



United Nations

UNECE Weekly

Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 401 — 29 Novembre - 3 December 2010

CONFERENCE ON IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

IOANNINA, GREECE, 18-19 NOVEMBER 2010

About half of Europe's road fatalities occur in the 12 countries of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization (BSEC), mounting to more than 62,000 people killed in road crashes every year. With this in mind, UNECE and BSEC organized under the Greek Chairmanship-in-Office of BSEC a conference on "Improving Road Safety in the BSEC Region" in Ioannina, Greece on 18-19 November 2010. Road safety performance, exchanges of experiences, improvement measures and the implementation in the BSEC region of the UN resolution 64/255 of March 2010 proclaiming 2010-2020 as the Decade of Action for road safety were the principal conference themes. The conference was hosted by the Chamber of Ioannina and the Hellenic Chambers Transport Association under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks.



The more than 100 representatives of BSEC countries, international organisations, and NGOs who participated in the Conference endorsed the "Ioannina Declaration", reaffirming the importance of addressing the road safety issue at national and regional levels and inviting BSEC countries to consider setting up a regional casualty reduction target of halving the overall number of road deaths by 2020 (compared to 2010), and setting appropriate implementation monitoring mechanisms.

The delegates intend to issue this joint Declaration in their national road safety campaigns. They also expressed support for the work of UNECE and its Road Safety Forum in increasing road safety activities and in advocating greater political and economic commitment to road safety.

At its twenty-third meeting, the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States, held in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 26 November 2010 commended the organizers of the conference for this initiative and recommended the relevant BSEC Working Groups to consider the conference conclusions. □

For more information about the Conference or UNECE road safety work, please visit http://www.unece.org/trans/roadsafe/conf_ioannina.html.



PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

On 18 November 2010 Uzbekistan's Center for Political Studies organized in Tashkent an international conference focusing on "The Central Asian Transport Corridor: Prospects for Attracting International Transit Freight Flows." The conference was attended by transport experts and major international freight companies from Central Asia, CIS, Europe, Northern America, Middle East, South Asia and Asia Pacific, as well as representatives of international and regional organizations and diplomatic missions accredited in Tashkent. During the conference participants discussed the latest developments in the field of logistics and transport management, the strategies for the companies to attract freight flows, the economic prospects of the major economies and the attraction of international investment into the Central Asian transport sector.

Special attention was given to Uzbekistan's efforts aimed at developing regional transport corridors (Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman-Qatar corridor), which is of high importance for the economic development of the region and, in particular, of neighboring Afghanistan. The current operations and future potential of the free industrial economic zone in Navoi were also discussed. The Conference underlined the relevance of the work carried out by the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its specialized Working Parties especially in identifying and promoting the Euro-Asian transport linkages; facilitating transport procedures and organizing an exchange of regional and international experiences on creation of logistical hubs and promoting intermodal transport. □

For more information, please visit: <http://www.cps.uz/eng/events>.

MULTIMEDIA SIMULATION ON LAND USE PLANNING AROUND HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIAL SITES



UNECE organized a seminar on Land-Use Planning around Hazardous Industrial Sites on 11-12 November 2010 in The Hague under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and The Committee on Housing and Land Management. The seminar, which was hosted by the government of the Netherlands, brought together for the first time spatial planners, safety authorities, real-estate developers, environmentalists and industry representatives to discuss the cross-cutting issues surrounding spatial planning and industrial safety.

Not an official record - For information only

The seminar's highlight was an interactive, real-world multimedia simulation that allowed for a free-wheeling exchange of information. The simulation allowed participants to understand the different, and at times competing, points of view regarding planning and industrial safety.

The simulation presented the fictional town of Unch with plans to develop residential areas including the required services for shopping, leisure, health and education. Performance indicators were set up in order to compare alternative plans for development that had an impact on economic activity, quality of life, safety concerns and the environment.

Key players of the game (spatial planner, environmentalist, safety officer and industry representative) had to support or

oppose any development according to the performance indicators in their responsibility.

