



United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

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## Executive Secretary participated in EBRD's Board of Governors meeting

Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), attended the Annual Meeting and Business Forum of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) on 15-16 May in London.

Under the motto "Investing for the future: opportunities in a tougher climate", the meeting brought together Ministers, senior government officials and business leaders from more than 60 countries to discuss the impact of the financial crisis in central and eastern Europe and central Asia and identify lines of action supporting the recovery.

Ján Kubiš is the first UNECE Executive Secretary in the recent period invited to participate in the EBRD's Board of Governors meeting.

The EBRD, a key regional bank operating in the UNECE region, was established in 1991 to support the development of market economies and democracies in countries from central Europe

to central Asia. UNECE and the EBRD share broadly the same membership. The two institutions have been cooperating closely on a variety of projects including, among others: environmental issues, the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships, projects financed under the Central European Initiative (CEI), which was launched in 1991 to support those countries which are not yet members of the European Union, etc.

Ján Kubiš had bilateral meetings with leading officials and members of the Board of Governors of the bank, including Brigita Schmögnerová, Vice President for Environment, Procurement and Administration, and former UNECE Executive Secretary (2002-2005). He actively participated in some of the 20 country presentations that reviewed the economic situation and assessed opportunities for development, and met with their participants to discuss UNECE-related activities.

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## Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets

Project funded by the United Nations Development Account (UNDA)



Experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan exchanged national experiences on road safety, including achievements, lessons learned and remaining challenges, during a recent seminar organized by UNECE and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Belarus.

Anatoly Kuleshov, acting Minister of Interior, Antonius Broek, United Nations Resident Coordinator, and Eva Molnar, Director of Transport Division in the UNECE opened the seminar which is part of the project "Improving Global Road Safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets" funded by the United Nations Development Account.

Road safety practices that have brought significant reductions in road traffic casualties in countries like Spain, Poland France, UK and Australia were shared with



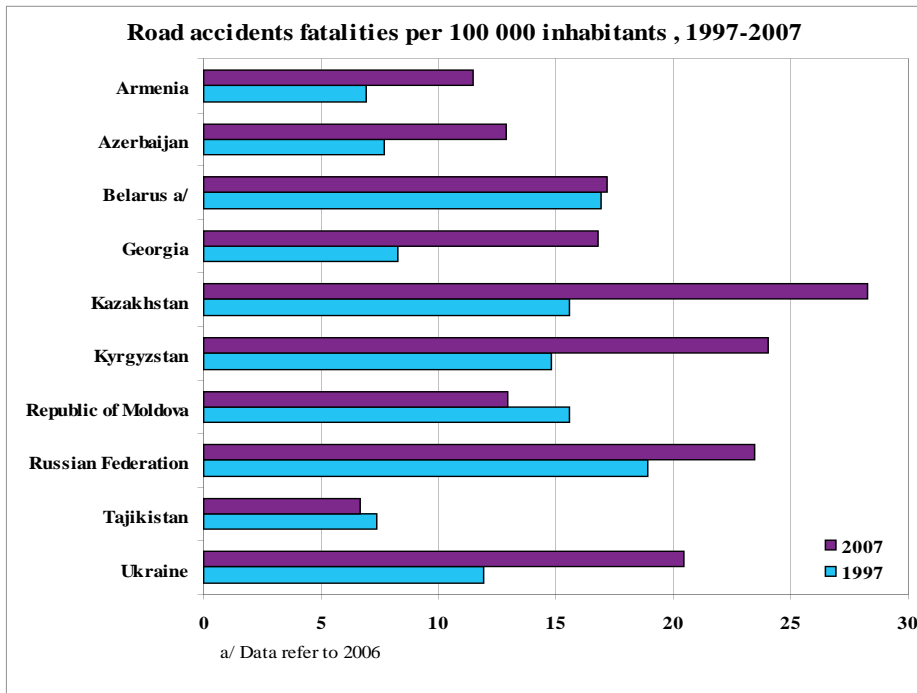
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## Improving global road safety (continued)

participants, along with good practices from the UN regional commissions, the World Health Organization, European Commission, Global Road Safety Partnership and FIA Foundation, to name but a few.

While encouraging such positive developments, participants recognized that road traffic casualties are still dramatically affecting their countries. Road safety is no longer just a transport issue; it is also a health issue and a social, financial and economic hazard with negative impacts on global development.

The results of the seminar will be included in the final report of the project, which will be communicated to the Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety (19-20 November 2009, Moscow, Russian Federation) and further promoted as guidelines to be followed by countries in all the United Nations regional commissions' geographical areas. ■



With few exceptions, fatalities on the road have increased significantly over the last 10 years across the Community of Independent States (CIS). The main causes of this phenomenon are the same as in many other countries in the world: the sharp rise in the number of vehicles, the poor condition of infrastructure, inadequate behavior (high speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, low rate of using seat-belts, child restraints, helmets).

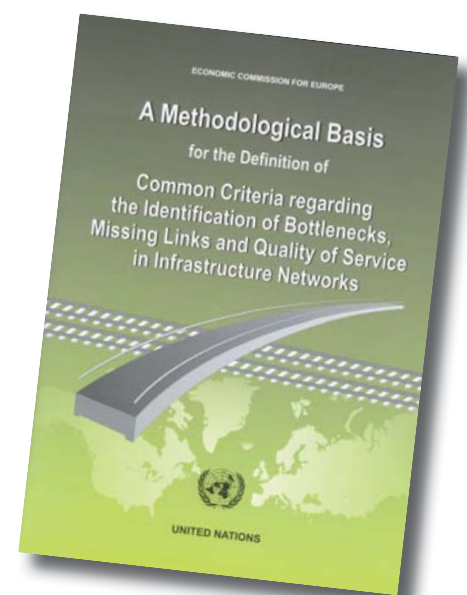
Sources: National Statistical Offices; CARE (EU); ITF; IEA; OSZhD (Organisation for the Collaboration between Railways)

## OFF THE PRESS

Since its creation in 1947 UNECE has been engaged in work related to the development of coherent transport infrastructure networks across the pan-European region. It has been internationally recognized for its activities in this domain, including the elaboration of major international infrastructure agreements that define key pan-European inland transport routes. Commonly agreed transport methodologies, of which this publication is an example, are important to all UNECE countries.

Building on earlier work undertaken in the early 1990s, this publication aims to provide an approach that will permit an unbiased overview of existing infrastructure bottlenecks and missing links in the pan-European region. A revised methodology for the identification of bottlenecks, missing links and quality of service in infrastructure networks will facilitate a coherent appraisal and selection of transport infrastructure projects of international importance across the UNECE region. ■

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