

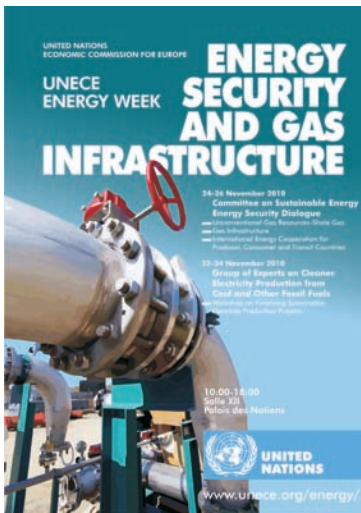


United Nations

# UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

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## UNECE ENERGY WEEK, 22-26 NOVEMBER, GENEVA

UNECE's annual Energy Week will be held from 22 to 26 November 2010 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. It will include the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Sustainable Energy (24-26 November), featuring an [Energy Security Dialogue: Gas Resources and International Energy Cooperation](#) on 24 November.

The annual session of the Committee will focus on the energy security dialogue on gas resources and international energy cooperation with presentations from executives and planners from major energy companies on gas resources and infrastructure, including on unconventional gas resources.

The focus on energy security will continue during the working session, with a discussion on the proposals on International Energy Cooperation presented by Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation. The Committee will also review the work programme of its subsidiary expert groups and projects.

The Committee Session will be preceded by the Workshop on Financing Sustainable Electricity Production Projects, to be held during the fifth session of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and other Fossil Fuels (22-23 November). □

For further information, please visit: [www.unece.org/energy/](http://www.unece.org/energy/)  
or contact: Gianluca Sambucini at: [gianluca.sambucini@unece.org](mailto:gianluca.sambucini@unece.org).

## UNECE KEEPS ON IMPROVING ITS STATISTICAL DATABASE

UNECE has released a new and improved version of its online database. It provides high-quality data on Europe, Central Asia and North America. The "Country Overviews" section offers around 50 key economic, social and transport indicators for each UNECE member country. Users can choose data for one or more countries, indicators and periods using simple selection boxes. The result can be displayed on screen or easily downloaded in various formats for further analysis.

The database is available in English and Russian and can be accessed at: [www.unece.org/stats/data](http://www.unece.org/stats/data).

The new improvements in the database allow users to view the data using geographical maps, calculate percentages, multiply, divide or subtract values using simple mathematical functions and subscribe to RSS feeds to get notification on any change in the data. UNECE is also working on better integration of the data with online services like Google Earth, Google Public Data and Excel web queries. □



## NEW RECOMMENDATION ON ESTABLISHING LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SINGLE WINDOW FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) issued on 8 October 2010 the second in a suite of recommendations on creating a "Single Window" facility for international trade. Recommendation 35 deals with "Establishing a legal framework for the Single Window". Developed through the UNECE's United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), the Recommendation offers advice and guidance on the most common legal issues that arise in introducing a Single Window.

Recommendation 35 draws on the experience of various models for a Single Window, documented in the United Nations Single Window Repository, as well as on country experiences throughout the world.

It sets out the main steps and issues for developing an adequate legal framework and provides guidance on legal issues and benchmarking, as well as guidelines for

identifying possible gaps in national law that need to be bridged in order to create an effective legal environment for a Single Window.

In two annexes, the Recommendation describes the most common legal issues that should be included in the analysis

As specified in UN/CEFACT Recommendation 33, a Single Window is "a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once." Such a facility can simplify and expedite information flows between trade and government and can lead to better harmonisation of data across governmental systems, bringing gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade.

For more details, see: [http://www.unece.org/cefact/single\\_window](http://www.unece.org/cefact/single_window).

for developing a Single Window, namely:

- The basic legal framework
- Electronic documents and messaging
- Archiving
- Electronic evidence
- Data protection and identification

- Authorization and authentication
- Intellectual property rights.

To provide general legal guidance to countries and the private sector, the Recommendation also refers to the work of other international organizations on electronic commerce and trade law. □

UNECE established the Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), as one of its intergovernmental bodies, with the mandate to undertake work of global relevance and to achieve improved worldwide cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business.

UN/CEFACT supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transitional economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contribute to the growth of global commerce.

*The texts of Recommendation 35 and the earlier Recommendation 33 (which provides practical advice for planning and implementing a Single Window facility) are available in English, French and Russian at: [http://www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec\\_index.htm](http://www.unece.org/cefact/recommendations/rec_index.htm).*

## PROMOTING INNOVATION-DRIVEN START-UPS AND ACADEMIC SPIN-OFFS



Almost 180 national and international experts came together on 9 – 11 November 2010 in Kiev, Ukraine to discuss ways and means of fostering the commercialization of the results of research and development (R&D), which is pivotal for the competitiveness of the modern economy.

The participants of the International Conference "From Applied Research to Entrepreneurship: Promoting Innovation-driven Start-ups and Academic Spin-offs" and the Capacity-building Seminar "Intellectual Property Management at Public Research Organizations" were welcomed by the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Mr. Sergiy Tigipko and the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE, Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, who emphasized the relevance of the topics to be discussed for the emerging market economies of the region. These two events were co-organized by UNECE, the Ministry of

Education and Science and the National Technical University (Kyiv Polytechnic Institute) of Ukraine.

During the Conference and the Seminar, participants shared their views on the regulatory and institutional setup which fosters collaboration between the academia and the business sector. The international experience suggests that effective commercialization of R&D results requires a better funding of research from private sources, more active collaboration of academia and industry, revision of regulations aimed at removing gray areas in the definition of intellectual property owners, targeted financial support to international patenting by innovative enterprises, and a more active role of innovation support institutions, which should contribute to removing the existing bottlenecks at various stages of commercialization.

The Conference discussed and adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations to central and local Governments of emerging market economies, and invited the UNECE secretariat to review the good practices presented and discussed at the Conference and ensure a wide dissemination of its outcomes to stakeholders. □

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## UNECE PARTICIPATION IN THE 2010 CEFTA WEEK

The CEFTA week is an annual high-level event that gathers policymakers, government authorities and business operators from the members of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). UNECE played an important role at this year's event, which took place in Belgrade on 10 and 11 November

national economy and international trading system, and introduced the work of the UNECE group.

The group is developing a guide for market surveillance actions, a glossary of terminology and definitions of relevance to market surveillance authorities, and a database containing the mandate, competencies and contact details of market surveillance authorities in the UNECE region (see: <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/SectoralInitiatives/MARS/MARS.html>).

The second day of the event included a session on "Overcoming Barriers to Trade: Market Surveillance". Ms. Machutova, General Director of the Slovak Trade Inspection, opened the session on behalf of the Chair of the UNECE Advisory Group on Market Surveillance. She explained how market surveillance benefits the proper functioning of the






Mr. Ivan Hendriks, an independent consultant working for UNECE, presented the guide for market surveillance actions in more detail. He concluded by inviting participants to join in the ongoing work on the guide, in particular as regards sampling techniques.

The UNECE mission to Belgrade was also the occasion for meetings with the Ministries of Trade and Services and of the Economy and Regional Development. □

*For further information, please visit: <http://www.cefta2006.com/news/cefta-week-2010-updates>.*

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