight protocols to the Convention are now in force and review procedures for the three most recent are under way or will start soon. The year has also seen the first meetings of the Convention's Expert Group on Particulate Matter and its Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution.

On 4 August 2005, the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) entered into force. Measures to protect water-related ecosystems, and recommendations on environmental services and financing for the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems were made available.

Major challenges for 2006

The second Environmental Performance Reviews of Ukraine and Armenia are expected to be finalized for adoption in 2006. A national launch of the EPRs of Belarus and of the Republic of Moldova will take place during the year.

In the course of 2006 most of the preparatory work for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, in September or October 2007 will be done.

Under the Aarhus Convention, ratification of the Kiev Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), ratification of the GMOs amendment, and practical application of the Guidelines on Public Participation in International Forums present major challenges in the year ahead.

The second review of implementation of the EIA Convention will take place in 2006.

The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution will explore mechanisms for capacity building for improved emissions controls.

The Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention will widen the scope of the convention and further strengthen its implementation, in particular through an assistance programme.

A number of guidance documents, including flood prevention, response measures to counteract the outbreak of water-related diseases, assessment of transboundary waters, and pipeline safety, will be adopted by the governing bodies to the Protocol on Water and Health and the Water Convention. On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, a comprehensive assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region will be available. Future activities include the support of the governing body of the Convention/Protocol to implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to reach the objectives of the “Water for Life” Decade.

The Steering Committee for the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP Steering Committee) will focus on preparations for the third High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health to be convened in 2007. Guidance on institutional mechanisms for policy integration, sustainable urban transport in the EECCA, assessment of health and environment impacts of transport, promotion of safe cycling and walking will be discussed. Information on relevant international and national activities will continue to be disseminated via THE PEP Clearing House (which has been operational since October 2005).



HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



Mr. Hubert van Eyk,

Chairperson of the Committee on Housing and Land Management

What is the most pressing issue in terms of housing in the UNECE region?

One of the crucial issues in terms of housing in the UNECE region is the specific issue of high-rise residential buildings, particularly in the eastern part of the region – I am thinking of Belarus, Ukraine, Russia of course, and a number of other countries. This is a very important sector which deserves much political and policy attention. It is already getting some attention in a number of countries but large investments are needed to upgrade that part of the housing stock which is quite a substantial part (around 30-40 per cent, sometimes even more) of the total housing stock. It is important from the housing point of view but also from the point of view of energy saving; much needs to be done to improve these buildings so that they become more energy-efficient. Another important aspect is the legal framework in which the organization of maintenance and refurbishment of these high-rise residential blocks is operating. The legal framework is often not sufficient to be able to take effective measures for maintenance and refurbishment. The UNECE was one of the first international institutions to recognize this housing problem in the region, for example by publishing guidelines for “condominiums”.

Is there any alternative to these high-rise blocks?

There is actually no alternative except refurbishment. Of course, they could be demolished in due time but this is certainly not a policy issue generally speaking. In a couple of regions, for instance in the eastern part of Germany, some of these apartment blocks have been demolished simply because there is no demand for them. But demolishing them and replacing them with low-rise housing would be even more costly and does not make sense from a sustainability point of view. So refurbishment is what is called for and this is what policymakers in the region are setting their minds to.

Is there a “social problem” linked to high-rise building?

We should keep in mind the differences that exist between the eastern and western part of the UNECE region. If we look at the high-rise problems in the western part, in old EU member countries, we see in the first place that high-rise is not a dominant aspect of the total housing stock, although it can of course be very substantial in certain regions, like Paris for instance, and other big towns and cities. But the problem there is mostly not a physical one, related to the physical aspect of housing but a socio-economic one, concerning unemployment, lack of education, lack of integration, etc. which is often quite substantial. We have such areas in the Netherlands as well and this is also true, for instance, for Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom. But if we look at the other part of the UNECE region, when we speak of high-rise building it is often a physical problem and apartments are still very much in demand among housing consumers. So there is a clear difference there, and I am quite aware that many policymakers in the eastern part of the UNECE region will certainly want to prevent circumstances to arise as they exist in for instance the region around Paris. This has come up in discussions that we had in Geneva and I think they have become very anxious and very keen on looking at that social side of the problem, especially since the widespread disturbances that took place in France.

What do you think of the UNECE reform?

I am very happy that in recent months constructive talks have been held in the framework of the external evaluation of the whole of the UNECE and that in that framework, the position of the Committee on Human Settlements will be maintained with some slight changes which are understandable. I am particularly happy that the work programme can be continued in substance as it was adopted at the last session, and that for example the “country profiles programme” will be continued. Over the last couple of years this country profile programme has shown that it is an extremely useful and valuable instrument. About a dozen country profiles have been prepared. They have proved to be very important for policy formulation and adaptation in the countries concerned, and I think that this is particularly due to the fact that in the first place they are of professional quality, but also because they are publications of a United Nations body which gives them the necessary authority for national authorities.



Main achievements in 2005

The role of housing, land administration, and spatial planning in the broader context of social and economic development, with particular attention to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South Eastern Europe (SEE) was at the centre of discussions in the UNECE during this past year. The ability of the human settlements sector to contribute towards the MDGs areas of concern (poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and partnerships for development) was recognized.

A number of Country Profiles (CP) on the housing sector are either in progress or have been finalized during the past years, relating to Armenia, Serbia and Montenegro, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan. UNECE countries stressed the importance of following up the implementation of past country profiles. The same concern was expressed concerning the guidelines for social housing which were endorsed. This latter study constitutes a tool for policymakers to assess the different options that are currently available for the provision of social housing.

Jointly with the Council of Europe Development Bank and the Council of Europe and in close cooperation with the Stability Pact for South East Europe, the UNECE finalized a study on trends and progress in housing reforms in South-East Europe. In order to support policymakers in countries in transition to develop effective housing finance strategies and to implement the most appropriate housing finance systems, a study on housing finance systems was published.



Major challenges for 2006

Priority will be given to the human settlements concerns of the countries of the EECCA region and South-East Europe, in particular strengthening the link between the country profiles programme and the land administration reviews. A fact finding mission to Azerbaijan is foreseen at the beginning of 2006.

Workshops on land administration are planned in Georgia (spring 2006), the Czech Republic (autumn 2006), Germany (spring 2007) and Ireland (autumn 2007).

The 10th Conference on Urban and Regional Research will be held in Slovakia (Bratislava) in May 2006 bringing together policymakers, researchers and urban planners to assist policymakers in their decision-making task and at the same time contributing to a better understanding of future research requirements in this area.



Mr. Laszlo Molnar,

Chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Energy

What trends, threats and opportunities do you see for the UNECE region in the field of sustainable energy?

High oil prices, rapidly growing oil demand, more and more bottlenecks in the oil infrastructure, such as a lack of pipelines, tankers, refineries and too few oil-engineers, have weakened the balance of global energy supply and demand.

In recent years, the security of energy supply has decreased in the UNECE region. Simultaneously, the import dependence on oil and natural gas has increased, and is now around 60 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively. Moreover 95 per cent of European Union natural gas imports depends on only three countries. There are many other risks, the import of hydrocarbons comes from politically unstable regions, the terrorist risk is growing and last but not least, there is not enough investment in oil and gas infrastructure.

What problems do you see for UNECE countries in the sustainable energy field?

In June 2005 a new European Union Green Paper on Energy Efficiency was published with the sub-title *Doing More With Less*. The analysis presented in the Green Paper led to the following three observations: the European Union is increasingly dependent on external energy sources, it has very little room to manoeuvre in terms of the conditions of energy supply and is essentially able to act at the level of demand and, finally, without taking a proactive approach, it will not be able to meet the challenge of climate change, and in particular the commitments made in Kyoto.

New North American energy policies are also emphasising the importance of energy efficiency. Canada and some states in the United States of America, such as California, have had very successful energy efficiency policies that have led to stable energy consumption in these rapidly growing economies.

It is a new phenomenon that energy efficiency is considered as a key factor in increasing competitiveness and improving living conditions. Effective energy-efficiency policies could therefore make a major contribution to the competitiveness and employment of the UNECE region. At the same time we may say that energy saving is the quickest, most effective and most cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Some renewable energy technologies, such as wind-power, are growing rapidly. On the other hand we need to mention that the expected miracle has not happened. Renewable energies are more expensive and less flexible in supplying energy than it was supposed. For example, they still need investment and operation subsidies. The shares of the renewable energies for example in the EU have been stagnating at around 6 per cent in the last 10 years.

What policy responses can UNECE member States take given these problems and opportunities in the sustainable energy field?

We know some solutions to these problems such as energy efficiency, new energy technologies, diversification of energy supply sources, and seek to apply these through the Committee on Sustainable Energy as we have done in past. Indeed, the Committee on Sustainable Energy has oriented its next annual session and work programme for the coming years to assisting member States in developing secure and sustainable energy strategies together.

In November 2006 the annual session will examine how both energy security and sustainability can be enhanced through natural gas and alternative transport fuels, coal and long term indigenous fuel supplies, energy efficiency and import dependency, evaluating energy reserves and resources and diversifying the sources of energy supply through greater energy production and exports in the Caspian Sea Region. Each topic I have just mentioned has an operational activity under the auspices of the Committee funded by the UN and by outside donors.

We believe this is a value-added contribution of the UNECE as an institution to bring together the views of representatives from government departments, energy industries and the financial community to examine these matters and recommend a concerted course of action for the future.

Major achievements in 2005

In 2005 as oil prices climbed to over US\$ 60 per barrel and tensions in the Middle East continued unabated, the UNECE Energy Security Forum was called on to review the diversification of energy supply sources for energy importing member States. The June 2005 High-Level Meeting on Energy Security and the Caspian Sea Region in a Global Context concluded with an agreement between Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Turkey on increasing exports from the Caspian Sea region. The Statement issued by the high level representatives noted that in order for UNECE member States to benefit from the increased oil and natural gas exports from the Caspian Sea Region, multi-billion dollar investments would be needed to expand energy production capacities and provide for new energy transport infrastructure. Most importantly, the countries of the Caspian Sea Region agreed to establish and maintain a suitable investment environment, regulatory framework, facilitating the transfer of technology, as well as to provide unrestricted access of their energy products to the European market. Recognising the work of the Energy Security Forum, the Russian high-level representative invited the group to contribute its conclusions and recommendations on global energy security issues to the next meeting of the Group of Eight G-8 that is to focus on energy security and will be hosted by the Russian Federation. A new CD-Rom based UNECE eBook entitled "Energy Security and the Caspian Sea Region in a Global Context" was issued.

The need of the global energy markets for an internationally comparable evaluation of energy reserves has led the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Energy Reserves and Resources to expand its scope from the classification of solid fuels to include coal, oil, natural gas and uranium reserves. Bringing together disparate partners including OPEC, OECD/IEA, Society of Petroleum Engineers and the International Accounting Standards Board, the Group of Experts continued to promote the widespread application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources (UNFC) established as ECOSOC Resolution 2004/233. The expansion of work in this field will help to make all energy commodities more attractive to foreign investors for exploitation. The original UNFC has been adopted by more than 60 countries and by selected stock exchanges worldwide.

Translating the global UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in practical changes in specific countries, cities and factories is the focus of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project and its related investment funds to be launched in 2006. Clearly, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Protocol, energy policy reforms and the institutional framework for emissions trading need to be further developed in UNECE member States. But most importantly, very large energy efficiency investments will be needed to reduce carbon emissions especially in Eastern Europe, South-eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). These countries have the highest concentrations of carbon emissions that can be reduced at a fraction of the costs elsewhere. And yet the energy efficiency market in Eastern Europe is vast, estimated to be over Euro 200 billion by a recent European Commission study. Comparatively few energy efficiency investments have been launched in Eastern Europe until now due to policy barriers, inadequate financial engineering skills in Eastern Europe and the lack of appropriate financing mechanisms. A new project on Financing Energy Efficiency Investments for Climate Change Mitigation was approved last year by the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and was endorsed more recently by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French GEF (FFEM). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the third co-financing



partner for this work through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), one of the GEF Implementing Agencies. The new project under Energy Efficiency 21 will provide for the establishment of a public-private partnership dedicated fund to finance energy efficiency investments in UNECE transition economies.

