



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 64 – 19-23 April 2004

## ESCAP sixtieth session



The 60th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is scheduled to be held at the Shanghai International Convention Centre in Shanghai, China, 22-28 April 2004. ESCAP grew out of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), which was established in Shanghai on 28 March 1947. The theme topic of the session is "Meeting the challenges in an era of globalization by strengthening regional development cooperation". The study prepared by ESCAP presents the main features of an analysis of selected regional cooperation agreements in the areas of trade, transport, ICT and finance, to identify ways in which the Asia-Pacific countries can benefit equitably from globalization. ESCAP (Bangkok) is one of the five regional Commissions of the United Nations. The other ones are: the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Beirut).

For more information see <http://www.unescap.org>

## It's just happened ...

### Capacity-Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia

This project, the only one under the Fourth Tranche of the UN Development Account for 2004-2006 for which UNECE is the lead agency, was approved by the General Assembly in December 2003 for funding of US\$ 680,000 and the project outline is currently being finalised. The key project objective is to strengthen the capacity of air quality management institutions in Central Asia to implement the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (CLRTAP) and its Protocols and to promote the deployment of appropriate clean coal combustion technologies for heat and power generation from solid fuels. Regional cooperation on air pollution has proven to be successful in the UNECE region, in particular within the framework of CLRTAP, a Convention that has 49 parties from a region with 55 countries. However, efforts need to be made to assist new Parties to implement the Convention and to make it possible for more countries to ratify and implement the Convention and its Protocols. Central Asia remains to be fully engaged. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan both ratified the Convention in 2000, but both have yet to accede to any of its Protocols. Central Asia is a significant area when considering long-range transport of air pollution as it is situated between Europe and East Asia. It is important that a process of



intergovernmental cooperation on air pollution problems can start and be sustained in the sub-region. This project will involve technical, policy, legal, economic and institutional analysis and reforms of air quality management in Central Asia, development of sub-regional capacity in air quality management and development of air monitoring in Central Asia as a link between monitoring systems in Europe and Asia. It will serve to facilitate sub-regional networking and information dissemination through an

internet/intranet system and promote the introduction of low cost, fast payback methods for improving the energy efficiency and environmental performance of solid fuel combustion technologies for heat and power generation. The project will also provide assistance with sustainable energy policy and energy pricing reforms and explore investment project finance for clean coal technology deployment. The project implementing entities include UNECE as the lead agency, together with ESCAP and UNEP Bangkok (Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific).

For further information contact Charlotte Griffiths ([charlotte.griffiths@unece.org](mailto:charlotte.griffiths@unece.org)).

Not an official record - For information only

## UNECE and OSCE Videoconference

The Inter Secretariat Task Force (ISTF) of UNECE and OSCE held a videoconference on 14 April with the participation of the Executive Secretary, Ms. Brigita Schmögnerová. Representatives of several delegations including the Chairman of the Economic and Environmental Sub-Committee of the OSCE, Ambassador Lyubomir Todorov, also participated in the conference. The agenda of the Meeting was the UNECE participation in the review of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension of security. With the adoption of the New Strategy Document of the OSCE in Maastricht the scope of these commitments has broadened considerably: a comprehensive review would require the

combination of various approaches, which increases its complexity and resource-intensiveness. The ISTF therefore agreed that commitments would be divided into several clusters: the UNECE would take the lead – including the coordination of inputs by partner organizations – in those areas where it has the required expertise. At the next videoconference on 6 May the ISTF will start discussing the joint development by the UNECE and OSCE of early warning mechanisms in the economic and environmental dimension of security as well as the planned Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations.

For more information contact Marton Krasznai ([marton.krasznai@unece.org](mailto:marton.krasznai@unece.org)).

## Coming up soon ...

### Commission on Sustainable Development

The 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is currently taking place in New York (14-30 April). The CSD is now functioning on the basis of two-year "Implementation Cycles", the first one of which (2004-2005) is focusing on water, sanitation and human settlements. A Review Year will evaluate progress made in implementing sustainable development goals and identifying obstacles and constraints, while a Policy Year will decide on measures to speed up implementation and mobilize action to overcome these obstacles and constraints. The Regional Implementation Forum organized by UNECE on 15-16 January 2004 was a response to CSD's decision to enhance the role of regional and sub-regional inputs to the CSD process. It assessed progress, obstacles and challenges in the areas of water, sanitation and human settlements, reviewed lessons learned, and shared information on good practices. UNECE is actively promoting sustainable development in many areas, and is increasingly working with Governments and others to initiate cross-sectoral programmes, such as that on transport, environment and health, or poverty, housing and economic development.

19-22 April

Meeting of the Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat

19(pm)-23 April

Working Party on General Safety Provisions

## Facts and figures:

**Real GDP growth in selected Western economies**  
(changes over the previous period)

	2000	2001	2002	2003			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Austria	3.4	0.8	1.4	2.0	0.0	0.6	0.4
Belgium	3.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	-0.5	2.2	...
Finland	5.1	1.2	2.2	-1.2	3.3	3.4	1.1
France	3.8	2.1	1.2	0.2	-1.5	1.7	1.8
Germany	2.9	0.8	0.2	-1.0	-0.6	0.8	0.9
Greece	4.4	4.0	3.8	12.1	2.1	7.6	-1.3
Ireland	10.1	6.2	6.9	-5.4	9.5	-5.1	...
Italy	3.1	1.8	0.4	-1.0	-0.5	1.8	-0.1
Netherlands	3.5	1.2	0.2	-1.3	-2.2	0.1	1.2
Portugal	3.7	1.6	0.4	0.8	0.1	-2.1	-1.0
Spain	4.2	2.8	2.0	2.2	3.0	2.6	3.0
<b>Euro area</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Denmark	2.8	1.6	1.0	2.0	-1.9	-0.3	1.2
Sweden	4.4	1.1	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.9	...
United Kingdom	3.8	2.1	1.7	1.1	2.4	3.4	3.7
<b>European Union</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Norway	2.8	1.9	1.0	-5.3	1.1	4.0	2.4
Switzerland	3.7	1.0	0.2	-4.3	0.2	2.0	1.8
Canada	5.3	1.9	3.3	2.5	-1.0	1.3	3.8
United States	3.7	0.5	2.2	2.0	3.1	8.2	4.1

Source: Eurostat, New Cronos Database; OECD National accounts (Paris), various issues; National Statistical Offices

Notes: Quarterly data are seasonally adjusted and annualised.

**For further information please contact:**

**Information Service,  
UN Economic  
Commission for  
Europe (UNECE)  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10,  
Switzerland**

**Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44  
Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05  
E-mail:  
[info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)  
Web site:  
<http://www.unece.org>**