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# THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

**2006 has been the year of truth for the recent Reform of this organization.**

The UNECE embarked on a major remodelling of its governance structure and a significant redefinition of its priorities in 2005. This essential restructuring had to be implemented in 2006. And so it was done.

The Reform and its implementation have intensified collaboration between member States and the UNECE secretariat. All thematic committees – which actually constitute the heart of the organization – had to cope with a re-evaluation of their work, an assessment of possible restructuring for effectiveness and efficiency, and a rethinking of the schemes of implementation of their programmes. This exercise increased the sense of consistency in the organization and led the way to a coherent approach, one based on the guidelines of the United Nations and matched to the needs and the specificities of the region. UNECE has thus entered a new and reinforced phase of its mandate.

In this, my thanks go to all member States represented in the Commission, the Executive Committee, and of course to all the representatives from the line ministries in the thematic Committees.

I definitely also would like to extend my gratitude to the UNECE secretariat, as the implementation of the Reform has depended enormously on the continued efforts of Mr. Marek Belka and his team. They have worked very hard, in cooperation with member States, at making the UNECE a relevant, up-to-date United Nations agency that benefits all countries in the region.

Belgium has held the chairmanship of the Commission for the last two years. The Reform is on course, the priorities are known, but the work is never finished. The UNECE will have to continue to keep its finger on the pulse of the needs of the region in order to contribute fully to this multilateral framework for pan-European integration.

**Alex Van Meeuwen,  
Ambassador**

Permanent Representative of Belgium





# THE UNECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Since its creation 60 years ago, the overall UNECE mandate of promoting region-wide cooperation and integration has been regularly confirmed in spite of the drastic geopolitical, institutional and economic changes experienced by the region.

This remarkable continuity likewise applies to the core areas of UNECE work, such as the development of transport infrastructure, norms and standards for road safety, vehicle construction and transport of dangerous goods, the facilitation of trade and border-crossings, the compatibility of energy networks and the international comparability of statistics. Obviously, the treatment of these issues, transboundary by nature, has changed over time, but UNECE has consistently been able to adapt its work, particularly since the end of the Cold War. Furthermore, UNECE has extended its work to new issues as they have arisen, an outstanding example being, since the beginning of the 1970s, the protection of the environment in Europe.

Actually, the continuity in the mandate and fields of work of UNECE is at the root of its success as it has enabled the organization to build structural comparative advantages, namely a long-standing expertise in a wide range of sectoral areas, combined with well-established networks of governmental experts. As a result, UNECE work leads to tangible outcomes, mainly in the form of negotiated and agreed norms and standards embodied in either legally binding instruments or softer legislation. Due to this well-defined “niche”, UNECE work is widely recognized by its member States and the other regional organizations.

In addition to its legal and technical work, UNECE is uniquely positioned to organize high-level expert dialogue focusing on the issues falling within its mandate, as was the case with the Energy Security Forum and, on a recurrent basis, the “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conferences.

Not only has the recent reform reaffirmed and consolidated these assets of UNECE, it has also provided the organization with a new impetus through the regained trust resulting from a streamlined governance structure and reinforced result-based management, which in turn has produced a high degree of responsiveness, transparency and accountability.

How best to move ahead? At the present time, the situation of the UNECE region is marked by an accelerated integration due to the enlargement of the European Union (EU), the implementation of partnership agreements and the emergence of new integration processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. However, the region remains heterogeneous in many ways: a number of countries still face problems of poverty, the transition towards market institutions is still unfinished for these and other countries, differences in the degree of competitiveness are still relatively large, and disparities in environmental performance are also quite substantial.

A major UNECE objective in the coming years is to contribute to lessening this heterogeneity by ensuring the access of countries with transition economies to regional public goods. Priorities in this respect include further development of transport links through Eastern Europe and Central Asia, progress in the harmonization of border-crossing procedures, improved enforcement of the UNECE environmental conventions and protocols, triggering of more investment in energy-saving equipment, and more extensive use of trade facilitation standards for the full exploitation of business opportunities within the region and beyond. All these require a strong focus on capacity-building for the effective implementation of the UNECE norms and standards.

UNECE can provide such expert advice directly to individual countries in need. However, acting in a subregional framework and cooperating with other regional organizations and institutions are far more cost-effective. This is why we want to make our expertise available for the relevant domains of the EU Neighbourhood Policy, to strengthen the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, as well as to initiate a qualified cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Community.

As an integral part of the United Nations, the role of UNECE is to promote the internationally agreed development goals within the region. We shall,

therefore, continue to monitor and support the implementation of these goals, particularly in such areas as sustainable development, the environment, population and gender. As the only United Nations intergovernmental body for the region, we have also to play our role of catalyst for convening meetings, at the request of member States, on broader and more cross-sectoral themes such as the Millennium Development Goals and Financing for Development.

Here, we want to team up with other organizations. Such teaming up, based on a fair and mutual recognition of mandates and expertise, not only avoids undue competition and waste of public resources, but also maximizes the synergies required for effectively addressing development challenges of a cross-sectoral nature.

This inclusive approach is a prerequisite for improving coherence in United Nations development work, a major concern in the ongoing global reform of the Organization. UNECE, as lead actor for norms and standard-setting at the regional level, and UNDP, as lead actor for the coordination of operational work at the country level, have complementary core roles and functions and must therefore strengthen their cooperation on the basis of their respective responsibilities.

I would like to express my conviction that an organization that is efficient, relevant, cost-effective and demand-driven, as I believe UNECE is, requires competent people. This is true for the UNECE: its staff are not only committed to its work, but also truly oriented towards the future. Together with the support and trust of its member States, this is crucial for UNECE to fulfill its mission of addressing the development challenges which the region will confront in the years ahead.