With the support of 22 gas companies throughout the UNECE region, Gas Centre's new Task Force on Company and Market Structure covering all UNECE countries in Europe held its first meetings to look at gas markets and gas industries as well as their implications for countries in Central and Eastern Europe. A High-Level Conference on Gas Production was hosted by Gazprom in the Novy Urengoy, Siberia. The Gas Centre Database was restructured and updated to align it with the expectations of member companies and wider developments in this field. The Gas Centre Task Force on the Implementation of the EU Gas Directive and the Task Force on Gas Transportation and Tariffs reviewed how Central and East European countries and their gas industries can best prepare themselves and benefit from the experiences acquired in Western Europe and North America notably on the opening and liberalization of gas markets.

Under Regional Advisory services, a new Regional Programme for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Fuel Resources in the CIS was launched following approval of the CIS Economic Board. This is a result of the previous UNECE-CIS cooperation on energy efficiency and energy security. A new project on Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Technologies in Central Asia (CAPACT) was launched with funding from the UN Development Account as an intersectoral project between the Committee on Sustainable Energy and the Committee on Environmental Policy. This is designed to strengthen the capacity of air quality management institutions to implement the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. It will provide assistance to participating governments on energy pricing policy reforms and promote investment project finance. Energy efficiency projects were also approved with UNDP and Global Environment Facility support in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

An expert review mission in the Russian Federation was held under the new technical assistance project on Coal Mine Methane in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS with extrabudgetary support from the US Environment Protection Agency (US EPA) and the United Nations Foundation. This project is overseen by the new Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane launched following the ministerial meeting on "Methane to Markets" hosted by the US EPA in Washington DC. It will serve as part of the technical follow-up to the commitments undertaken by ministers at that meeting. The economic, social and environmental dimensions of coal in the countries in transition continue to be addressed.

Major challenges for 2006

Major challenges include new initiatives to implement the mandates of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and other UN bodies in the field of sustainable development in the energy field, energy security, energy efficiency for climate change mitigation, a classification system for energy commodities, and intersectoral activities as called for in the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. 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 recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society.

The Energy Security Forum will analyse and provide conclusions and recommendations on emerging energy security risks and risk mitigation in a global context to the 2006 Group of Eight G-8 Summit meeting in the Russian Federation. The Energy Efficiency 21 Project will launch its new phase 2006-2009 together with the development of an investment fund to finance energy efficiency projects in Eastern Europe and the CIS to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy contributed a Review of Progress on Sustainable Energy Development in the UNECE Region to the UNECE Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development in December 2005 prepared jointly with the Committee on Environmental Policy. This was in preparation for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) to be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 1-12 May 2006. The 2006 session will review progress in the following areas: energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. Intersectoral activities will also include the CAPACT project in Central Asia, joint projects in timber and transport, notably on wood as an energy source as a follow up to the UNECE Seminar on Forests-Common Benefits, Shared Responsibilities, Multiple Benefits, and the "Blue Corridor" project on use of natural gas as a transport fuel.



TRANSPORT



Mr. Evgeny Mokeev, Chairperson,

Xavier Guerin and Jean-Claude Schneuwly, Vice-Chairpersons of the Inland Transport Committee

The UNECE reform has reaffirmed the high priority given to its transport sector. One of these priorities is related to border crossing – an important aspect of trade facilitation. People and goods should be able to circulate easily throughout the region. This problem is a typical issue to be dealt with in the context of a multilateral organization like the UNECE. In that context we have to deal not only with border controls and procedures but also with interoperability issues, particularly in rail transport, including technical standards and key transport documents that vary from one country to another and from one grouping of countries to another.

Activities related to legal instruments which constitute the strength and the fame of the UNECE will be pursued and reinforced, in particular the conventions related to the transport of dangerous goods, international road and rail transport, road safety and technology of vehicles.

Another area that has a high priority is the collaboration with the environment and health sectors in the context of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP), which the UNECE reform has placed in the forefront of our concerns. This programme is financed through voluntary contributions and it is expected that participation will increase.

The development of the transport infrastructure between Europe and Asia is going to become an important element of our work. It will mean the further development of such projects as the Trans European Motorway (TEM) and the Trans European Railway (TER) projects. We will also promote cooperation among countries in the Euro-Asian region for the sound development of Euro-Asian transport links. The UNECE has a very wide experience in this context, especially in paving the way for the development of the famous corridors. We need to examine the criteria that should be used for financing, and evaluate the locations where the huge amount of money needed for these corridors should be invested. In this context, our role will also be to coordinate efforts and make sure that the investments are used well.

Another problem which we will have to deal with is the security problems of inland transport. While many efforts have been made in air and maritime transport, security matters have not progressed at the same pace in the field of inland transport. As it did with safety in tunnels, the UNECE will have to focus on taking stock of the work done so far and on preparing recommendations to UNECE Governments.

Finally, the UNECE will have to take a broader view of transport problems. The technical approach to transport issues needs to be put in the context of transport strategies as a whole.



Major achievements in 2005

Since its creation in 1947 the UNECE has elaborated a regulatory framework for the whole inland transport system of the UNECE region. This framework consists of a large number of international Agreements and Conventions, which provide for coherent pan-European infrastructure networks, safe vehicles and safe traffic rules, and simplified border crossing procedures. Work includes regulations that reach out far beyond the UNECE boundaries, some of them being actually global. In 2005, the number of countries that became Parties to these international UNECE transport Agreements and Conventions continued to increase – 16 new accessions to legal instruments were registered, of which 7 were from countries not members of UNECE. These Agreements and Conventions are being constantly updated and expanded by the Commission.

The package of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals as well as to the 1971 European Agreements supplementing them were accepted in September 2005 and will enter into force in March 2006. They include the prohibition of the use of mobile phones while driving and the reduction of the maximum admissible limit of alcohol in drivers' blood from 0.8 to 0.5 g/l. A recommendation on roadside police controls was adopted and work continued on safety belts, driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs and medication, motorcycle and moped safety, pedestrian safety and other issues.

The UN General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 26 October 2005 on improving global road safety, stressed the importance of the improvement in the international legal road traffic safety norms, and welcomed the substantial package of amendments to the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic and on Road Signs and Signals prepared by UNECE.

The General Assembly also invited the UN regional commissions and the World Health Organization to organize jointly the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week to serve as a platform for

global and regional, but mainly national and local activities to raise awareness about road safety issues.

Legal and technical work of the UNECE in 2005 also included the elaboration of an additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR). This Protocol, prepared in cooperation with UNIDROIT and UNCITRAL, is aimed at introducing an electronic consignment note.

The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations adopted two new UNECE Regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement and updated 41 existing ones, aimed at further improving the active and passive safety of motor vehicles as well as their environmental performance. It also adopted the second global technical regulation ever.

The Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods was amended to include provisions aimed at further harmonizing border procedures for international road transport and making them more efficient. A first phase of the computerization of the TIR Convention procedures was finalized with the adoption of a Reference Model for the present TIR procedures. Work on the second phase, i.e. definition of requirements for the so-called «eTIR» system, was initiated.

In the framework of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP), an internet based Clearing House was developed providing multilingual information and networking possibilities for policymakers, particularly in EECCA countries.

“Model” action plans and partnership agreements, including benchmarks to measure the competitiveness of intermodal transport, developed by the UNECE, were adopted by the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) Council of Ministers. A package of modifications to the European Agreement on Important International Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) to cover, in particular, important Euro-Asian transport links, was adopted. Proposals were made towards negotiation of unified pan-European rail law systems and rail Customs transit regimes.

The UNECE secretariat, together with the Committee of the Organization for Railways Cooperation (OSZHD), has been preparing an International Conference on the facilitation of border crossing in railway transport, to be held in 2006. The main objective of the Conference will be to create legal provisions aimed at simplifying and shortening border crossing procedures in international rail transport.

In the area of transport trends and economics, UNECE will focus its work on Euro-Asian links, financing of transport infrastructure and Mediterranean transport. A Workshop on Euro-Asian transport links - Feedback from users was organized with the participation of the private sector.

The TEM and TER Master Plan was concluded in 2005, providing a realistic short, medium and long-term investment strategy for developing the road, rail and combined transport Backbone Networks in the 21 Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries participating in this exercise. In this context, 491 projects with a total cost of 102.10 billion Euros were evaluated and prioritized. The Master Plan has taken duly into account alternative scenarios of growth, bottlenecks and missing links as well as problems of transport infrastructure financing and border crossings.

As part of the UN Development Account Project on Capacity Building in Developing Interregional Transport Linkages, the UNECE and UNESCAP secretariats jointly organized in Istanbul the Third Expert Group Meeting on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Links. Eighteen country representatives from the Euro Asian region agreed on the main road, rail and inland water transport routes connecting Europe and Asia, and identified main transshipment points along them. They also agreed to complete a Geographic Information System (GIS) database and carry out an evaluation and prioritization of projects along the selected routes.

As part of the same project, the UNECE secretariat cooperated with UNESCAP and UNESCWA towards developing transport links among the three regions. A first Expert Group Meeting, held in Amman, Jordan, agreed on the main road, rail and sea/road/rail routes linking the UNECE and UNESCAP regions with the UNESCWA region and on related joint activities. Cooperation was also under way with UNECA on developing Mediterranean links.

Major challenges for 2006

The broad challenge for the UNECE in the field of transport in 2006 will be to continue improving the efficiency, safety, environmental protection and security of the transport sector in the UNECE region, most particularly in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe as well as in the Caucasus and Central Asian member countries. This will have

to be done in close cooperation with the European Commission, the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, the River Commissions and all the non-governmental organizations concerned, including those representing the transport industry, the transport equipment industry, businesses requiring transport, transport users and consumers.

More specific challenges in 2006 will be how to ensure financial support for continuing intergovernmental cooperation towards the sound development of transport infrastructure in the above-mentioned regions and countries, how to ensure the sustainability of the TIR regime while improving transparency in its management, and how to contribute effectively to improving road safety at the global level.

TRADE DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz,
Chairperson of the Committee on Trade

Mr. Šafařík-Pštrosz, can you explain to a layperson what “trade facilitation” is about?

“Trade facilitation” covers all the measures that can be taken to smooth and simplify the flow of trade. These measures include most of the activities, practices and formalities involved in collecting, presenting, communicating and processing data for moving goods in international trade. Goods, as you know, cannot move faster than the information that accompanies them. Now, national regulatory authorities often amend or add formalities without considering what effect this might have on the overall trading system. Traders then find themselves confronted with outmoded, incompatible and inefficient regulations and procedures. All of this significantly increases transaction costs. It also discourages participation in international trade, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises. According to estimates, the additional costs can easily reach 4 to 6 per cent of the total value of world trade. “Trade facilitation” measures, therefore, aim at removing procedural barriers and consequently reduce transaction costs for traders.

Isn’t trade facilitation one of the so-called “Singapore Issues” of the WTO? Why, then, is the Committee involved?

Yes, trade facilitation is under negotiation in the WTO, exactly because of its relevance for global trade. The trade facilitation activities of the WTO and of the Committee are, in fact, complementary. We provide the norms and standards to enable the rules negotiated at the WTO to be implemented. And we do this through our Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT). What the WTO does is ensure the necessary political will by Governments to implement these international trade facilitation measures.

UNECE has a long-standing history in facilitating international trade. It has been doing this since its inception in 1964. Today, with all the advance information requirements imposed by security measures, with the growing complexity of international supply chains and the incredible geographical extension of the production of goods, international traders are confronted with ever-increasing demands and challenges. UN/CEFACT already offers the norms, standards and recommendations to solve many of these problems. The Centre places great emphasis on sharing the gains of globalization and involving the private sector in the development of UN/CEFACT instruments.

How can you justify allocating UN resources to support UN/CEFACT trade facilitation activities?

International standards, such as those developed by UN/CEFACT, have the characteristic of a public good and are often expensive to develop. Such public goods benefit all users in terms of lower costs – whether or not they contributed financially to their development. As the private sector cannot gain a competitive advantage from freely available public goods, we can hardly expect them to finance them, thus it falls to Governments and intergovernmental organizations to take on the task of developing them. Hence the justification for supporting the valuable work that UN/CEFACT is doing.

In fact, many countries and companies around the world have built their trade facilitation systems based on UN/CEFACT instruments. The World Customs Organization (WCO) for example, recommends the use of the UN/EDIFACT standard for all data exchange between Customs administrations and trade.

Any reduction in resources would have serious implications for those countries and companies that rely on UN/CEFACT’s instruments for conducting their day-to-day business.

What will be the future developments in trade facilitation from UN/CEFACT's perspective?

