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New Director for Transport Division

Ms. Eva Molnar from Hungary has been appointed Director of the UNECE Transport Division. Ms. Molnar has spent more than twenty years in transportation and other infrastructure sectors, like telecommunications. She has gained broad experience in governmental, private sector and intergovernmental organizations, as well as in academic life.

Before joining the UNECE she was Sector Manager for Transport in the Europe and Central Asia region at the World Bank, where she was in charge of the Bank's strategic directions in transport lending, business development, as well as quality control, staff and recruitment. Since 2004 Ms. Molnar has been on sabbatical from the World Bank at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, in the Transport Economics Faculty.

Ms. Molnar started specializing in transport in the early 1980s, through a wide range of professional commitments. While working for the Hungarian Ministry of Transport (1984-1994), as Director General for International Affairs (1990-1994), she was in charge of



negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements (road transport, civil aviation, inland navigation, railways etc.), and supervised Hungary's accession to various organizations and legal instruments, such as ECMT, CEPT, ECAC, EUROCONTROL, EUTELSAT and INTELSAT. She has served as the Hungarian Member of the Committee of Deputies of ECMT/OECD.

Ms. Molnar has also had exposure to business challenges – as the CEO of a road transport company, as a member of the supervisory board of Raaberbahn, a joint Hungarian-Austrian railway operator, and at different times of her career as a member of the supervisory board of other road transport enterprises. She was marketing director of the joint management-training programme organized by the Budapest University of Economics and Indiana University (USA).

In between her work as a civil servant and university lecturer, Ms. Molnar founded and ran a consulting company called Infraconsult (1995-1998). The company was engaged in various feasibility studies and research programmes related to transport and other infrastructure sectors, and prepared, among other things, a comprehensive draft of EU integration and accession strategy in transport and telecommunication.

Eva Molnar holds a doctorate in world economics, and two master's degrees, one in foreign trade and an MBA. The latter was a joint programme by the Budapest University of Economics and London Business School. She has participated in several management courses, like the Executive Development Program at Harvard, and has keenly followed developments in transport and development economics to continuously deepen and broaden her knowledge.

Her work has been published in various journals, such as those of ECMT, IRU, the World Bank, the Community of European Railways and the Hungarian Scientific Journals in Transport. She is a member of the Transport Sciences Association of Hungary, the Hungarian Association of Economics and the IRU Academy Advisory Board, and has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the World Congress of Transport Researchers. 🚆

The effects of pollution

Even small amounts of nitrogen pollution falling from the air can affect biodiversity and increase dominant nitrogen-favouring plant species in Europe. Climate change can also increase the negative impacts of air pollution on nature and further research on this is needed. The recovery of surface waters from acidification is continuing, with evidence of reappearing fauna; however, biological responses are not yet observed at most acidified sites.



These were just some of the results from recent workshops and studies reviewed in the annual session of the Working Group on Effects of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution at the end of August. The Working Group and its six International Cooperative Programmes, which monitor and model effects on ecosystems and materials, and the Task Force on Health met in



Geneva to review recent results and plan further studies for the year ahead. ☔

Meeting documents are available at the website: <http://www.unece.org/env/wge/26meeting.htm>.

For more information contact Matti Johanssen (air.env@unece).

Coming up

10-12 September —
Task Force on Access
to Justice



The first day of the meeting will take the form of a “mini-conference” on the theme “Opening the Doors to Justice: The Challenge of Strengthening Public Access”, with presentations by a number of leading experts in the field. This is intended to allow an opportunity for a free exchange of opinions on the ‘burning issues’ in the implementation of the third pillar of the Convention between a wider range of stakeholders than normally participate in task force meetings.

The Task Force meeting will provide an opportunity to review the outcome of the regional workshop on access to justice involving senior members of the judiciary from six countries of Eastern Europe and South Caucasus (Kiev, 4-5 June 2007) and to consider plans for further workshops of this kind as well as other awareness-raising and capacity building activities.

Website: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/a.to.j.htm>

11-21 September — Joint
Meeting of the RID
Safety Committee and
the UNECE Working
Party on the Transport of
Dangerous Goods



Organized by UNECE and the Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), the biannual meetings aim at ensuring the continuous updating and harmonization of the three main international instruments regulating transport of dangerous goods by road (ADR), rail (RID) and inland waterway (ADN) in the UNECE region.

The agenda includes matters related to carriage in tanks; revised requirements for construction, testing and approval of pressure receptacles for the carriage of gases; and harmonization of RID/ADR/ADN with the new United Nations (ECOSOC) Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods adopted in

13-14 September — Working
Party on Transport Trends and
Economics

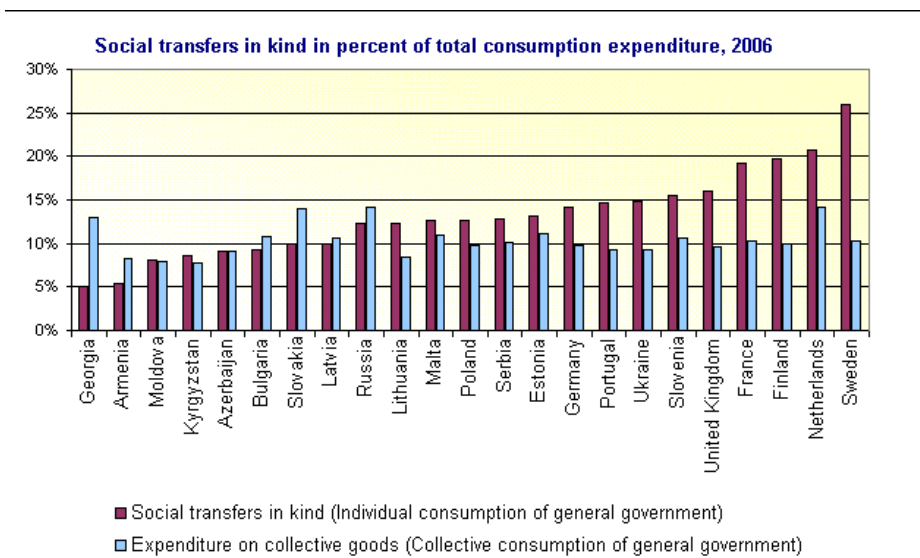
The agenda includes Euro-Asian transport links, methodology for identification of transport infrastructure bottlenecks and issues related to sea ports connection with their hinterland. An Informal Meeting on Euro-Asian Transport Links will be held on 12 September.

Website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp52007.html>

December 2006. The Joint Meeting will also discuss the introduction of revised criteria for classification of pollutants to the aquatic environment, based on the GHS.

Website: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dqdb/ac1/ac1aqe.html>

Facts and Figures Large variations in social transfers in kind in European countries



The importance of social transfers in kind varies greatly between European countries. The graph shows selected UNECE countries sorted in ascending order of the share of social transfers in kind out of total final consumption. Social transfers in kind cover social security benefits, social assistance benefits in kind and the like.

Measured by its share in total consumption, the importance of social transfers in kind is high in North European countries; 26% in Sweden, 21% in the Netherlands and 20% in Finland. It is low, 5% to 10%, in some East European countries, for example Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

General government consumption also includes expenditures on collective goods, such as security and infrastructure. However, the share of general government expenditure on collective goods out of total consumption expenditure seems more stable across countries and varies only from 8% in Kyrgyzstan to 14% in the Netherlands and Russia.

Source: UNECE Statistical database (www.unece.org/stats/data), compiled from international and national sources.