



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## UNECE Energy Week “Investing in energy security”

16TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
(28-30 NOVEMBER) & RELATED MEETINGS (26-27 NOVEMBER)  
CONFERENCE ROOM XII, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA



The theme for the 2007 UNECE Energy Week is “Investing in Energy Security”. Details of a number of the key events to be held during the week are provided below.

*(1) Special Session: Investing in and Financing the Hydrocarbon Sector to Enhance Global Energy Security  
Wednesday, 28 November*

Investing in future energy sources to meet growing demand will be a key challenge in assuring future security of energy supply. The current high-commodity price environment makes many energy investments look attractive. However, the historically cyclical nature of the hydrocarbon markets suggests that investors should proceed with measured enthusiasm. A shifting focus from private sector to public sector ownership of assets, as well as from established to emerging markets, will add further challenges to future development.

*(2) Release of UNECE publication “Emerging Global Energy Security Risks” on Wednesday, 28 November*

*(3) Forum on Fostering Investment in Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels  
Tuesday, 27 November*

The Forum will address: the current status and prospects for technologies for cleaner electricity production along the production chain from fossil fuels; key issues in financing cleaner electricity production in the UNECE region under current and expected market conditions; and policy and regulatory developments, concepts and future opportunities to promote investments in cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels. Additional information on the Forum is available at: <http://www.unece.org/ie>

*(4) Panel Session “Biofuels – A Reality Check”  
Thursday, 29 November*

Amongst other claims, biofuels have been advocated as an energy source that can increase security of supply, but what is the reality.

### MEETING DOCUMENTATION

Further details about the meeting, including the Agenda and other documentation, are available on the UNECE website at: <http://www.unece.org/ie>

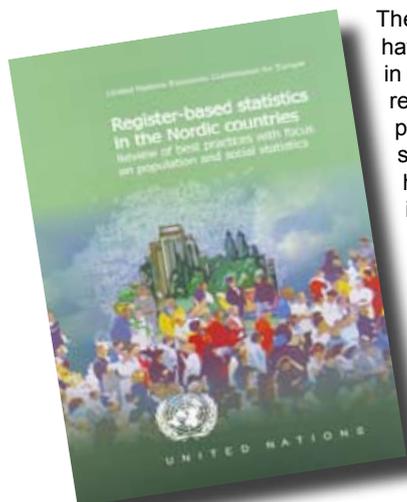
## Executive Secretary speaks on Peacebuilding panel

The Executive Secretary Marek Belka was invited to speak at a recent symposium on 6 November: “Our Common Peacebuilding Challenge: the Contribution of International Geneva”. Organized jointly by the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the conference was intended to give greater visibility to the United Nations’ Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and to promote synergies with key stakeholders within and outside UN agencies. Mr. Belka explained that UNECE contributes to peacebuilding by bringing countries together to discuss scientific and technical matters, thereby promoting regional cooperation, building confidence and encouraging mutual understanding throughout the UNECE region.

“While our work is not seen to be highly political, the history of our region and the post-World War II and post-Cold War successes provide important lessons in post-conflict peacekeeping, peacebuilding and preventative diplomacy,” he said. Mr. Belka endorsed the concept of “international Geneva” having an important role to play in promoting peace as well as extending lessons learned to the other regional commissions.

He offered two concrete proposals to nurture a greater engagement with the PCB in New York and to stimulate thinking about the future of peacebuilding: a regular exchange of knowledge and information with the PBC and the initiation of a conference on a future conceptual framework for peacebuilding in 2008, with the support of interested Governments and other stakeholders. These ideas follow on from the work of the informal task force on peacebuilding convened in 2006 under the Deputy Executive Secretary Paolo Garonna. The task force has held three seminars on peacebuilding in the UNECE region.

## Register-based statistics in the Nordic countries



The Nordic countries have a long tradition in using administrative registers in the production of official statistics. They also have a long tradition in cooperating in the field of statistics. The National Statistical Institutes of the Nordic countries decided to share their experience and knowledge with the international statistical

community, by producing comprehensive documentation of their best practices in this field.