At least for the near future, UN/CEFACT will continue to build upon its existing products, for example the United Nations electronic Trade Documents (UNeDocs) project, which is developing standardized trade documents that can be easily transferred between paper and a variety of electronic formats. UN/CEFACT also has an important new standard called the Core Components Library. This standard will provide a vocabulary for exchanging data across computer systems – regardless of the format or system used. Another major recommendation concerns setting up a “Single Window” facility for completing export and import procedures. This will also be further developed by looking at what common standards might be used for exchanging information between Single Windows in different countries. And, of course, standards for electronic data interchange, like UN/EDIFACT, will continue to be maintained and developed.



Also, as you can imagine, unless they are actually being used, international standards are of no value at all. To encourage countries to use them, UN/CEFACT will continue providing capacity-building to explain the standards and recommendations to countries, particularly the relevance they have for enterprise development. You may know that in the current WTO negotiations on trade facilitation, technical assistance is a key element of the negotiations. We certainly have our work cut out for us!

How do you see the future of regulatory convergence in the UNECE region and at the global level?

Regulatory convergence should be seen as a tool to help countries develop their regulatory framework for supporting business and trade among countries, including with less economically developed countries. Such convergence needs to be further developed in the region because it allows for the exchange of safe and reliable products and services without creating unnecessary trade obstacles or restrictions.

In the UNECE region, we have seen concrete results from our work in this area. In particular, we drew up a Recommendation for an “International Model”, which provides a well-defined framework for sectoral agreements on the harmonization of technical regulations based on standards. Numerous countries and organizations have expressed an interest in using the Model, including the CIS countries, the African Regional Standardization Organization and a number of Asian countries.

The UNECE's work on regulatory convergence under both the Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development and the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies is still developing. Further work will be done in the future on identifying the most efficient ways and tools for its implementation. Harmonized regulations, based on international standards are particularly important for the less economically developed countries and I see this as a very significant area for future work.

Why do we need regulatory convergence?

Let me try to answer this question by rewording it. Do we need to better assimilate countries into regional and global trade and other economic integration processes? Do we need a more harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business? Do we need a simplified, more efficient, more open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system? Do we need worldwide-implemented measures for trade of goods and services that protect health, life, environment and property? I believe that the answer to all of these questions is yes, from the UNECE and, in fact, all UN Member States as well as from consumers and, as a result, they have shown a great interest in this UNECE activity.

How do you see the impact of regulatory convergence on the agricultural sector in the UNECE region?

Sanitary measures and technical regulations on quality need not always constitute unnecessary barriers to trade. If countries apply UNECE agricultural quality standards, they have a better chance of selling their produce abroad, within the region and internationally. And given the importance of the agricultural sector in many UNECE countries, particularly in South-East Europe and the CIS, increasing the export of agricultural products may help these countries to create new businesses and jobs, thus increasing the well-being of their populations.

Don't you think that the current trend in international trade is towards an increasing number of "procedures", which are going to act as invisible trade barriers? What solutions do you see to this?

First of all, I don't think this is a trend. If we're talking about technical barriers to trade which originate in legally binding instruments, these barriers are not invisible ones. You can see them in the respective technical regulations, you can see them in the procedures that national authorities apply. But yes, you are right – a number of countries are indeed using these procedures as technical barriers to protect their domestic markets.

UNECE carries out different activities that help to reduce or remove such barriers. In addition to trade facilitation measures, there are a number of good practices that can and should be promoted. For instance, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) among countries or economic regions. These support a wide acceptance of conformity-assessment [test] results for consumer and industrial products. Another example is the exchange of information on nationally developed technical regulations, which can prevent the creation of technical barriers to trade. Sharing best practices for assessing the impact of regulatory changes on business and trade is an area that we may focus more on in the future. Through our work in exchanging experiences, sharing information, as well as promoting good regulatory practices and recommendations, we pursue the goal of helping our member countries and economic regions to improve their regulatory policies and practices, thus achieving the goals of the main mandate for greater economic integration that we have received from our member States.

Major achievements in 2005

The UNECE trade development activities pursued three main objectives:

- Supporting and developing the infrastructure for international trade;
- Reducing obstacles to greater regional trade; and
- Furthering the integration of countries with economies in transition into the global economy.

It has worked towards these objectives by maintaining, developing and promoting trade-related norms, standards and tools, by developing policy recommendations and by providing forums and publications for the exchange of best practice among policymakers and experts.

Many of these core activities acquired particular significance during 2005 because of the WTO negotiations on trade facilitation in the run-up to the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong at the end of the year. UNECE contributed to the shaping of a consensus through several activities. For example, in April, within the context of the WTO Public Symposium, UNECE organized a workshop in Geneva on «Trade Facilitation: A Tool for Development» in collaboration with the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC). The workshop was attended by high-level representatives from missions, capitals, international organizations and the private sector. It highlighted the role of trade facilitation in countries' successful integration into international trade and investment networks and, thus, their development and growth.

The UNECE also published a report outlining how its work in trade and transport could assist WTO Members in addressing operational requirements under the trade facilitation related GATT articles (V, VIII and X) that are currently under negotiation. Further, it organized capacity-building events at the request of different regional groupings to offer trade facilitation negotiators further insight into the technical issues and the implications of the GATT articles. These

events were held in Kuala Lumpur, for the Asia-Pacific Region, and in Geneva, at the WTO Headquarters, for the African Group within the WTO.

The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) revised or added more than 4,000 entries to the UN Location Code (UN/LOCODE). This code is used by the world's major postal, customs and shipping organizations. UN/EDIFACT, the international standard for electronic data interchange, was also updated and a message added for exchanging tracing and environmental information for agricultural products.

UN/CEFACT also made progress on several electronic business standards that support paperless trade, including: Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) Naming and Design Rules; a new version of the Uniform Modelling Language (UML); an updated Core Component Technical Specification (CCTS); and a number of Business Requirements Specifications (BRS) for the core component library.

This progress was mirrored by the 3rd International Forum on Trade Facilitation on "Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security" in June. More than 300 delegates discussed the benefits and challenges of paperless trade, especially for customs clearance, trade logistics, banking, port

management and air transport. The Forum endorsed a roadmap for migration to paperless trade, which will provide a framework for national policymakers to move towards this goal. The Forum was a thematic event under the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) and was reported to the Global WSIS meeting in Tunis in November 2005.

The 7th UN/CEFACT Forum, which took place in Lyon, France, in September focused on the implementation and further development of UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33 on establishing a Single Window (Single Windows allow traders to submit all import and export formalities and payments at one location). It also focused on a revision of Recommendation 6 on the Aligned Invoice Layout Key for International Trade, as well as the development of standards for UN electronic Trade documents (UNeDocs). The Forum looked at how code lists such as the newly updated “Codes for Units of Measure used in International Trade” could be made easily available for use in e-business and it inaugurated two new working groups on electronic documents and agriculture.

In the area of regulatory cooperation and standardization policies, work on market surveillance gained momentum. National market surveillance agencies, in particular in transition economies, are finding it increasingly difficult to ensure that users and consumers are protected from dangerous and substandard goods, without having recourse to trade-restrictive practices. The Second International Forum on Market Surveillance and Consumer Protection, held in October 2005, presented different national approaches and shared practical solutions to common problems. The overall objective of the forum was to identify best practices.

Access to agricultural export markets depends increasingly on respecting international agricultural quality standards. As the leading world agency in the development of such standards, UNECE actively continues to develop new standards and update existing ones to meet new requirements from consumers and traders. In 2005, approximately 15 existing standards and recommendations were updated, and a proposal for a new UNECE Recommendation for “ceps” (a type of mushroom) was approved. This work was complemented by UNECE’s contributions to capacity-building seminars for implementing these standards, organized jointly with OECD, in Georgia and Slovakia.

Major challenges for 2006

These will include preparing follow-up to decisions on trade facilitation made at the WTO Sixth Ministerial Conference, as well as continuing to provide support to countries participating in the WTO trade facilitation negotiations.

Many Single Window operators have asked UN/CEFACT to develop common standards for the interoperability of Single Windows. To respond to this need, UN/CEFACT will hold a workshop on this topic in early 2006.

The UNECE will look at how it can help countries to advance in implementing the “Roadmap towards Paperless Trade” that was approved in 2005. In addition, advancing the programme of work on trade facilitation and electronic business standards at the UN/CEFACT Forum in Vancouver, Canada in March 2006 will be important.

In June 2006, UNECE will organize an international forum on regulatory cooperation to examine current developments in regulation and standardization in the UNECE region. The forum is expected: to identify the major problems and concerns in European and trans-Atlantic regulatory cooperation; to receive an update on regulatory cooperation tendencies in other regions and on good regulatory practices drawn up by Governments and international organizations; and to provide an overview and analysis of relevant UNECE activities in the context of UNECE member States’ requirements.



Further work will also be undertaken to promote the practical implementation of UNECE’s Recommendation “L” on Regulatory Harmonization, which is based on the use of international standards.

Work on agricultural quality standards will continue. UNECE member States would like to see greater coordination between UNECE, as creator of the standards, and OECD, as a promoter of the standards through its implementation guidelines. Both secretariats are committed to achieving this. In addition, Governments have expressed the wish to see greater promotion and implementation of the standards outside the region (i.e. by countries that export to UNECE countries) and this will be another challenge to meet given the existing resources for this work.



Mr. Heikki Pajuoja,

Chairperson of the Timber Committee

We all are meeting real challenges. The whole forest sector is under strong competition from regions of the world where forests grow faster, production costs are lower and where also markets are expanding faster than in our region. The response to that challenge is to create a higher degree of value added to existing products and services. And when it comes to competition with other materials and sectors, our important asset for the sector is that it bases itself on a renewable resource. This is a marketing power and tool that has not been recognized widely enough yet. Another problem concerns the acceptability of forest management practice to the general public whose understanding of forest issues is often based on fundamental misunderstandings.

There is a lot of diversity across countries in how the forests are viewed and used. Forests serve a multitude of functions. Sustainability and multifunctionality are guiding principles of forest policies and forest management. Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators). We need to respond to society's concern on a range of issues related to the sector, like climate change, forest health, biodiversity, deforestation, wastes, emissions and recycling of materials. For example when climate change is discussed we should underline that wood when sustainably produced is a CO₂ neutral and a renewable resource.

In 2000 governments of the UNECE region adopted a series of objectives to promote and facilitate the transition to a more sustainable energy future. The importance of wood as a biological energy source has increased and it will be a larger and integrated actor in the European systems for energy supply. This requires new business models and advanced manufacturing technologies. Our challenge is to create a reliable source and base for information, which is needed to be able to follow the development of the wood energy sector.

Public procurement policies for forest products increasingly aim to promote products from sustainably managed forests. However policies differ so much from country to country that a major concern is emerging that these differences are leading to possible distortion of competition and effects on trade. The UNECE Timber Committee, together with the FAO European Forestry Commission, will organize a policy forum on public procurement policies in autumn 2006 to address these issues.

The forest sector has the potential to become more knowledge-based, more customer and innovations driven. Our task is to help in creating more links between different actors like policymakers, forest owners, civil society and the industrial users of wood. The main contribution of the programme is through developing and applying tools to analyse and monitor both policy and developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, and joint efforts to measure progress. While all countries benefit from international cooperation, the programme recognizes the special needs of the countries of the CIS and South-East Europe, where forest sector problems tend to be more acute and national capacity weaker.

As stated now the objective of the working programme is: to contribute to achieving sustainable forest management, including the sound and legal use of wood, other forest products and services, throughout the UNECE region, and to ensure measurement of that progress. These are challenges where we need strong international cooperation. The Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission have a joint programme of work and wherever possible work in partnership with other organizations. Operational partnerships are in place with the Liaison Unit for the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), Eurostat, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the European Forest Institute (EFI). Cooperation has been established and is on-going with a wide range of social, economic and environmental NGOs. ■■■■■



Major achievements in 2005

The major issues of sustainable forest management in the region were addressed. The European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) was issued at the beginning of the year, with a number of policy recommendations based on detailed analysis and projection of trends to 2020. During the year, Governments, the European Union, stakeholders and the private sector considered the implications of the EFSOS analysis for their own strategies and policies. In particular a workshop in Riga explored how forest sector actors should respond to the increasingly complex and cross-sectoral nature of policy issues, for instance with the interactions between forest/timber sector developments and those for energy, environment, water trade and rural development.

