



# UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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## It's just happened ...

### Air pollution monitoring and modelling – new steps and progress

The *EMEP programme of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution*, the programme responsible for atmospheric monitoring and modelling as well as collating Parties' pollution emissions, held its twenty-ninth Steering Body meeting from 5 to 7 September 2005 in Geneva.

The quality of the emission data submitted by Parties has been of major concern to the Convention in recent years and quality review has been on the Steering Body's agenda for several years. This year it approved formal procedures for reviewing the emissions reported annually by Parties, and recommended these for adoption by the Convention's Executive Body. The procedures require an initial check by the secretariat, e.g. for completeness and correct format, and then a team of experts will assess the data in detail. Their assessment report will aim to develop a better understanding and level of confidence in submitted emissions by identifying inconsistencies between and within the emission inventories submitted. In-depth reviews of selected pollutants, countries or sectors, will be a third stage to the review process.



The quality of the emission data has major implications for EMEP's modelling work. Poor quality or inconsistent data will give discrepancies between the modelled results and measured concentrations of pollutants. The models for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals, developed by EMEP's Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East will be reviewed at a workshop in Moscow in October.

## Question of the week ...

to Patrice Robineau, Acting Deputy Executive Secretary

*Why do the Millennium Development Goals matter for a rich region like the UNECE region?*



They matter because the UNECE region is very diversified. It includes low-income countries in south-east Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which are massively affected by poverty (Goal 1). Furthermore, in the emerging market economies a substantial share of the population still remains in a serious poverty

situation. Even in Western Europe and North America there is still a persistence of extreme poverty in some countries, while indicators show that relative poverty has also increased in this part of the UNECE region. Another goal which at various degrees is a concern for the whole UNECE region is the promotion of gender equality (Goal 3).

*Why is a regional approach to MDGs necessary?*

A number of MDGs are related to problems which have a transboundary dimension, for example Goal 6, "Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases". Eastern Europe and Central Asia are experiencing one of the world's fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemics with more than 80% of reported HIV infections in young people under the age of 29. Roughly 1.4 million in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region are estimated to be living with HIV and AIDS.

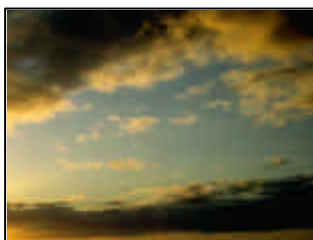
There is also a re-emergence of tuberculosis in many Central and East European countries. Over 67,000 Europeans died from tuberculosis in 2003; and 120,000 more people were diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2003 than in 1991, mostly in the CIS and Romania. Over three quarters of the tuberculosis cases in the region occur in the CIS.

And last but not least Goal 7 "Ensure environmental sustainability" is essential for this part of the world. The UNECE region is the region that consumes most of the natural resources of the planet. Furthermore, 120 million people in Europe do not have access to clean drinking water.

This brief overview shows some worrying trends which, in order to be effectively addressed, call both for national policies and regional cooperation within the UNECE region. ♦

Not an official record - For information only

Implementation of EMEP's monitoring strategy, adopted in 2004, was another area of the Steering Body's interest. A tour de table of all delegations showed positive steps being taken by most Parties to meet the requirements of the monitoring strategy, either by setting up new monitoring stations or upgrading existing ones.



The results of the first meeting of a new Convention Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, held in June this year, were reported to the Steering Body. Led by the United States and the European Community, Parties that have particular interests in this area of work, the Task Force had benefited from participation of many experts and

organizations from outside the UNECE region. The Task Force is considering all pollutants that are transported between continents, but has been asked to focus on those needed for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, the Convention's most recent protocol that entered into force this year. Ozone is likely to be of special interest in the review. The Steering Body was particularly pleased with the results of the Task Force's first meeting and asked the Task Force Co-Chairs to prepare an informal summary document for the session of the Convention's Executive Body in December.

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## Coming up soon ...

### September

- 13-23 Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the ECE Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
- 19-21 Committee on Human Settlements
- 20-23 Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear

## Facts and figures

### Exports of goods and services of selected UNECE economies

*Per cent of GDP at current prices*

	2002	2003	2004	2005 Q1
<b>EU new members-10<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>53.3</b>
Cyprus	50.9	47.2	46.9	40.9
Czech Republic	61.5	62.2	71.7	72.8
Estonia	74.3	74.3	78.4	81.3
Hungary	64.8	63.5	65.1	65.7
Latvia	41.1	42.3	43.8	49.0
Lithuania	53.1	51.8	52.7	57.1
Malta	85.8	79.2	76.3	64.6
Poland	29.6	34.5	39.1	37.0
Slovakia	71.7	77.7	76.8	74.3
Slovenia	57.6	56.5	59.9	61.8
<b>South-east Europe</b>				
Albania	19.5	20.7	..	..
Bulgaria	53.1	53.6	58.4	58.9
Croatia	45.4	47.1	47.5	35.4
Romania	35.4	36.0	37.1	44.0
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	38.0	37.9	..	..
Turkey	29.2	27.4	28.9	29.6
<b>CIS</b>				
Armenia	29.4	32.2	27.4	49.3
Azerbaijan	42.8	42.0	34.7	..
Belarus	63.6	65.2	68.5	66.3
Georgia	29.2	31.8	31.1	..
Kazakhstan	47.2	48.7	55.1	..
Kyrgyzstan	39.6	38.7	42.8	..
Republic of Moldova	52.5	53.3	48.9	..
Russian Federation	35.2	35.2	34.7	36.0
Tajikistan	66.2	..	..	..
Ukraine	55.1	57.8	61.1	..

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

*Note:* Quarterly data are not seasonally adjusted.

<sup>a</sup> *Aggregates calculated using current annual PPPs.*

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