In recent years, an increasing number of countries in the UNECE region have been considering the possibility of producing statistics based on administrative registers. This publication offers strategic and planning officers in the National Statistical Institutes an understanding of what register-based statistics are, covering also the necessary technical and administrative capacity, and the possible applications of these methods to produce official statistics. The emphasis is on the use of administrative registers to produce demographic and social statistics.

Available from the UN Publications, Sales and Marketing Section ([unogbookshop@unog.ch](mailto:unogbookshop@unog.ch)).

## Country profile on the housing sector of Georgia

The country profiles on the housing sector are intended to assist the Governments of countries with economies in transition in improving the performance of their housing sectors while promoting sustainable development. They represent a tool for Governments to analyse their policies, strategies, institutions, and



legal and financial frameworks for the housing sector. These profiles are analytical studies, drafted by independent international experts and conducted at the request of the countries themselves.

The studies are carried out by international teams of experts in cooperation with governmental bodies, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the private sector.

Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the exercise, and the country profile programme also focuses on specific problems within the housing sector that are of particular concern to the countries under review. In the case of Georgia, these are the issues of reconstruction, management and maintenance of the existing housing stock as well as affordable housing for vulnerable population groups.

Available from <http://www.wunece.org/hlm/prgm/cph/countries/georgia/welcome.html>.

For more information contact Michael Kunz ([michael.kunz@unece.org](mailto:michael.kunz@unece.org)).

## Facts and Figures

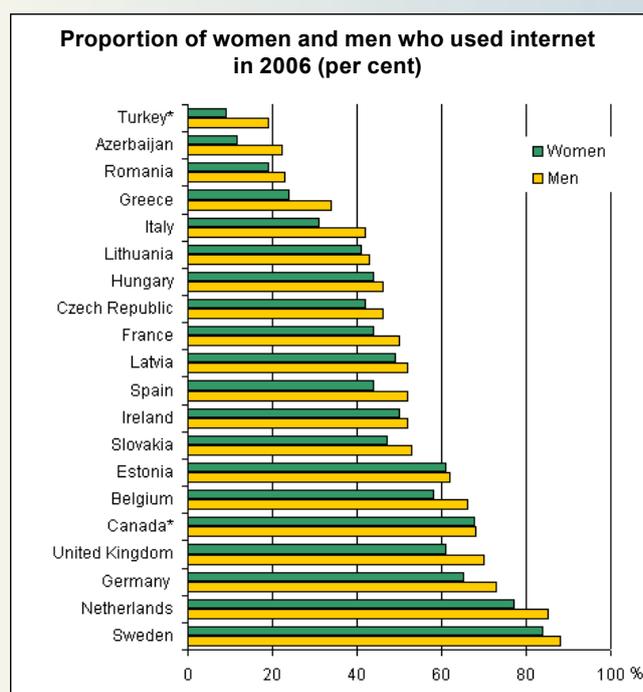
Modern information and communications technologies such as the Internet are widely perceived as major drivers of economic change, affecting skills and employment opportunities, and contributing to growth and consumer benefits. However, as the chart illustrates, the penetration of the Internet remains quite uneven among UNECE countries, and in general it is still used less by women than by men.

The degree of gender bias in the adoption of the Internet varies widely: for instance, in Sweden, some 84% of adult women and 88% of adult men used the Internet in 2006, which implies a 5% relative distance. In countries like Turkey or Azerbaijan, where Internet penetration is low, the relative distance between women and men using Internet was about 50%. The gender difference was also quite remarkable in Greece and Italy, while in Canada, the share of women and men using Internet is virtually the same. In general, the proportion of women Internet users tends to be higher in countries with higher per capita incomes and is also higher among countries with a longer history of Internet usage.

Source: National statistics and Eurostat.

Note: Data are based on ICT household surveys and refer to persons aged 16 to 74 who declared having used Internet during the 3 months preceding the survey. In Canada, data refer to persons aged 18 or more who used Internet during the 12 months preceding the survey.

### Men are more frequent Internet users than women



\* Data refer to 2005 instead of 2006.