Efforts to support the sustainable development of the forest and timber sector in countries of the CIS and South-East Europe focused on capacity building, notably in the areas of information and analysis. A workshop was held on capacity building for information, focused on the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

A stream of high quality information and analysis was provided, focused on statistics on production and trade of forest products, analysis and discussion of markets, notably the Forest Products Annual Market Review and the annual timber committee market discussions. Country profiles were issued on Bulgaria and on Serbia and Montenegro. A major contribution was made to the Global Forest Resource assessment issued in December 2005, led by FAO. Data for all countries in Europe and CIS included in this major contribution to monitoring forest trends and one of the Millennium Development Goals indicators were collected and validated. For the first time at global level this study, building on experience in the UNECE region and elsewhere, was able to provide credible information on all aspects of sustainable forest management, economic, social and ecological, according to agreed sets of criteria and indicators.

In 2005 information for the regional discussion on forest law enforcement and governance, notably illegal logging, was provided. A policy forum was held on the role of governments in forest certification, which made it possible to compare and contrast the strategies and

priorities of different governments in relation to the dynamic development of certification which, despite being a voluntary market based instrument, has multiple consequences for policy, due to governments' obligations as forest owners, as promoters of sustainable development and free trade.

Major challenges for 2006

The subprogramme will continue to provide a basis for monitoring and analysis of sustainable forest management in the region. The session of the FAO European Forestry Commission in May 2006 will address a range of major policy issues including the lessons learned from 15 years of the transition process in the sector and the possible consequences of climate change for European forests and timber. The report on the State of Europe's Forests 2007 for the Ministerial Conference in Warsaw will be prepared, further broadening the scope and improving the quality of the information provided by UNECE and its partners. A policy forum on public procurement of forest products will be held in conjunction with the Timber Committee session. Work will continue to improve the knowledge base for policymaking, notably in the field of wood energy, and of illegal logging and trade of forest products.



Ms. Katherine K. Wallman,

Chairperson of the Conference of European Statisticians

What are the developments and challenges of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians ?

In recent months, the UNECE has proposed plans for reform that seek to improve its governance structure and redefine its priorities. This reform also promotes closer collaboration between UNECE and other international organizations active in the region in order to avoid duplication and to maximize comparative advantages. In accordance with the conclusions of the reform effort, UNECE will continue to coordinate international statistical work, develop statistical methodologies, and provide technical assistance in statistics – areas where the UNECE has a long history of leadership. In addition, priorities will include the development of a database for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.

Given the many international organizations in the UNECE region, it is an ongoing challenge for the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and the UNECE Statistical Division to coordinate statistical activities. In cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the UNECE has developed, over the past 15 years, the “Integrated Database of International Statistical Work Programmes in the UNECE Region;” this interactive database (available on the UNECE website) includes information on the activities of approximately 30 organizations that undertake statistical work in the region (e.g., data collections, standards development, and exchanges of expertise). The forward-looking database, which presents the work programmes under some 50 headings, enables the goals and planned activities of the various organizations to be monitored and coordinated. (This tool is a model that merits consideration for coordinating work in other UNECE subject-matter areas that involve multiple international organizations.)

The CES work programme further promotes collaboration in the region, particularly in the area of standards development, by organizing meetings jointly with other international organizations on topics of mutual interest. This type of cooperation has become increasingly important in the light of the fact that 25 of the 55 UNECE member countries now belong to the European Union. For example, a priority area of Eurostat and UNECE collaboration has been the preparation of recommendations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, which the CES will consider for adoption at its annual plenary session in June 2006. More recently, the CES has begun to meet jointly with Eurostat and OECD to explore and guide future activities of the UNECE in selected areas of demographic and social statistics. In addition to providing substantive contributions to and secretarial support for these joint meetings, the UNECE’s involvement allows non-EU and non-OECD countries in the UNECE region to be associated with the development work of these partner organizations and provides a kind of bridge for European-based specialized UN agencies (such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the International Labour Organization) with national statistical offices.

UNECE and the CES member countries provide technical assistance to implement the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other statistical capacity building projects in the Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. A continuing challenge in recent years has been meeting the capacity building needs of the Balkan and CIS countries in the most efficient and effective manner. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians is currently considering how to improve coordination of technical assistance in statistics in the region, particularly the assistance that is provided by UNECE, Eurostat, and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS (CIS-STAT).

As a result of the recent reform, the UNECE will have as a priority the challenge of developing and maintaining a database on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators using its data and dissemination infrastructure. As a first step in this process, a questionnaire has been developed to assess the capacity of countries to report on MDGs and will be analysing the results of this



information in the coming months. Such analysis must be done with great care to ensure clear understanding not only of the basic availability of indicator data but also of the underlying quality of information that can be provided by the national statistical offices.

A special challenge for the CES in recent years has been the growing diversity of statistical capability among the member countries of the UNECE – ranging from those who are the most advanced in the world to those just building some core aspects of their systems. In 2002, the CES substantially adapted the structure and content of its annual meetings to ensure that the agenda remains relevant to all countries, regardless of their level of statistical or economic development. As a result, in addition to the formal business portion of the agenda, the annual meetings now feature two seminar sessions – one focusing on fundamental issues that confront all national statistical offices and the other examining emerging issues. Over the past several years, the “fundamental issues” have included statistical confidentiality and micro data, the integrity of official statistics, and improved data reporting, while “emerging issues” have included globalization of statistics, measuring prices and volume in the service sector, and statistics for measuring sustainable development. (Topics to be discussed at the June 2006 meeting are population censuses and human resources and training.) As an outgrowth of these seminars, the countries have in several cases undertaken follow-up work in areas such as statistical data confidentiality, data for measuring sustainable development, and improved data reporting. This revised approach to the CES annual meeting is proving to be quite successful not only in conveying useful information and engendering lively debate on a variety of important topics, but also in attracting the active participation of the heads of the national statistical offices in the seminars. It is also noteworthy that beginning in 1994, the OECD has hosted the annual meeting of the CES in alternate years, providing further evidence of the close collaboration between the UNECE and the OECD in statistical work.

Periodically throughout its more than 50-year history, the Conference of European Statisticians has taken the initiative to review its working methods to determine if it could operate more efficiently and has adapted its priorities and activities to meet the needs of the member countries. ■■■■■



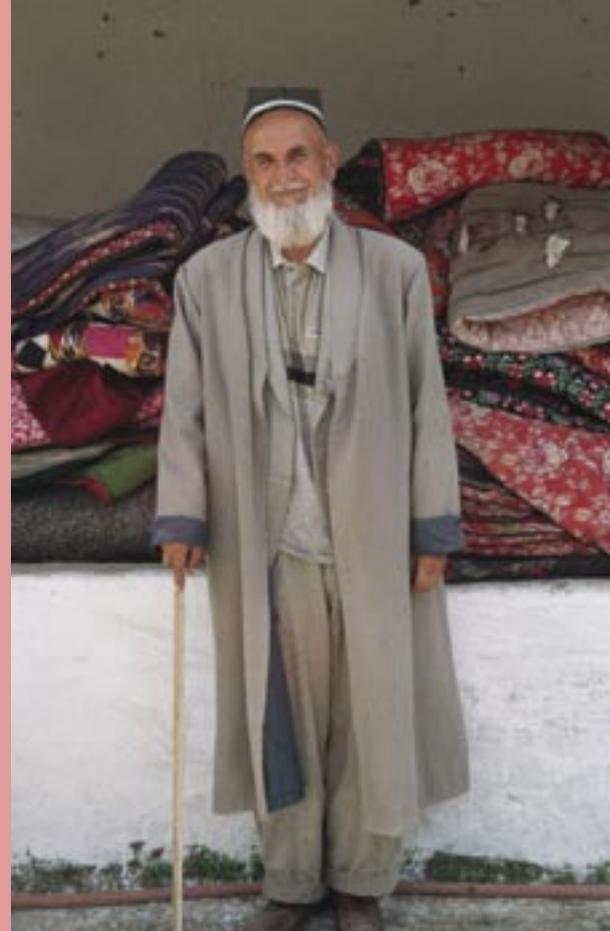
Major achievements in 2005

UNECE is one of the custodian organizations of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (adopted by UNECE in 1992). These principles are basic rules for all official statistics, whatever the subject area. They include such items as impartiality, professional independence for producers of official statistics, equality of access to results for all users, transparency of sources and methods, and confidentiality of information about individuals. The UNECE took an initiative in 2003 to propose a set of similar principles for international statistical activities. In September 2005, all international organizations active in statistics agreed on such a set of principles, and each organization is asked by UN Headquarters to subscribe to and implement them.

UNECE provided assistance and advice for implementing the 1992 fundamental principles to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, and Republic of Moldova through revised statistical legislation and, concerning specific institutional issues, also to Albania and to Serbia and Montenegro. UNECE was also invited to contribute to a seminar organized by Eurostat for all CIS countries on institutional issues of official statistics.

Public access was extended to additional macroeconomic data, and to socio-economic indicators contained in the gender database, and the user friendliness of the interface was further improved. The improvements to the interface will also enable the UNECE secretariat to know more about who the users of the database are and whether their needs have been satisfied, and this monitoring function will be used for further evaluation of the online database.

The methodological work towards new or revised standards and guidelines continued under the auspices of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). A priority area of work was the preparation of the recommendations for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, to be adopted in 2006. Most meetings held in the various



subject areas were organized as joint meetings with other organizations. An important new activity is a joint meeting with Eurostat and OECD for directors of social statistics in national statistical offices, which will, in addition to other functions, serve as a steering group for the various activities of UNECE in selected areas of demographic and social statistics. Furthermore, a second round of reviewing the practices of countries to measure the non-observed economy was launched.

Technical cooperation in statistics was provided to the Balkans and the CIS countries. The partnership with Eurostat continued in South-Eastern Europe, with the global assessment of the statistical system of Albania, including recommendations for short- and medium-term improvements. Bilateral technical cooperation was also provided to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the measurement of the non-observed economy, to the Russian Federation on international migration statistics, and to Georgia on population statistics.

Multilateral technical cooperation took the form of seminars and training workshops, for example on MDG-related health statistics to CIS countries and, in cooperation with the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS and the Federal Service of State Statistics of the Russian

Federation, on the compilation of industrial production indices. The International Conference on Strengthening Sub-regional Cooperation in Central Asia held in Astana in May 2005 decided to set up a project working group on statistics; the main areas of cooperation as from 2006 will be population censuses, health statistics, and statistics on the non-observed economy. In addition, UNECE was asked to join a cooperative undertaking by various international organizations (European Commission, Council of Europe, UN Headquarters) to advise UNMIK (United Nations Mission in Kosovo) on the preparation of a population census in Kosovo, and to monitor the various stages of this census. The World Bank, USAID and UNECE organized a workshop on gender statistics for Central Asian countries.

After in-depth discussion of improved data reporting and measurement of sustainable development, two topics that require the attention of top management, the Conference set up groups to pursue work in these areas.

The Conference discussed a draft of a new standard: Core Principles on Managing Confidentiality and Access to Microdata (planned to be adopted in June 2006). It also reviewed the issues and problems in migration statistics and the need for harmonizing the terminology and definitions across countries and international organizations in this area.

Major challenges for 2006

The Conference of European Statisticians will be invited to adopt in 2006 the Recommendation for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, developed jointly by UNECE and Eurostat.

UNECE will contribute substantially to a revision of the system of national accounts SNA – a key statistical standard at global level. This will be discussed at the UNECE meeting on national accounts in April 2006.

The Conference will discuss the assessment of the present capacity of UNECE countries to produce data for the MDG indicators as part of their regular production of official statistics at national level, and draw some conclusions for further work in this area.

The main new element of technical cooperation in 2006 will be to start implementing the first development account project, in cooperation with ESCAP, on statistical capacity building in Central Asia. This activity will be carried out within the framework of SPECA.

GENDER ISSUES

Major achievements in 2005

Activities focused on mainstreaming gender into economic cooperation in central Asia within the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) and the process of building the Information Society. They reflect priority actions identified by the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the UNECE region, and in particular the need to “engender” macroeconomic policies, reverse negative trends in women’s position in the economy in CIS countries and address the gender digital divide.

A High-level Round Table “Women in the Information Society: Building a gender sensitive Knowledge-based Economy” at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (Tunis, 16 November) raised awareness and discussed the experiences of various regions. The event, coordinated by UNECE and UNESCWA, was a joint venture of the regional commissions, UNCTAD and the UN-ICT Task Force.

Participants agreed that despite progress in many countries with diverse levels of development and gender equality, such as Finland, Jordan, Philippines and Slovenia, the gender digital divide prevails across all regions. There is a need to ensure women’s rights in the information society, improve women’s education and ICT skills, open ICT related employment opportunities and change the traditional views on women’s links to technology.

