



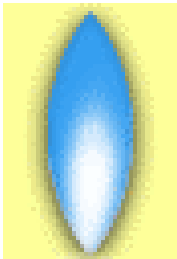
UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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UNECE "Gas Week"

UNECE Gas Centre



The UNECE Gas Week will start on Monday, 17 January 2005 with the 10th meeting of the [UNECE Gas Centre Executive Board](#). The Executive Board will discuss and decide on the Work Programme of the Gas Centre for the year 2005. It will also take a decision on the

2005 budget and financial contributions by the member companies.

An important element of the activities of the Gas Centre in the coming period will be the restructuring and updating of the Gas Centre Database and web site. Together with experts from ENI (Italy) and with the support of the UNECE Information Systems Unit, a full renovation programme is being implemented. The main elements for the Database programme, to be implemented by the Gas Centre staff and the member companies, aim to smoothly move the Gas Centre web site from a "database" to a "gas portal" and a "gas data warehouse" with a

higher added value for Members. This aim will be achieved by optimizing the updating process and generalizing hot-linking with web pages or documents from the relevant web sites in the European gas sector: statistical data providers like IEA, OECD or UNECE, public institutions either at European level (European Commission, Parliament, Regulator associations) or at national level (Ministries in charge of energy, National Parliaments and National Regulators...) as well as all the institutions involved in gas, when they have relevant analysis on the political, legal and regulatory frameworks: Eurogas, IGU, national gas associations, etc. New software will also be designed in order to optimize the updating process and make this hotlinking process easier for the Member companies. In addition, the "core database" will be restructured to take into account the changes in the European Gas Market for ten years.

For more information contact Tans van Kleef (tans.van-kleef@unece.org)

UNECE Working Party on Gas

About 100 participants, representing governments, public and private gas companies and enterprises as well as various international organisations are expected to attend the 15th annual session of the [Working Party on Gas](#), 18-19 January.

The delegates will review major achievements in gas industry development, processes of restructuring and privatisation, the pace of liberalisation of the European gas market, gas demand and security of its supply for the customers in the UNECE region. There will be a Round Table on the "Balance between Market and Regulation", where experts representing different segments of the gas chain will present their views on how strong the market regulation should be, or how far liberalisation process should go. Switching



to less polluting motor fuel is one of the efficient ways to mitigate pollution in the transport sector; delegates will therefore be given an opportunity to learn of the latest developments in Natural Gas (NGVs) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) vehicles in Europe and worldwide.

Technical projects related to downstream gas activities, such as Gas Leakages, Maintenance of Gas Transportation Lines, Gas Balancing and others will be discussed at the session of the [Ad Hoc Expert Group on the Supply and Use of Gas](#), 20 January.

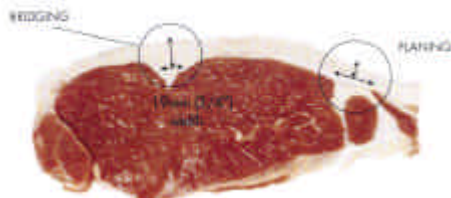
For more information contact Alexandre Chachine (alexandre.chachine@unece.org)

Not an official record - For information only

Off the press ...

UNECE Standard for Bovine Meat, Carcasses and Cuts

UNECE began work on standards for perishable produce in 1949. Today close to 100 internationally harmonized commercial quality standards have been developed for different agricultural produce. The purpose of UNECE standards for meat products is to facilitate trade by recommending an international language for use between buyer and seller. Standardization of the trading language is the foundation which allows the meat industry to adopt



modern data transfer methods and streamline the flow of information and product throughout the supply chain. The language describes meat items commonly traded internationally and defines a coding system for communication and electronic trade. Meat standardization is a complex subject: a large number of product options can be specified by the buyer and the quality of the final product depends to a great extent on the way the meat is cut. The UNECE standards offer for the first time internationally agreed specifications written in a consistent, detailed and accurate manner using anatomical names to identify cutting lines. The publication contains comprehensive colour photographs and diagrams to facilitate practical application of the standards.

Available in English and French at UN bookstores and distributors (Sales No. E.03.II.E.58) or contact the UNECE Agricultural Standards Unit (agristandards@unece.org)

Coming up soon ...

UNECE Spring Seminar 2005

Financing for Development in the UNECE Region: Promoting Growth in Low-income Transition Economies

21 February 2005, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Conference Room XX

Programme

- Session 1 : Welcome addresses
- Session 2 : Strategies for development and growth
- Session 3 : Economic integration and trade
- Session 4 : Financial management and sustainable growth in resource-rich economies
- Concluding Remarks

Facts and figures:

Total Fertility Rate¹ Selected EU New Member and CIS Countries

	1980	1990	2000
New EU Member Countries			
Czech Republic	2.1	1.9	1.1
Estonia	2.0	2.0	1.4
Hungary	1.9	1.8	1.3
Latvia	1.9	2.0	1.2
Lithuania	2.0	2.0	1.3
Poland	2.3	2.0	1.3
Slovakia	2.3	2.1	1.3
Slovenia	2.1	1.5	1.3
CIS			
Armenia	2.3	2.6	1.1
Belarus	2.0	1.9	1.3
Kyrgyzstan	4.1	3.6	2.4
Republic of Moldova	2.4	2.4	1.3
Russian Federation	1.9	1.9	1.2
Ukraine	2.1	1.9	1.1

Source: UNECE Gender Statistics Database, compiled from national statistical offices

¹ Lifetime average number of live births per woman

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