



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 66 – 3-7 May 2004

It's just happened ...

ADR: Cyprus becomes the 39th Contracting Party

On 19 April 2004, Cyprus acceded to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), bringing to 39 the number of Contracting Parties to this Agreement. The ADR aims at ensuring a high level of safety during the international carriage of dangerous goods by road and, through harmonization of transport conditions, facilitates the international transport and trade of a wide range of products of economic importance such as petroleum products, gases, chemicals, agrochemicals, fertilizers, etc.



with safety requirements. A new chapter devoted to improving security of the transport of dangerous goods by road will enter into force on 1 January 2005.

The ADR was done at Geneva on 30 September 1957 under the auspices of the UNECE, and entered into force on 29 January

The annexes to the ADR contain internationally agreed conditions for the international carriage of dangerous substances, including wastes, in packages and in bulk. They address the types of packagings, containers, tanks and vehicles that may be used, requirements for their marking, labelling, use or operation and their construction, testing and approval. They also contain procedures for training of persons involved in the carriage of dangerous goods, safety obligations of the participants, checks and other support measures to ensure compliance

1968. Since then its annexes have been kept up to date on a regular basis by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee's Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, in the light of technical progress, the advent of new substances and materials, the exigencies of modern transport systems and, above all, the requirement to ensure the safety and security of people, property and the environment. In accordance with directive 94/55/EC of 21 November 1994, as amended, the annexes of ADR also apply to domestic and intra-Community traffic in all EU Member States.

For more information contact: Olivier Kervella (olivier.kervella@unece.org)

Meeting on National Accounts

A joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on National Accounts was held in Geneva 28-30 April 2004, preceded by an UNECE special session on National Accounts for CIS and other transition economies. The meeting discussed recent methodological developments and problems in compiling the National Accounts in the light of the upcoming review of the System of National Accounts (SNA93). It looked in more detail at short-term statistics and their relation to National Accounts; methods and practical solutions for compiling time series when there are changes in methodologies and

classifications; quantitative methods to check and control the quality of national accounts; and treatment of taxes and social contributions. The special session for CIS and other transition economies considered national practices in estimating the Non-observed Economy and the use of financial services. The meeting recommended that the UNECE secretariat undertake a new review of country practices in measuring the non-observed economy and update the Inventory that was published in 2003.

For more information see <http://www.unece.org/stats/> or contact Lidia Bratanova (lidia.bratanova@unece.org)

Off the press ...

Safe drinking water



Throughout the world, contaminated water is still responsible for some 7% of all deaths and diseases. In the UNECE region alone an estimated 120 million people do not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. As a result, they are more vulnerable to serious water-related diseases. At

present 31% of Europe's population lives in countries already suffering from "high water stress", particularly during droughts and periods of low river flow. At the same time some UNECE countries are suffering from more floods than ever before, and these have a severe economic and social impact. Today, the water supply of some 140 million European city dwellers comes from overexploited groundwater resources. Attempts at solving the

complex water problems in Europe are further complicated by the essentially transboundary nature of water resources. The 1992 UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes provides a legal framework for regional cooperation on shared water resources; 34 UNECE countries and the European Community have already ratified the Convention, accession to which is now open to countries outside the UNECE region. This new brochure explains the background to the Convention, the general obligations of Parties to the Convention, and to the 1999 Protocol on Water and Health and the 2003 Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damaged Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters, the latter developed within the framework of the UNECE Water Convention and the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Coming up soon ...

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 3-4 May | Working Group of Parties to the Convention on Public Participation |
| 3-7 May | Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods |
| 3(pm)-7 May | Working Party on Passive Safety |

Facts and figures:

Imports and Exports, share of GDP, current prices

selected UNECE economies

| | Imports of goods & services | | | | Exports of goods & services | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| France | 27.3 | 26.3 | 25.0 | 24.9 | 28.6 | 27.9 | 27.1 | 26.1 |
| Germany | 33.4 | 33.3 | 31.6 | 31.5 | 33.8 | 35.3 | 35.9 | 35.7 |
| Italy | 27.3 | 27.0 | 26.0 | 24.8 | 28.3 | 28.4 | 27.0 | 25.4 |
| Austria | 50.9 | 52.2 | 50.6 | 49.7 | 50.3 | 52.5 | 52.8 | 51.8 |
| Belgium | 82.5 | 82.6 | 80.2 | 76.3 | 85.6 | 85.8 | 83.8 | 80.0 |
| Finland | 33.7 | 31.6 | 30.3 | 30.0 | 43.0 | 39.9 | 38.7 | 37.0 |
| Greece | 34.1 | 31.1 | 27.7 | 27.8 | 25.6 | 23.8 | 20.9 | 19.7 |
| Ireland | 84.4 | 83.4 | 75.0 | 67.5 | 97.4 | 98.4 | 93.7 | 84.1 |
| Netherlands | 62.2 | 60.1 | 57.5 | 54.7 | 67.5 | 65.3 | 62.6 | 60.2 |
| Portugal | 42.8 | 40.7 | 37.6 | 35.2 | 31.5 | 30.9 | 30.3 | 30.2 |
| Spain | 32.4 | 31.6 | 29.9 | 29.7 | 30.1 | 29.9 | 28.4 | 27.9 |
| Euro area | 36.1 | 35.5 | 33.8 | 33.0 | 36.8 | 36.9 | 36.1 | 34.9 |
| United Kingdom | 30.1 | 30.1 | 29.2 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 27.3 | 26.2 | 25.1 |
| Denmark | 38.1 | 38.2 | 38.7 | 37.3 | 44.1 | 44.7 | 44.3 | 43.6 |
| Sweden | 40.3 | 39.6 | 37.5 | 37.2 | 46.1 | 45.9 | 44.0 | 43.8 |
| European Union | 35.3 | 34.8 | 33.2 | 32.3 | 35.7 | 35.7 | 34.8 | 33.6 |
| Norway | 29.4 | 28.5 | 27.3 | 26.8 | 46.7 | 45.7 | 41.5 | 39.8 |
| Switzerland | 39.9 | 40.1 | 36.9 | 36.4 | 45.6 | 45.1 | 44.2 | 43.8 |
| Turkey | 31.5 | 31.3 | 30.5 | 32.3 | 24.0 | 33.7 | 28.8 | 29.0 |
| Western Europe | 35.2 | 34.7 | 33.1 | 32.4 | 35.6 | 36.0 | 34.8 | 33.7 |
| Canada | 39.8 | 37.8 | 36.7 | 33.8 | 45.6 | 43.5 | 41.1 | 37.8 |
| United States | 15.0 | 13.9 | 13.7 | 14.0 | 11.2 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 9.6 |
| North America | 17.1 | 15.9 | 15.6 | 15.7 | 14.0 | 13.0 | 12.3 | 11.9 |

Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from Eurostat, OECD and national sources.

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
Web site:
<http://www.unece.org>**