In conclusion, the participants called to strengthen the gender dimension of the WSIS process including through closer cooperation among regional commissions and other organizations. In this context the Tunis agenda for the Information Society was critically evaluated, in particular its part on financial mechanisms and concrete implementation measures which, in contrast to the part on principles, has only a few general references to gender (paragraphs on building ICT capacity, training and education and gender disaggregated data).

Major challenges for 2006

A major challenge is to make gender a priority cross-cutting theme for UNECE activities as recommended by the Work Plan for UNECE reform. This needs more discussion in the context of the economic and often highly technical work of the organization. Concrete activities under relevant subprogrammes need to be identified as well as mechanisms and resources to implement the mainstreaming process. Knowledge-sharing seminars and training are among measures to be taken in addition to increasing women’s participation in the process of decision-making on programmes of work. Undertaking this challenge is an opportunity to build up the UNECE’s position in a niche in gender work related to economics and thus improve the political visibility of UNECE and its contribution to the regional implementation of the outcomes of global UN Conferences and Summits.

Mainstreaming gender into economic cooperation in central Asia will be carried out by a new SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy, established at the initiative of Kazakhstan as a follow-up to the round table discussion at the International Conference on Strengthening Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation and the Future Role of SPECA (Astana, 25-27 May 2005). The preparatory meeting in December 2005 – attended by all SPECA member countries including its new member, Afghanistan – concluded that gender equality was essential not only to ensure equal opportunities for women and men but also to effectively use the countries’ economic



potential for sustainable development. The group will take a multi-stakeholder approach, gathering together not only representatives of national gender machineries but also line economic ministries (economy, finance, SMEs) and NGOs working on economic issues, especially women’s business associations.

The main areas of work will be (a) raising awareness on gender and economy issues through policy oriented analysis and development of gender disaggregated data as well as training on mainstreaming gender into economic policies; (b) support for women’s entrepreneurship; and (c) developing synergies with other SPECA activities, such as water and energy, trade, ICT and statistics. Activities will draw on existing good practices and lessons including those learned from international assistance programmes in the region. The work of the new group will be supported jointly by UNECE and UNESCAP in cooperation with partner organizations, which include UN agencies as well as OSCE/ODIHR.

Two training workshops will be held on micro-credits and the use of ICT for women’s entrepreneurs, organized by the Government of Israel (3-10 April and 16-26 October 2006), gender training for economic line ministries in SPECA member countries will be organized, and a contribution made to the SPECA Economic Forum (Baku, Azerbaijan).

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Major achievements in 2005

The two issues of the Economic Survey of Europe produced in 2005 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 the CIS. The better performance of the United States relative to western Europe in terms of output and productivity growth since the 1990s is now an accepted fact. The first issue of the Survey included a study which analysed this issue from a longer-term perspective, and suggested that a more comprehensive comparison between the United States and western Europe, that includes social and environmental indicators, income distribution, social welfare and health care, might present a different picture than if per capita gross domestic product alone is considered.

Rich endowments in oil and gas present tremendous opportunities but also significant challenges to sustainable economic development for a significant number of member States in the UNECE region. With the aim of identifying some of the main tasks and responsibilities of UNECE governments, the UNECE Spring Seminar 2005 dealt with the topic "Financing for development in the UNECE region: promoting growth in low-income transition economies". Participants at the Seminar pointed out that the gains from globalization have been shared unequally and that some countries have been left behind because they have been unable to mobilize sufficient domestic financial resources or to attract sufficient foreign capital to invest in economic development. They called for multilateral and international cooperation to guarantee stable access to international financial markets for developing and transition economies.

In accordance with the ongoing restructuring of some UN-wide analytical activities, the UNECE has new responsibilities in the preparation of the annual publication World Economic and Social Prospects (WESP) and World Economic and Social Survey (WESS) published by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in New York. UNECE has provided substantive inputs on the short-term economic outlook in the UNECE region for the next issue of WESP. It has also prepared background papers on the medium term growth potentials in the region for the WESS.

UNECE contributed to the review of commitments of the OSCE by preparing a report on "Integration, Trade and Transport" in the UNECE region, highlighting OSCE commitments in the areas of integration (i.e., trade and capital flows) as well as transport. In the context of integration, assessment of the degree of access to the Internet as well as other forms of modern communication was also made. UNECE has also been involved with the OSCE in jointly developing the conceptual framework for the early warning mechanism.

Pascal Lamy, current Director-General of the World Trade Organization, delivered the 2005 Gunnar Myrdal lecture on "Global Governance: Lessons from Europe". In this presentation, Mr. Lamy attempted to determine the right kind of governance for a world that is now global and the amount of governance that is needed. Starting from the principle of subsidiarity, where governance should be as local as possible, he reasoned that global governance should be limited to those cases where a more regional approach would be ineffective. Using this basic principle, he examined the need for global governance by drawing on the experience of European integration.

Population analysis focused on the Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), and on the follow-up activities to the UNECE

Ministerial Conference on Ageing (MiCA, Berlin, 2002) and to the European Population Forum (Geneva, 2004).

In the framework of the follow-up to MiCA, the UNECE organized the workshop «Care Provision in Ageing Societies: What are the Policy Challenges and How to Address them?» in April in Malta, in cooperation with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and the Institute for Older Persons and Social Services, Madrid, Spain. The workshop outlined a two-pronged approach to the review of the implementation of MiCA decisions by governments, which includes monitoring the policies specific to population ageing and the extent to which ageing is mainstreamed into general development policies.

In the framework of the revision of the Recommendations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in the UNECE Region, the UNECE will prepare and publish a study on national practices during the 2000-round of population and housing censuses.

INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Major achievements in 2005

In order to prepare a toolkit for policymakers on how to transform property assets held by the socially and economically disadvantaged into usable capital, a High Level Commission on Property Rights for the Poor was established by the Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice. The outcome from this Commission will constitute an important contribution to achieving the goals of poverty alleviation.

The Real Estate Advisory Group's Land for Development Programme (LFD) programme led to the establishment under UNECE of a programme on Third Party Arbitration Courts (TPACs) for emerging market economies in the region where TPACs can strengthen newly acquired property rights of citizens in rural areas and support affordable dispute resolution. The Department for International Development of the United Kingdom Government has provided extrabudgetary funding to the UNECE to promote this programme. In addition to serving member States, the programme will also become a flagship project for the High Level Commission.

The UNECE and World Intellectual Property Organization jointly organized in Kazakhstan a seminar on enforcement of intellectual property rights, cooperation with the World Customs Union and the US Patent Office. Good governance guidelines for Public-Private-Partnerships have been finalized.

A Seminar on the E business Repository Project was organized to report results of research conducted by the UNECE Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development (TSIED) on business registration and repositories in four UNECE member countries.

A Forum on Entrepreneurship in the UNECE Region: The Key Building Blocks, Challenges and Opportunities was organized, opened by Mr. Christian Poncelet, President of the French Senate. An event was also organized around the theme of Corporate Governance Trends and Issues in the UNECE Region.

A Forum "After Fifteen Years of Market Reforms in Transition Economies: New Challenges and Perspectives for the Industrial Sector" was held in May 2005.



ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

In order to respond to the actual needs expressed by its member States, the Commission established in December 2005 a new subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration, attributed to a new UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. The first session of the Committee is expected to take place in Autumn 2006.

The objective of the subprogramme is to promote a more conducive policy, financial and regulatory environment for economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the UNECE region.

In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will address key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition. It will deliver policy advice, facilitate policy dialogue and exchange experience and best practice as well as develop relevant guidelines. To this end the subprogramme will facilitate application of the experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development, and will elaborate on this basis recommendations aimed at creating a policy, financial and regulatory environment which will contribute to economic development, investment and innovation.

Work under the subprogramme will be demand driven, will focus on specific topics and, subject to the multi-year work programme of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, will aim at strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by: (i) promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation; (ii) facilitating the development of entrepreneurship and the emergence of new enterprises; (iii) facilitating effective regulatory policies and corporate governance, including those in the financial sector; and (iv) promoting public-private partnerships for domestic and foreign investment, as well as intellectual property rights.

In support of this work the secretariat – building inter alia on relevant work carried out by other organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision-makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition – will undertake applied economic analysis, collect lessons learned and experience gained, prepare case studies and elaborate proposals and options for policy debate among member States and other stakeholders.

The results of this work would be considered by thematic groups of experts and time-bound task forces, involving representatives of governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders, which would provide a platform for exchanges of national policy experiences and identification of best practice. Subsequently, these outputs would be brought to the attention of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration, which would serve as a forum for policy dialogue among member States and elaborate relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and standards. The results of work carried out under the subprogramme would be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders.

These results would also serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops, with a view to assisting members

States, upon their request, and particularly countries with economies in transition, including emerging market economies, in the adaptation and application of best practice and in implementation of guidelines, standards and policy recommendations emanating from the Committee.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Technical cooperation is an important supporting instrument for implementing the UNECE core programme of work. Technical cooperation activities are carried out by UNECE in accordance with the priorities set by its respective intergovernmental bodies as well as decisions taken by the Commission. In particular, they follow the UNECE Technical Cooperation Strategy, endorsed by the Commission at its 2004 annual session, which outlined the main principles, goals and objectives of the UNECE technical cooperation work, taking into account the geopolitical changes in the UNECE region resulting from EU enlargement, evolving priorities of its member States as well as challenges related to the implementation of goals and objectives emanating from recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The prevailing ways and means employed for the implementation of the UNECE technical cooperation services are capacity building workshops, seminars, study tours, and training aimed at assisting recipient countries to adopt and implement international legal instruments, norms, standards and regulations, as well as other policy advisory services carried out at the request of interested countries.

An important advantage of UNECE is that its mandate combines, within the framework of one institution, analytical, normative and technical cooperation functions. This allows not only the direct translation of intergovernmentally agreed norms and standards into technical cooperation activities aimed at assisting countries in their implementation, but also to have a «hands-on» in-house experience of the realities in the field which is of great value for analytical, policy development and norms setting work. Another way in which UNECE adds value to technical cooperation activities carried out by other international organizations in the region is its focus on cross-border and subregional issues.

Major achievements in 2005

In 2005 UNECE technical cooperation activities focused on the following priority areas:

- Trade facilitation with an emphasis on economies in transition and emerging market economies, including through e-commerce;
- Integration of economies in transition and emerging market economies in European transport and electric power networks with a special emphasis on the land-locked countries;
- Promotion of the efficient use of energy and water resources;
- Promotion of rehabilitation and protection of the environment;
- Support for the development of the e-economy and the information society, inter alia through efficient use of ICTs;
- Promotion of the development of statistical tools for monitoring progress towards development goals and good governance;
- Promotion of SMEs and business/producer associations, as well as support to women's entrepreneurship.

The UNECE technical cooperation activities are carried out in cooperation with other international organizations and institutions, both within and outside the UN system, as well as various subregional organizations and initiatives such as the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), Stability Pact, Central European Initiative (CEI), CIS, and Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). UNECE also has a shared responsibility with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to provide technical assistance to the Central Asian countries within the framework of the

UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA).

SPECA was launched in 1998 by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with the objective of supporting the Central Asian States in developing their cooperation, and creating incentives for economic development and integration into the economies of Europe and Asia. Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan later joined the Programme.

Following the UN Secretary-General's initiative, the Executive Secretaries of UNECE and UNESCAP during 2004-2006 conducted consultations with the Governments of the SPECA Member States on strengthening the Programme. In the course of 2005, UNECE and UNESCAP, on the basis of progress achieved and problems encountered over the past years, elaborated, in consultation with Governments, a range of proposals to make SPECA more relevant to the current requirements of its Member States. These proposals include organizational reforms, new working methods, improved and more stable funding, as well as possible new areas of cooperation.

On 25-27 May 2005, the Government of Kazakhstan, in cooperation with UNECE and UNESCAP, organized in Astana an international Conference on subregional economic cooperation in Central Asia and the future role of SPECA. This conference benefited from the participation, in addition to all SPECA Member States, of representatives of other interested countries, international and regional integration and cooperation organizations, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors. It discussed the set of the SPECA reform proposals that was eventually approved by the Special meeting of the SPECA national coordinators, in particular the Work Plan in support of SPECA for 2005-2007. The Plan includes projects in the following areas: transport; water, energy and environment; trade development; statistical capacity-building; and ICT for development. As part of the follow-up to the Astana Conference, meetings of SPECA Project Working Groups on Energy and Water Resources and on ICT for Development took place in November-December 2005, along with a preparatory meeting for a SPECA Working Group on Gender and Economy. For the first part of 2006, plans are being made for meetings of Project Working Groups on Transport,

Trade and Statistics. SPECA Governing Council and the first session of SPECA Economic Forum are expected to meet in Baku in June 2006. In addition a SPECA Network of Economic Research Institutions is in the process of being set up.

