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## **UNECE TO TAKE PART IN 5<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH** **10-12 MARCH, PARMA**

Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary, will take part in the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to be held on 10-12 March 2010 in Parma.

The conference, organized by WHO/Europe, is the next milestone in the European environment and health process, now in its twentieth year. Under the motto, *Protecting children's health in a changing environment*, the conference will drive Europe's agenda in defining policies to safeguard health by improving environmental quality. The Ministers are expected to debate challenges encountered in implementing the previous commitments, adopt a Declaration and its operational part - the Commitment to Act - and decide on the future of the process for the years to come.

UNECE will organise three side events at the conference on:

- the Protocol on Water and Health to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (water convention)
- Protecting and improving human health through strategic environmental assessments
- the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP): from a policy framework to supporting action in Member States. □

Debates will focus on three main priority areas:

- progress made in environment and health in Europe since the first conference in 1989, with special attention on countries with economies in transition;
- socio-economic, gender, age and other inequalities in environment and health.
- the effects of climate change on health and the environment.

*The programme of the conference is available at:*

<http://www.euro.who.int/parma2010>.

*For more information,*

*contact Christina von Schweinichen at:*

[christina.schweinichen@unece.org](mailto:christina.schweinichen@unece.org).

## **UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNISES KEY ROLE OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN THE DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY (2011-2020)**



On 2 March 2010, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a historical resolution aimed at strengthening action of the international community to reduce deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes worldwide over the next ten years.

In the resolution, tabled by the Government of the Russian Federation and co-sponsored by more than 90 UN Member States, the General Assembly proclaims the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. It also reaffirms the need for further strengthening of international cooperation in addressing global road safety issues; calls upon Member States to implement road safety activities, and encourages them to become contracting parties and implement the United Nations Road Safety related Conventions.

At the same time, the General Assembly recognises the work of the United Nations regional commissions in increasing their road safety activities and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of their project "Improving road safety: setting regional and national road traffic casualty reduction targets" implemented to assist low-income and middle-income countries in setting and achieving road traffic casualty reduction targets. It also invites the United Nations regional commissions and the main road safety stakeholders to prepare the Plan of Action and to coordinate regular monitoring of global progress towards meeting the targets identified in it. Moreover, it invites them to organize the second United Nations Global Road Safety Week to launch the Decade.

"This resolution is of utmost importance for the continuation and further strengthening of the efforts of the international community to effectively address the large and growing impact of road traffic crashes," said Ján Kubiš, UNECE Executive Secretary.

"It is a great encouragement for the work of the regional commissions and in particular of UNECE, as it recognizes our contribution over many years to improving road safety, not only through our technical and legal work, but also through our road safety campaigns and initiatives aimed at raising awareness and advocating increased political commitment to road safety." □

The text of the resolution is available at:

[http://www.unece.org/press/pr2010/10trans\\_p05/Resolution.pdf](http://www.unece.org/press/pr2010/10trans_p05/Resolution.pdf).

For further information please visit:

<http://www.unece.org/trans/main/welcwp1.html?expandable=99> or contact: [infotransport@unece.org](mailto:infotransport@unece.org).

## APPLIED POLICY SEMINAR "PROMOTING INNOVATION IN THE SERVICES SECTOR" GENEVA, 25 MARCH 2010



The services sector is a major source of productivity growth, as it provides critical inputs for other economic activities and makes possible new organizational forms and business models. Despite this role as enabler and facilitator of change, innovation policies have only recently started to develop strategies that seek to enhance this potential, going beyond the manufacturing bias that has traditionally prevailed.

As this is a significant but relatively new policy focus, policy learning and exchange of experiences, including at the transnational level, are particularly important to design and implement effective mechanisms of intervention. The Applied Policy Seminar "Promoting Innovation in the Services Sector", which will take place during the first day of the Third Session of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Competitiveness and Innovation Policies (25-26 March 2010), will provide a platform for policy-makers, academics and business sector participants to draw lessons from the diversity of national experiences and exchange information on future initiatives in this area. □

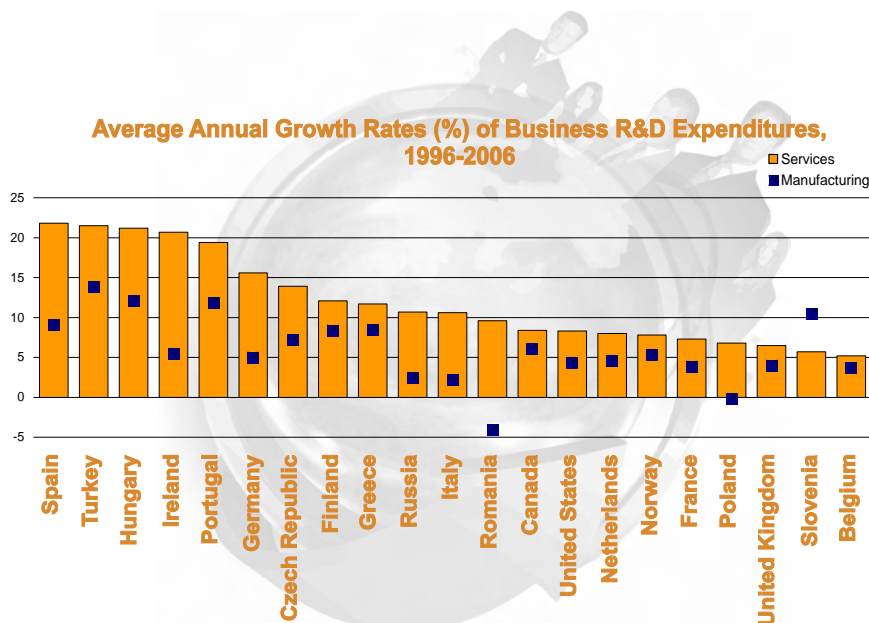
For further information, please contact José Palacín ([jose.palacin@unece.org](mailto:jose.palacin@unece.org)) or visit <http://www.unece.org/ceci/ic.html>.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### INNOVATION IN THE SERVICES SECTOR

The services sector includes a wide range of activities with very different characteristics, including traditional activities like retail and tourism, and others with higher technological content such as computer services and telecommunications. Non-technological forms of innovation (i.e. those concerning new business models, organizational arrangements or marketing mechanisms) are usually more important in services than in manufacturing. R&D is only one dimension of the innovation activity in the services sector.

However, there is also evidence that services are becoming more R&D intensive. There are statistical problems in appropriately recording business R&D. Many countries report R&D on an enterprise basis. As enterprises may perform a variety of activities, estimation errors may occur in the allocation of R&D to different industries. There are national differences on how this classification criterion is applied while some countries report R&D on a product field basis. Although these discrepancies limit cross-country comparisons, the available statistical information suggests that business R&D has been growing much faster in the services sector than in manufacturing over the last decade in many UNECE member States. These trends highlight the importance of identifying good policies and business practices that facilitate the process of innovation in the services sector. □



Source: OECD, UNECE Secretariat calculations.

Note: For the Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Norway, Russian Federation and Turkey, 1997-2007. For Greece, Ireland and Portugal, 1995-2005

Information Service  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)  
CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 44 44  
Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 05 05

E-mail: [info.ece@unece.org](mailto:info.ece@unece.org)  
Website: <http://www.unece.org>  
[http://twitter.com/UN\\_ECE](http://twitter.com/UN_ECE)