

11.30 – 13.00 PANEL ONE – ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE WIDER EUROPE
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The session will describe the current status, recent trends and bottlenecks regarding economic integration in the ECE region. The discussion will address where the bottlenecks are in terms of achieving a higher level of integration particularly in terms of transport and energy networks, trade barriers, incompatible standards, border crossing formalities, etc. and make suggestions about how ECE could address these bottlenecks.

Moderator and Overview:

Mr. Michael Emerson, Associate Senior Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies:
Overview of challenges regarding integration in the wider European region.

Panel Discussion:

Mr. Michael Roberts, Development Division, WTO: *The importance of AfT for low-income countries (and donors!) within the UNECE region.*

Mr. Ľubomír Jahnátek, Minister of Economy, Slovakia: *The importance of energy security.*

Mrs. Tatyana Starchenko, Deputy Minister of Economy, Belarus. *Economic integration in the wider Europe.*

Mr. Tair Mansurov, Secretary-General of EurAsEC: *Euro-Asian transport links.*

Ms. Etelka Barsi-Pataky, Member of the European Parliament: *The importance of pan-European and transcontinental transport inter-connectivity – UNECE as the gateway between the EU and non-EU countries.*

Mr. Philippe Meunier, Director for Economic and Financial Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France: *Energy interconnections and water management in Central Asia.*

Mr. Gary Litman, Vice President, Europe Policy and Initiatives, U.S. Chamber of Commerce: *U.S. private sector perspectives on investment in and trade with Russia, CIS and Central Asia.*

Mr. Sigurd Heiberg, Corporate Strategy and Acquisitions, StatoilHydro ASA, Stavanger, Norway: *Global energy reserves and the need for establishing a compatible standard for measuring energy reserves and resources (UNFC).*

- **Interactive Discussion**

15.00 – 16.15 PANEL TWO – PROMOTING COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE BASED INNOVATIVE ECONOMIES
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A discussion of how the economies in the wider European region are doing in terms of creating internationally competitive, growing knowledge-based innovative economies. What are the obstacles that are impeding faster economic growth and creating internationally competitive knowledge-based and innovative economies. How can ECE activities be altered to help the economies in the region better achieve these objectives?

Moderator and Overview:

Mr. Augusto Lopez-Claros, Director, EFD Global Consulting Network and former Chief Economist and Director, Global Competitiveness Programme, World Economic Forum: *Creating growing knowledge-based innovative economies in the wider European region.*

Panel discussion:

Mrs. Marina Kaljurand, Undersecretary for Economic and Development Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia: *The knowledge-based economy as a way forward.*

Mr. Antonio Erario, Head of Division of International Regulatory Affairs, Department for Land Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Italy: *Innovation challenges in transport and benefits from Intelligent Transport Systems – ITS applications in helping ECE economies to integrate more fully and become globally competitive.*

Mr. Sergey Mostinsky, Director for International Cooperation, RUSNANO (Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies): *The role of innovation in economic competitiveness and diversification --the challenges of economic cooperation and integration and the impact of the current financial crisis on innovative development.*

Mr. Malcolm McKinnon, Chief Executive, SITPRO (the UK National Trade Facilitation Organization): *Innovation in trade: eliminating paper and simplifying procedures.*

Mr. Steve Williams, Visiting Lecturer at Duke University, (Author of “Facing the Global Challenge”): *Reforming real estate markets for financial stability.*

- **Interactive Discussion**

16.15 – 17.30 PANEL THREE – ENHANCING ECONOMIC COHESION

This session will address how the ECE region is doing in terms of addressing issues of poverty and basic needs and what more the ECE could do help countries address these issues. Discussion of the current status and prospects for achieving the MDGs with an emphasis on those that are not on target and the extent that the current financial and economic crisis could affect the achievement of the MDGs.

Moderator and Overview:

Ms. Kori Udovicki, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, UNDP: *An overview of the situation of poverty and the status of the MDGs in the region and how the financial/economic crisis is impacting progress.*

Panel discussion:

Mr. Fredrik Arthur, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway: *The implications of the financial crisis on gender equality and development cooperation.*

Mr. Marin Anton, Secretary of State, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Romania: *The global safety crisis and the MDGs.*

Mr. Fatmir Besimi, Minister of Economy, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: *The impact of the financial crisis in a small and open economy on labour markets.*

Mr. Bernd Marin, Executive Director, European Centre for Social Welfare, Vienna: *Addressing aging and the need for pension reform.*

Mr. Hussein Abaza, Head of Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP: *Creating a green economy and achieving MDG 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.*

- **Interactive Discussion**

17.30 – 18.00 CONCLUDING SEGMENT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION
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The Executive Secretary will provide a summary of the proposals made during the day for possible follow-up action by the UNECE Executive Committee or the various sectoral committees.