Technical cooperation activities are financed from the UN Regular Budget (mainly the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation and the UN Development Account), extrabudgetary resources, usually contributed to trust funds, as well as various ad hoc and in kind contributions. The resources made available under the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation in 2004-2005 (about US\$ 3 million) were distributed between the Subprogrammes on Environment, Transport, Statistics, Sustainable energy, Trade development, and Industrial restructuring and enterprise development.

Extrabudgetary resources spent in 2005 were about US\$ 8 million on 52 trust fund projects, about 50 per cent were spent within the Subprogramme on Environment and about 19 per cent within the Subprogramme on Transport. More than 70 advisory missions were undertaken in 2005 at the request of interested countries to provide policy advice and implement capacity building activities.

More detailed information of specific technical cooperation activities as well as main achievements can be found in other chapters of this Report.



GOVERNING BODIES

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Chairperson:

Mr. François Roux (Belgium)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Vladimir Thanati (Albania)

Mr. Alexander Slabý (Czech Republic)

Mr. Dumitru Croitor (Republic of Moldova)

Principal Subsidiary Bodies

Committee on Environmental Policy

Chairperson:

Mr. Zaal Lomtadze (Georgia)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Narin Panariti (Albania)

Mr. Bert-Axel Szelinski (Germany)

Ms. Elrid Nordbø (Norway)

Mr. Czeslaw Wieckowski (Poland)

Ms. Liubov Stepanova (Russian Federation)

Mr. Jon Kahn (Sweden)

Mr. John-Michael Matuszak (United States of America)

Committee on Housing and Land Management

Chairperson:

Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania)

Mr. Azar Khanlarov (Azerbaijan)

Mrs. Natia Jokhadze (Georgia)

Mr. Peter Creuzer (Germany)

Ms. Maria Jose Festas (Portugal)

Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia)

Ms. Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie (Slovenia)

Mr. Ernst Hauri (Switzerland)

Mrs. Shannon Sorzano (United States of America)

Committee on Sustainable Energy

Chairperson:

Mr. Laszlo Molnar (Hungary)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Renaud Abord-de-Chatillon (France)

Mr. Sergei Mikhailov (Russian Federation)

Mr. Jean-Christophe Füeg (Switzerland)

Mr. Trajce Cerepnalkovski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Mr. Nick Otter (United Kingdom)

Mrs. Barbara McKee (United States of America)

Committee on Trade

Chairperson:

Mr. Alexander Šafařík-Pštrosz (Czech Republic)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Dimitri Japaridze (Georgia)

Mr. José Luis Sanz-Benito (Spain)

Mr. Zoran Jolevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Mr. Mario W. Cardullo (United States of America)

Conference of European Statisticians

Chairperson:

Ms. Katherine Wallman (United States of America)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Milva Ekonomi (Albania)

Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)

Mr. Luigi Biggeri (Italy)

Mr. Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation)

Ms. Irena Krizman (Slovenia)

Mr. Svante Öberg (Sweden)

Mr. Dennis Trewin (Australia)

Committee on Inland Transport

Chairperson :

Mr. Evgeny Mokeev (Russian Federation)

Vice-Chairperson:

Mr. Xavier Guerin (France)

Mr. Jean-Claude Schnewly (Switzerland)

Members:

Mr. Peter Päßgen (Germany)

Mrs. Konstantina Kosmidou (Greece)

Mr. José Alberto Franco (Portugal)

Mrs. Ümit Armangil (Turkey)

Mr. Gennadiy Rak (Ukraine)

Committee on Timber

Chairman:

Mr. Heikki Pajuoja (Finland)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Johann Dengg (Germany)

Mr. Gheorghe Florian Borlea (Romania)

Intergovernmental Structure



Member States and Member States Representatives

<i>Albania</i>	H.E. Mr. Vladimir THANATI
<i>Andorra</i>	H.E. Mr. Francesc BONET CASAS
<i>Armenia</i>	Mr. Zohrab MNATSAKANIAN
<i>Austria</i>	H.E. Mr. Wolfgang PETRITSCH
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	H.E. Mr. Elchin AMIRBAYOV
<i>Belarus</i>	Mr. Sergei ALEINIK
<i>Belgium</i>	H.E. Mr. François ROUX
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	H.E. Mrs. Jadranka KALMETA
<i>Bulgaria</i>	H.E. Mr. Petko DRAGANOV
<i>Canada</i>	H.E. Mr. Don STEPHENSON
<i>Croatia</i>	H.E. Mr. Gordan MARKOTIĆ
<i>Cyprus</i>	H.E. Mr. James DROUSHIOTIS
<i>Czech Republic</i>	Mr. Tomáš HUSÁK
<i>Denmark</i>	H.E. Mrs. Marie-Louise OVERVAD
<i>Estonia</i>	H.E. Mr. Tõnis NIRK
<i>Finland</i>	H.E. Mr. Vesa HIMANEN
<i>France</i>	H.E. Mr. Jean-Maurice RIPERT
<i>Georgia</i>	H.E. Mr. Levan MIKELADZE
<i>Germany</i>	H.E. Mr. Michael STEINER
<i>Greece</i>	H.E. Mr. Tassos KRIEKOUKIS
<i>Hungary</i>	H.E. Mr. Gyula SZELEI KISS
<i>Iceland</i>	H.E. Mr. Kristinn F. ÁRNASON
<i>Ireland</i>	H.E. Ms. Mary WHELAN
<i>Israel</i>	H.E. Mr. Itzhak LEVANON
<i>Italy</i>	H.E. Mr. Paolo BRUNI
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	H.E. Mr. Kairat ABUSSEITOV
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	H.E. Mr. Muktar DJUMALIEV
<i>Latvia</i>	H.E. Mr. Janis KARKLINŠ
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	H.E. Mr. Norbert FRICK
<i>Lithuania</i>	H.E. Mr. Edvardas BORISOVAS
<i>Luxembourg</i>	H.E. Mr. Jean FEYDER
<i>Malta</i>	H.E. Mr. Saviour F. BORG
<i>Monaco</i>	H.E. Mr. Philippe BLANCHI
<i>Netherlands</i>	H.E. Mr. Ian M. DE JONG
<i>Norway</i>	H.E. Mr. Wegger Christian STRØMMEN
<i>Poland</i>	H.E. Mr. Zdzisław RAPACKI
<i>Portugal</i>	H.E. Mr. José Caetano da COSTA PEREIRA
<i>Republic of Moldova</i>	Mr. Eugen REVENCO
<i>Romania</i>	H.E. Mr. Doru Romulus COSTEA
<i>Russian Federation</i>	H.E. Mr. Valery LOSHCININ
<i>San Marino</i>	H.E. Mr. Dario GALASSI
<i>Serbia and Montenegro</i>	H.E. Mr. Dejan ŠAHOVIĆ
<i>Slovakia</i>	Mr. Drahošlav ŠTEFÁNEK
<i>Slovenia</i>	H.E. Mr. Andrej LOGAR
<i>Spain</i>	H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio MARCH
<i>Sweden</i>	H.E. Ms. Elisabet BORSIIN BONNIER
<i>Switzerland</i>	H.E. Mr. Pierre-Louis GIRARD
<i>Tajikistan</i>	H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin M. ASLOV
<i>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>	H.E. Mr. Georgi AVRAMCHEV
<i>Turkey</i>	H.E. Mr. Türkekul KURTTEKIN
<i>Turkmenistan</i>	H.E. Mrs. Aksoltan T. ATAeva
<i>Ukraine</i>	H.E. Mr. Yevhen BERSHEDA
<i>United Kingdom</i>	H.E. Mr. Nicholas THORNE
<i>United States</i>	H.E. Mr. Kevin E. MOLEY
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	Mr. Badriddin OBIDOV



Number of UNECE staff members (2005)

Regular	195
Regional	8
Project staff	18
TOTAL	221



Executive Secretary
Marek Belka

Office of the Executive Secretary



Paolo Garonna, Deputy
Executive Secretary



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



Patrice Robineau,
Senior Adviser to the
Executive Secretary



**Environment, Housing
and Land Management
Division**
Kaj Bärlund,
Director



Transport Division
José Capel Ferrer,
Director



Statistical Division
Heinrich Brüngger,
Director



**Economic
Cooperation and
Integration Division**
Andrey Vasilyev,
Director



**Sustainable Energy
Division**
George Kowalski,
Director



**Trade and Timber
Division**
Virginia Cram-Martos,
Director



**Technical Cooperation
Unit**
Abdur Chowdhury,
Director

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGULAR BUDGET

(in thousands of US dollars)

I. REGULAR BUDGET (SECTION 19)	2006 Appropriation
Post items	25,107.9
Non-post items	1,887.1
TOTAL	26,995.0
<hr/>	
II. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (SECTION 23)	2006 Appropriation
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	1,192.7
Other non-post items	298.2
TOTAL	1,490.9
<hr/>	
III. UN DEVELOPMENT FUND (SECTION 35)	2006 Allotment
Non-post items	484.1
TOTAL	484.1

EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

(in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF FUND	2006 Allotment
General Trust Funds (including UNFIP)	3,506.9
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	3,807.6
UNDP/UNFPA Projects	30.4
TOTAL	7,344.9

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

THE COMMISSION

Report of the Commission

- 27 February 2005 – 23 February 2006
- 27 February 2004 – 25 February 2005

UNECE Report

- 2005-2006
- 2004-2005

Visit the UNECE (CD-ROM) - June 2005

ENVIRONMENT

Environment & Human Settlements

ECE/INF/NONE/2005/02 – E,F,R

Air pollution

Clearing the air: 25 years of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

ECE/EB.AIR/84 – November 2004 – E,F,R

Handbook for the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols

ECE/EB.AIR/85 – November 2004 – E (F,R forthcoming)

Environmental Series

8 *Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention*

ECE/MPEIA/8 – 2006

7 *Guidance on Public Participation under the Espoo Convention*

ECE/MPEIA/7 – 2006

Environmental performance reviews

Environmental Policy in Transition: Ten Years of UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews

ECE/CEP/119 – E,F,R

Environmental Performance Reviews – Lessons from Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (CD-ROM) - 2003

- # 23 Republic of Moldova (Second Review) 2006
- # 22 Belarus (Second Review) 2006
- # 21 Tajikistan 2005
- # 20 Bosnia and Herzegovina 2005

Industrial accidents

Guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of the Convention - 2006

UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

ECE/CEPTEIA/13 – July 2005 – E/F/R

Public participation

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

ECE/MP.PP/6 – 2005 – E/F/R

Water

Nature for Water: payment for ecosystems services
February 2006

The Protocol on Water and Health: making a difference for a healthy environment
February 2006

Capacity for Water Cooperation: the legal basis for transboundary water cooperation

ECE/MP.WAT/18 – 2006 – E/R

Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

ECE/MP.WAT/17 – 2006 – E/F/R/German

Nature for Water – Protecting water-related ecosystems for sustainable development

April 2005 – E – Available at:

http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/ecosystem/Brochure_final.pdf

Water Series

4 *Transboundary Water Cooperation:*

Trends in the Newly Independent States

ECE/MP.WAT/16 – 2006 – E/R

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Guidelines on Social Housing

ECE/HBP/137 – 2005

Land Administration in the UNECE Region: Development Trends and Main Principles

ECE/HBP/140 – 2005 – E only

Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition: Principles and Examples

ECE/HBP/138 – 2005

Guidelines on Real Property Units and Identifiers

ECE/HBP/135 – 2005 – E only

Country Profiles on the Housing Sector

(available at <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/prgm/prgm.htm#profiles>)

Serbia and Montenegro

ECE/HBP/139 – 2006

Russian Federation

ECE/HBP/131 – 2005 – E (R forthcoming)

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

ECE Energy Series

35 *Energy Security in the Caspian Sea Region (CD-ROM) - 2006*

34 *The Technical and Economic Status of Various Cost-Effective Clean Coal Technology Options and Prospects for their Implementation in Central Asia – 2006 – E,R*

33 *Coal Mine Methane: An Overview (CD-ROM) – 2006*

32 *United Nations Framework Classification of Energy Reserves and Resources: Case Studies (CD-ROM) – 2006*

31 *United Nations Framework Classification for Energy and Mineral Resources – E, F, R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish – 2006*