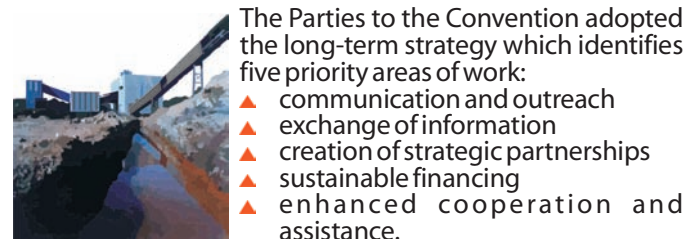
The simulation, which was enthusiastically embraced by participants playing the different roles, highlighted thus that transparency, cooperation and coordination amongst concerned stakeholders in safety issues and land use planning are pre-requisites that cannot be left aside at the time of policy making.

Participants identified the need to further promote the cooperation and coordination on issues surrounding safety and spatial planning and made a number of recommendations for ways to improve the situation. □

For further information, please contact the secretariat at: teia@unece.org.

PARTIES ADOPT LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION

The sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents took place in The Hague in the Netherlands on 8-10 November 2010 concluding successfully months of hard work.



The Parties to the Convention adopted the long-term strategy which identifies five priority areas of work:

- ▲ communication and outreach
- ▲ exchange of information
- ▲ creation of strategic partnerships
- ▲ sustainable financing
- ▲ enhanced cooperation and assistance.

The document gives strategic directions for the Convention so that the work on industrial safety across the UNECE region can be continued with greater effectiveness and efficiency.

The Parties also adopted a set of indicators and criteria to benchmark the progress in implementing the Convention. This is an important step in helping countries to self-assess their implementation and to determine what work is required for further improvement.

These indicators will be of particular help to the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, which are facing challenges in the practical implementation of the Convention.

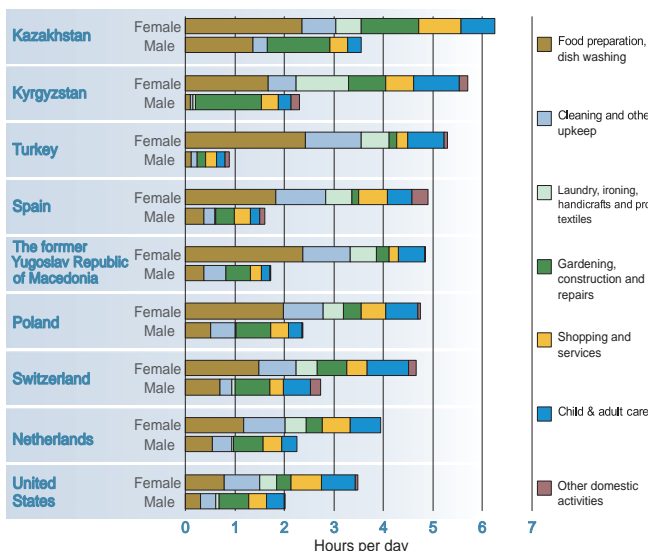
The long-term strategy and the indicators will contribute to creating safer communities and a cleaner, healthier environment in the region. □

For further information, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/cop.html> or contact the secretariat at: teia@unece.org.

FACTS AND FIGURES

WOMEN STILL SPEND MORE TIME ON HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES THAN MEN

Time spent by women and men in domestic activities, 2003-2008
(latest available year)



Source: UNECE Statistical Database, compiled from national official sources.

The sharing of household activities still differs greatly between men and women, although the division of unpaid household work is a key aspect in balancing work and family life.

Women spend much more time on household activities than men in all the countries with time use data. The gender gap is largest in Kyrgyzstan and Turkey where women spend on household activities more than three times as much time as men do. Women in those two countries spend about six hours per day taking care of a household. It is the highest level observed in the UNECE region.

On the other hand, in the United States or Netherlands the gender gap is narrower and the unpaid household work takes women less time.

Women also spend more time than men in all activities except gardening, construction and repairs. In all observed countries, the most time-consuming activities for women are food preparation and dish washing. These are also the activities with the largest gender gap.

The division of unpaid work in the household can have an impact on the number of hours in paid work. This can lead to the gender pay gap and the difference in social and economic security between women and men, including differences in old age. Understanding the mechanism behind the sharing of unpaid work between men and women can help reduce this imbalance. □

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
<http://www.unece.org>

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