30 *Financing Energy Efficiency Investment Projects (CD-ROM) – 2006*

TRANSPORT

Combined transport

Inventory of Existing AGTC and AGC Standards and Parameters - 2006

Customs Conventions and TIR

TIR Handbook

ECE/TRANS/TIR/6/Rev.1 – June 2005 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish
Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/tir-hb.html>

International Directory on TIR Focal Points

(restricted to Customs officials) - 2006 - E/F/R

Inland navigation

Recommendations on Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels - 2006

Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network ("Blue Book") – Update (2006)

Standardized UN/ECE Vocabulary for Radio-Connections - Update

(5-language booklet), E/F/R/German/Dutch – 2006

Map of European Inland Waterways

2005 – E/F/R

SIGNI – Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways

TRANS/SC.3/108/Rev.1 – E,F,R

Transport of dangerous goods

European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) – 2006

Restructured ADN – applicable as from 1 January 2007

Restructured ADN – applicable as from 1 January 2005

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

ECE/TRANS/175 - Complete set of two volumes – E,F,R

ADR 2005 on CD-ROM

(full text in pdf and Word and Excel files – E/F)

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations

-Fourteenth revised edition

ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14 – E,F (R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish forthcoming)

- Also available on CD-ROM – E/F

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Manual of Tests and Criteria

- Fourth revised edition – Amendment 1

ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amend.1 - E,F,R (Arabic, Chinese and Spanish forthcoming)

-Fourth revised edition

ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese and Spanish

Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs

ATP Update – 2006

Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be Used for Such Carriage (ATP)

Statistical publications

Handbook of Transport Statistics in the UNECE Region

-2005 – ECE/TRANS/NONE/2005/3 – April 2005

Statistical bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and

North America

- Vol. LV, 2006

- Vol. LIV, 2005

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/ABTS2005.pdf>

Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America

- Vol. LI, 2006

- Vol. L, 2005

Available at: [http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/\\$RAS%202005.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/$RAS%202005.pdf)

Others

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

First revised edition

2005 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish

TRADE DEVELOPMENT

Standardization of perishable produce and quality development

Colour Chart for Walnut Kernels

ECE/TRADE/316 – 2006

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr/welcome.htm>

Trade and investment promotion

Norms, Standards and Practices for Trade Facilitation and International Business (CD-ROM) (to be updated in 2006)

ECE/TRADE/327

Trade facilitation

Handbook for the design of aligned trade document forms

Executive Summary of the 2005 UN/CEFACT Forum on "Paperless Trade in International Supply Chains: Enhancing Efficiency and Security"

ECE/TRADE/374

A Roadmap towards Paperless Trade

ECE/TRADE/371

UN/CEFACT Strategic Action Plan

ECE/TRADE/351

Summary of UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation Recommendations

ECE/TRADE/346

Trade Facilitation Toolkit and Forms Repository

ECE/TRADE/329

Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED) (UNTDDED 2005 & ISO 7372:2005)

ECE/TRADE/362 – September 2005

Recommendation and Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window – Recommendation No. 33

(Also available at: http://www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec33/rec33_trd352e.pdf)

ECE/TRADE/352 – E,F,R

Sharing the Gains of Globalization in the New Security Environment

The Challenges to Trade Facilitation

ECE/TRADE/330 – E & ECE/TRADE/354 – R

TIMBER

Timber Bulletin

(Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/DataAndStats.html>)

Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2004-2005

Timber Bulletin, Vol. LVIII (2005)

ECE/TIM/BULL/2005/3 – ISSN 0259-4323 – E (F forthcoming)

Timber Bulletin, Vol. LVII (2004)

6 Forest Products Markets: Prospects for 2005 / Marchés des produits forestiers: perspectives pour 2005

ECE/TIM/BULL/2004/6 (market statement and tables, on website)

5 Forest Products Trade Flow Data, 2001-2002 / Statistiques des courants commerciaux des produits forestiers, 2001-2002

ECE/TIM/BULL/2004/5 (on website)

4 Forest Fire Statistics, 2001-2003 / Statistiques des incendies de forêt, 2001-2003

ECE/TIM/BULL/2004/4 (on website)

3 Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2003-2004

ECE/TIM/BULL/2004/3

Timber and Forest Study Papers,

ECE/TIM/SP/series

Forest Products Annual Market Review 2005-2006

European Forest Sector Outlook Study

1960-2000-2020 – Main Report

ECE/TIM/SP/20 – 2005

Timber and Forest Discussion Papers,

ECE/TIM/DP/series (E only)

Country Profiles

Tajikistan 2006

Uzbekistan 2006

Serbia and Montenegro

ECE/TIM/DP/40 – July 2005

Bulgaria

ECE/TIM/DP/38 – March 2005

Forest Certification: Do Governments have a Role?

ECE/TIM/DP/44 – 2006

International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments in Europe

ECE/TIM/DP/43 – 2006

Forests, Wood and Energy: Policy Interactions

ECE/TIM/DP/42 – March 2005

Outlook for the Development of European Forests Resources

ECE/TIM/DP/41 – 2006

Forest Certification Update for the UNECE Region, 2003

ECE/TIM/DP/39 – March 2005

Discussion Papers on Sustainable Forest Management # 2 Sustainable development and biofuel use as a way towards the Kyoto protocol implementation and enhanced complex utilization of wood raw material and peat

ECE/TRADE/333 – 2005 – E/R

International Forest Fire News

(two issues per year)

32 – January-June 2005

STATISTICS

Conference of European Statisticians (Report)

-Fifty-third Plenary Session (13-15 June 2005)

ECE/CES/68 – E,F,R

-Fifty-second Plenary Session (8-10 June 2004)

ECE/CES/66 – E,F,R

Making Data Meaningful – A Guide to writing stories about numbers

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/writing/>

A Guide to the Websites of National and International Statistical Organizations

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/links.htm>

Communicating with the Media – A Guide for Statistical Organizations

ECE/STAT/NONE/2004/2 – March 2004

Trends in Europe and North America 2005

The Statistical Pocketbook of the Economic Commission for Europe (Book & CD-ROM)

Robotics

World Robotics 2005 - Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts, Case Studies and Profitability of Robot Investment

Statistical Journal of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Vol. 22 (2005) # 1, # 2

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND POPULATION

Economic Analysis

Economic Survey of Europe, 2005

2 - ECE/EAD/2005/6

1 - ECE/EAD/2005/2

Occasional Papers

6 Sustaining Growth in a Resource-based Economy: The Main Issues and the Specific Case of Russia

5 Global Governance: The Lessons of Europe - E/F

4 Domestic Savings and the Driving Forces of Investment in the ECE Emerging Market Economies

3 The Process of European Integration and the Future of Europe – Gunnar Myrdal Lecture

Population

Generations and Gender Survey Instruments

ECE/EAD/PAU/2005/2

The New Demographic Regime: Population Challenges and Policy Responses - 2005

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Public-Private Cooperation in Industrial Restructuring

February 2006

Women's issues

Women in Central Asian Economies (under SPECA Programme) – 2006

Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies – 2006

Access to Financing and ICT for Women Entrepreneurs in the UNECE Region

ECE/TRADE/336 - 2004

Youth corner

Mission Seagull: A Change of Air! – CD-ROM # 3

2005 – E/F/R/German/Spanish

Work Plan on UNECE Reform

adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2005:

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as a multilateral platform facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-five Member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:

- policy dialogue,
- negotiation of international legal instruments,
- development of regulations and norms,
- exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise,
- technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.

The ECE contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of the UN through the regional implementation of outcomes of global UN Conferences and Summits.

II. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The governance structure shall be reformed in order to enhance accountability, transparency and the horizontal coherence of the activities of the organization with a view to enabling the organization to better respond to the needs of its Member States.

The existing Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of ECE will be amended accordingly.

A. The Commission

The Commission is the highest decision-making body of the organization.

It is responsible for taking strategic decisions on the ECE Programme of Work and the allocation of resources without prejudice to the competence of the Fifth Committee.

It also provides a forum for a policy dialogue at high level on economic development for the region.

The Commission meets once every two years in Geneva as of 2007, taking into account the provisions of rules 1 and 2 of the Rules of Procedure. The Commission at its 2009 session will review the reform of the UNECE including the question of frequency of its sessions.

The Commission is chaired by the representative of the country elected by the Commission for the period of the biennium. The chair is assisted by 2 vice-chairs who will be representatives of 2 countries elected at the same session.

B. The Executive Committee

The implementation of the overall guidance set by the Commission is entrusted to the Executive Committee.

Representatives of all ECE Member States participate in the Executive Committee.

The chairs of the Sectoral Committees – or the vice-chairs – are regularly invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Secretary or his representative takes part in the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is presided by a representative of the country which chairs the Commission. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is assisted by 2 vice-chairs elected by the Executive Committee, for the period of one year, renewable.

In between the biennial session of the Commission, the Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Commission and can seize itself of all matters related to ECE activities in conformity with the Terms of Reference.

In particular, the Executive Committee:

- prepares the sessions of the Commission,
- reviews, evaluates and approves in due time the Programmes of Work of the sectoral committees, including intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations, based on the criteria which the Executive Committee shall define and which will include the coherence with the overall objective of the ECE, coordination with other subprogrammes and resource implications;
- approves the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and work plans of groups under the Sectoral Committees, based on the criteria of their relevance to the subprogramme, resource implications, avoidance of duplication and overlap in the ECE activities;
- examines with the chair and vice-chairs of the Sectoral Committees, their report on the implementation of their Programme of Work and other relevant issues;
- ensures coherence between subprogrammes, inter alia by encouraging horizontal communication within the organization;
- deals with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budget issues, including extrabudgetary funding;
- discusses with Executive Secretary initiatives taken by the secretariat and the work undertaken by the Office of the Executive Secretary.

The Ad Hoc Informal Sessions of the Commission, the Bureau of the Commission, the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, and the Steering Committee are discontinued. The governance role formerly filled by these bodies shall be performed by the Executive Committee. The existing Monthly Briefings by the secretariat will be replaced by a regular

briefing which shall take place as a rule during the meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee meets when necessary.

All decisions are adopted in formal sessions. For formal sessions, interpretation shall be provided and documentation for decision shall be available in all ECE official languages. The Executive Committee can also meet in informal mode.

The Terms of Reference and the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee shall be adopted by the Commission.

C. The Sectoral Committees

The reference to «Principal Subsidiary Bodies» is discontinued and replaced by «Sectoral Committees».

Each subprogramme of the Programme of Work is attributed to a Sectoral Committee.

Each Sectoral Committee is responsible for the preparation and implementation of its Programme of Work under the conditions defined by the Commission and the Executive Committee. The Terms of Reference of the Sectoral Committees shall be approved by the Commission.

The Sectoral Committees are:

- Committee on Environmental Policy
- Committee on Inland Transport
- Committee on Statistics, further referred to as “Conference of European Statisticians”
- Committee on Sustainable Energy
- Committee on Trade
- Committee on Timber
- Committee on Housing and Land Management
- Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

All Committees shall review by the end of February 2007:

- their subsidiary intergovernmental bodies in accordance with the Guidelines defined in E/ECE/1407/Add 1. These Guidelines shall be previously reviewed by Member States;
 - conference servicing needs;
- with a view to rationalizing them, and submit proposals on possible streamlining to the Executive Committee.

The Sectoral Committees report once a year and on request to the Executive Committee, through a meeting with their chair and vice-chairs.

Sectoral committees will jointly prepare and submit proposals to the Executive Committee on issues and activities of common interest.

D. The secretariat

The secretariat services the intergovernmental structure entrusted with the implementation of the Programme of Work.

III. PRIORITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

In order to respond to the actual needs expressed by Member States, the Programme of Work will be restructured. Elements of the subprogrammes of work which are not mentioned below will be maintained. This reform will be implemented within existing budgetary resources.

A. Environment Subprogramme

The Subprogramme shall increase its focus on:

- Member States' implementation of their decisions and commonly agreed goals, including those made in the Environment for Europe process, the EECCA Strategy, and the UNECE Environmental Conventions;
- strengthening work on Environmental Performance Reviews and Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, which lays the necessary foundation for evaluating environmental protection and the implementation of these decisions.

Greater efforts shall be directed towards the implementation of the ECE environmental programme, notably through further capacity building and workshops at subregional levels.

The Committee on Environmental Policy shall study ways and means to strengthen cooperation with UNEP and all other relevant UN institutions and international organizations in order to optimise the implementation of the Programme of Work in the region and submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Environmental Policy shall, in cooperation with the Committee on Inland Transport and in consultation with WHO, strengthen activities relating to:

- THE PEP, including sustainable financing and staffing for the clearing house;
- environmental aspects of transportation, and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

B. Transport Subprogramme

The Committee on Inland Transport shall strengthen activities in the fields

of border crossing and trade facilitation in cooperation with the Committee on Trade and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Inland Transport shall, in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy and in consultation with WHO, strengthen activities relating to:

- THE PEP, including sustainable financing and staffing for the clearing house;
 - environmental aspects of transportation;
- and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means of monitoring and strengthening the implementation of key ECE legal instruments on transport, including on road safety.

The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen Euro-Asia transport links.

The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means:

- to strengthen the TIR Convention;
- to improve transparency in managing the TIR Convention.

C. Subprogramme on Statistics

The coordination of international statistical work, the methodological work and technical cooperation activities shall be strengthened.

In order to provide Member States with user-oriented statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the actual production of Member States statistics. The contents of the online database shall be reviewed and improved accordingly.

The functioning and accessibility of the online database shall be improved in order to facilitate the dissemination of statistics.

The publication of “Trends” is discontinued. The production of other publications shall be reviewed by the Conference of the European Statisticians which will submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

The resources allocated to the processing of data by this Subprogramme shall be reduced due to the overall reduction of activities in the field of economic analysis.

D. Subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration

This Subprogramme will address key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition in order to:

- deliver policy advice;
- facilitate policy dialogue, and exchange of experience and best practices;
- develop guidelines.

To this extent the Subprogramme will deal with:

- (a) Application of experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development. This work shall be demand driven, focused on specific topics and can be entrusted by the Committee to external experts and relevant organizations and institutions, in particular those from countries with economies in transition. The initial list to be considered by the Committee may include such issues as:
 - (i) Promoting effective public investment and regulatory policies;
 - (ii) Strengthening the competitiveness of the economy through innovative development;
 - (iii) Development of financial systems and services;
 - (iv) Application and adaptation of economic analysis.
- (b) Elaboration of recommendations aimed at creating policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation:
 - (i) Creation and development of enterprises and entrepreneurship;
 - (ii) Promotion of knowledge-based economies and innovation;
 - (iii) Promotion of an effective system of IPRs protection;
 - (iv) Promotion of corporate governance, rule of law and public private partnerships through the improvement of transparency and investors confidence, including the establishment of guidelines hereto.
- (c) The Sectoral Committee shall define the modalities of the integration of existing activities in the new Subprogramme with a view to continuing valuable work in the areas mentioned above, and report to the Executive Committee.

Networks of experts, advisers and decision-makers shall be set up in order to provide a platform for exchange of national policy experiences and development of standards and best models on these matters.

The activities of this Subprogramme shall be built inter alia on the results of the work carried out by other relevant organizations and institutions

operating in this field, including UN agencies, with which synergies should be improved.

Based on the overall framework above, Member States shall approve the strategic framework no later than end of March 2006 and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration shall submit proposals on its Terms of Reference and Programme of Work to the Executive Committee for approval as soon as possible, at the latest within one year from adoption of this decision.

The Executive Committee will review the Subprogramme on Economic Cooperation and Integration no later than 3 years from the adoption of the present decision with a view to assessing if the level of resources is appropriate and optimizing the programme if necessary.

A Regional Adviser shall be allocated to this Subprogramme.

E. Subprogramme on Sustainable Energy

The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall streamline its activities and improve cooperation with other relevant institutions, in particular the IEA and the Energy Charter. This cooperation could take the form of joint activities, MoU, participation of members of other relevant organizations in the activities of the Subprogramme and vice versa.

The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall strengthen activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns. Special attention should be given to cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Committee on Inland Transport and the Committee on Timber.

F. Trade Development Subprogramme

Activities in the field of Trade Facilitation shall continue and focus on supporting the development of standards carried out by the UNCEFACT.

The Committee on Trade shall review the programme on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies.

The activities in the field of agricultural quality standards shall be strengthened. Consultations shall be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities of the two organizations within the ECE.

The Sectoral Committee is renamed as: «Committee on Trade».

The Subprogramme is renamed as: «Trade Subprogramme».

G. Timber Subprogramme

The Committee on Timber shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the development of increased cooperation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and ECE, and explore the possibility of a formal framework for this cooperation.

The Committee on Timber shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen its monitoring and analysis activities relating to forest policy and institutions.

The Subprogramme is renamed «Subprogramme on Timber and Forestry».

H. Human Settlements Subprogramme

The following programme elements are discontinued:

- the development of Human Settlements Statistics;
- major trends characterizing Human Settlements development.

The activities and related resources in the field of real estate (currently carried out under the Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogramme) shall be integrated in the Subprogramme. The Sectoral Committee shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the modalities of this integration.

The activities and related resources in the field of Population (currently carried out under the Economic Analysis Subprogramme) shall be integrated in the Subprogramme.

The Subprogramme is renamed as: «Subprogramme on Housing, Land Management and Population».

The Sectoral Committee is renamed as: «Committee on Housing and Land Management».

The intergovernmental governance of the Population activities shall be assured by the Executive Committee.

I. Economic Analysis and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development Subprogrammes

These Subprogrammes as well as the related intergovernmental structures will be discontinued.

IV. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Technical Cooperation forms an integral part of the ECE's activities. It has to focus on the countries with economies in transition and has to be demand driven.

The ECE's Technical Cooperation shall concentrate on the sectors where ECE has in-house expertise and comparative advantage over other

organizations. It should be coherent with and support the implementation of the agreed work programmes.

The coordination of the ECE Technical Cooperation shall be ensured by the Technical Cooperation Unit reporting directly to the Executive Secretary with appropriate resources to carry out its functions.

The intergovernmental governance of the Technical Cooperation shall be assured by the Executive Committee.

The impact of the Strategy on Technical Cooperation (E/ECE/1411/Add.1) endorsed by the Commission at its annual session 2004 shall be assessed by the Executive Committee and the Strategy will be reviewed if necessary.

Member States shall review, no later than 2 months after the adoption of this decision, the resource allocation among subprogrammes concerning the Regular Programme for technical cooperation (section 23) as foreseen by the decision related to this subject contained in document E/ECE/1430/Add.1.

The use of ECE's regional advisers shall be strengthened by enabling their participation in capacity-building activities.

Evaluations of separate subprogrammes' technical cooperation activities shall be conducted on a regular basis. A common policy and practice for these evaluations shall be implemented.

V. CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

A. Millennium Development Goals

In order to contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the ECE shall:

- offer a platform for all stakeholders to share their information, views and experience, and for improving the coordination of these activities;
- set up and maintain a database on MDG indicators using the database and dissemination infrastructure of the Statistical Subprogramme.

The ECE shall cooperate with UNDP to this extent and within existing resources.

B. Gender issues

The ECE shall pay particular attention to the gender dimension of development, as a priority cross-cutting theme, by identifying good practice in further mainstreaming gender issues in its various subprogrammes and activities, taking into account the economic areas addressed by the regional Beijing+10 review. This should apply across both regular and operational activities.

C. Private sector and NGOs

The Sectoral Committees shall review and report to the Executive Committee on the involvement of the private sector and NGOs, in order to strengthen and further improve their relationship and to increase resources and expertise contributions with a view to optimizing the implementation of the Programme of Work.

VI. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In order to increase the impact of its work, the ECE shall reinforce its cooperation with key international organizations and institutions in all relevant areas of its work.

In particular, regular consultation shall be fostered with other pan-European organizations.

In addition to the specific cooperations identified under the different subprogrammes, the cooperation with UNDP should be strengthened. The secretariat shall explore ways and means to improve the synergy between the organization and UNDP.

The ECE shall seek to reinforce partnerships with other UN regional commissions, in particular ESCAP, ECA and ESCWA. The secretariat shall assess possibilities to strengthen SPECA.

The secretariat will keep the Member States informed of these proceedings through the Executive Committee.

The implementation of the MoU with OSCE is entrusted to the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee shall monitor this implementation.

After consultations with other organizations and upon recommendation of the secretariat, the Executive Committee will decide on the opportunity of ECE's engagement in the development of an Early Warning Mechanism.

VII. MANAGEMENT

A. Coordination tasks

The Office of the Executive Secretary is entrusted with:

- the follow-up of the implementation of horizontal and sectoral issues coming from the relevant multilateral commitments such as those made at the General Assembly, the ECOSOC and UN Global Conferences and Summits, as well as the provision of inputs required by

- these global bodies and by the Secretary-General;
- the coordination of intersectoral and cross-sectoral activities;
- the coordination of ECE inputs to the monitoring of implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental fields;
- reporting to the Executive Committee on progress in the implementation of any follow-up of agreed measures.

B. Programme Planning and Budget

The ECE shall strengthen its programme planning, monitoring and evaluation (PPME) resources and improve the training of its managers in the application of the pertinent skills.

A dedicated unit for planning, monitoring and evaluation shall be established and attached to the Office of the Executive Secretary in order to secure the continuous involvement of senior management.

To facilitate the assessment of programme performance:

- the Strategic Framework (biennial programme plan) will be consolidated with the programme budget narratives in order to emphasize the linkage between expected accomplishments and outputs financed by the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds.
- in its reporting to the Executive Committee the secretariat shall provide, in a user-friendly format, complete information about the allocation of resources from the regular budget and of extrabudgetary resources to the subprogrammes and programme items within their respective programmes of work.

The Sectoral Committees together with the secretariat will take into account the results of the assessment and evaluations when preparing the strategic frameworks for their respective subprogrammes and subsequently the programme narratives.

The secretariat shall provide information to the Executive Committee on cost implications for any programmatic changes proposed for the next biennium during the preparatory process of the programme budget.

Any change in resources (both regular and extrabudgetary) materializing after the adoption of the programme budget by the General Assembly shall be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

C. Monitoring and evaluation, including reporting on performance

The Sectoral Committees shall provide complete information concerning the allocation of resources according to programme items within the programme of work of their respective subprogrammes.

The Executive Committee shall examine the advisability to develop “downstream” indicators with the secretariat to better reflect actual accomplishments of the ECE, in particular relating to the use and relevance of ECE soft legislation tools, norms and standards.

The ECE shall develop and streamline its evaluation functions and practices in conformity with the relevant decision of the Commission (document E/ECE/1415/Add.1) and in compliance with the instructions of the Office for Internal Oversight Services. This also applies to technical cooperation activities.

D. Human Resources

The Executive Secretary shall:

- improve communication, coordination and cooperation across the divisions and subprogrammes;
- promote, through human resources management, staff mobility and skill enhancement to ensure that staff members periodically change divisions and subprogrammes, and encourage staff members to gain experience in other UN and international organizations, as well as in the field.

The secretariat shall provide systematic PPME training to its programme managers, in particular in cooperation with the Management Consulting Unit of the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services. Priority will be given to such training in the training budget allocated to the ECE.

The secretariat shall analyse the merits of using the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the implementation of its extrabudgetary projects and present suggestions to the Executive Committee.

E. Public Relations, Communication and Corporate Image

To improve its own corporate image and to attract more attention to its achievements, the secretariat shall enhance its communications, public relations and contacts with the media, making more and better targeted materials and publications available on the Internet in all ECE official

languages and producing appropriate printed materials in quantities that correspond to actual demand.

To improve its communication with Member States the secretariat shall update, in consultation with Member States, the lists of its contacts in government agencies and among governmental experts and address its communications at the appropriate level and through transparent channels.

VIII. RESOURCES

The redeployment shall be implemented within existing resources.

The abolition of the Subprogrammes on Economic Analysis (excluding Population Activities Unit) and Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development will free:

- 1 D and 12 Ps from Economic Analysis
- 4 Ps from Industrial Restructuring and Enterprise Development
- 2 Ps from Statistics (due to reduction of activities related to economic analysis)

Total: 1 D and 18 P posts

These posts are redeployed to strengthen other subprogrammes/entities as follows:

Subprogramme / Entity	Number of Posts	Justification
Environment	2 P	Paragraphs 31-32, 34 and 53
Transport	2 P	Paragraphs 35-39 and 53
Statistics	1 P	Paragraphs 40-42 and 77
Economic Cooperation and Integration	1 D, 8 P	Paragraphs 45-51
Sustainable Energy	1 P	Paragraphs 53
Trade Development	1 P	Paragraphs 35 and 56,
Timber	1 P	Paragraphs 53, 59 and 60
Office of the Executive Secretary and information activities	2 P	Paragraphs 86,89-94,97, 101
Total	1 D, 18 P	