**Marek Belka**  
**Executive Secretary**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

## ENVIRONMENT

In response to the rapidly changing environmental, economic and social challenges of the UNECE region, the Committee on Environmental Policy, through its flexible approach and focused result orientation, has contributed to the strengthening of environmental governance in the countries. During a decade of expanding work programmes serviced by the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, the Committee has engaged in regional and national dialogues, in particular through peer reviews of Environmental Performance Reviews. The Committee has contributed substantively to the “Environment for Europe” process, developed legally binding instruments, and set up the Transport, Health and Environmental Pan-European Programme and the Education for Sustainable Development Strategy. The Committee, together with the governing bodies of the UNECE Environmental Conventions, represents a unique consensus-based policy forum for discussing environmental issues and bringing forward regional priorities.

Building on progress achieved so far, it is envisaged that the Committee should continue to play a key role in safeguarding the environment with regard to the new policy challenges. It will continue to tailor its activities to support the less well-off countries in transition, thus ensuring that disparities in environmental performance between subregions will decrease in the future.

One of the crucial challenges is the ability of UNECE to attract broad and active participation, both with regard to the transatlantic dimension and to the non-acceding countries in transition. Even if the latter value their bilateral contacts with the European Union, and some of them aspire to membership in the future, they still lack a multilateral forum other than UNECE to have an impact on events in the region. This means that fund-raising to support the participation in UNECE meetings by experts from lower-income countries will continue to be important.

To strengthen environmental governance, the Committee will carry out second Environmental Performance Reviews, taking into account the recommendations that Ministers will adopt at the Belgrade Conference in October 2007.

In the framework of cooperation among the UNECE conventions’ governing bodies, the Committee will continue to encourage the sharing of information and seeking interlinkages. Important synergies can come from experiences with the different conventions regarding ratification, financing of implementation, compliance, public participation and access to information, reporting and management, capacity-building, institutional aspects and outreach. The Committee can contribute to the work of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building as well as by promoting coordination at the national level.

Integrating environmental concerns into sectoral policies has been a major aim of the Committee. Cross-sectoral cooperation within the UNECE as well as with other international organizations such as the World Health Organization’s Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and UNESCO have contributed to the establishment of



the Programmes on Transport, Health and Environment (THE PEP) and on Education for Sustainable Development. Experience in cross-sectoral cooperation has shown how difficult it often is to achieve results. To that end, the implementation of instruments relevant for cross-sectoral integration and their efficiency and effectiveness should be improved.

### “Environment for Europe”

The Committee will continue to collaborate with all partner organizations in the “Environment for Europe” process and to respect their independent responsibilities and contributions. The Committee is also ready to take up overarching responsibilities such as monitoring the implementation of the decisions made at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in October 2007.

Since its beginnings in 1991, the “Environment for Europe” process has developed into a unique partnership of member States within the UNECE region, organizations in the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, regional environment centres, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders. UNECE, which has been closely associated with the “Environment for Europe” since the begin-





ning, serves as secretariat to the process, and also pursues many substantial initiatives that were launched at the Ministerial Conferences.

The basic objectives of the process, namely to harmonize environmental quality and policies on the continent and to secure its peace, stability and sustainable development, are as relevant today as they were 16 years ago. There is an urgent need for further integration of environmental considerations into all sectoral policies, so that economic growth takes place in accordance with principles of sustainable development.

The process has led to major achievements in many different areas: the state of Europe's environment is regularly assessed by the European Environment Agency in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNECE and other partners, providing a sound basis for policy decisions. UNECE is working with its member States, particularly those in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), to improve their mechanisms for collecting and processing reliable environmental data and to help them make these data available to the public.

The "Environment for Europe" process has also been an important driving force and a political forum for the development and adoption of regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in 1998, and the adoption and opening for signature of three Protocols to UNECE conventions in 2003. The process has also led to the launching and adoption of soft law instruments, such as the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, and more recently the Environmental Strategy for EECCA countries (EECCA Strategy) and the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

Also, several mechanisms have been put in place to assist countries with the development and implementation of their national environmental policies and to facilitate coordination between international

financial institutions and donors wanting to invest in environmental protection in the EECCA region (e.g. Environmental Action Programme (EAP) Task Force, Project Preparation Committee).

The Belgrade Conference, a major political event bringing together all important environmental players in the UNECE region, will assess progress in the implementation of the above decisions and commitments and address the need for additional measures in, inter alia, education for sustainable development, environmental policy and international competitiveness, sustainable production and consumption patterns, and energy efficiency. The Conference will also consider the future institutional set-up and substantive priorities of the "Environment for Europe" process. While the Ministerial Conferences remain an important political platform for all UNECE member countries, the focus of the work has shifted in recent years from the new EU member countries to the countries of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and EECCA. As the various subregions of the UNECE increasingly face different challenges, the Belgrade Conference may also consider how these differences can be duly taken into account in the future process.

### **Commission on Sustainable Development**

In accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of 2002, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its eleventh session in May 2003, invited the regional commissions to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations to provide regional inputs to discussions of the CSD.

UNECE has organized two Regional Implementation Meetings (in preparation for CSD-12 and CSD-14) to assess and



review important areas such as water and sanitation and energy. CSD-16, to be held in April/May 2008, will start a new two-year cycle with focuses on agriculture and land issues and on Africa. The UNECE region is expected to provide inputs not only with regard to progress and challenges in its member countries, but also from a donor perspective, particularly for Africa. To this end, UNECE will hold the Third Regional Implementation Forum in the beginning of 2008.

### **UNECE Environmental Conventions**

The multilateral environmental agreements of UNECE have an increasing impact upon the region as the numbers of parties increase, programmes of work develop and implementation of their provisions is accomplished. All five Conventions have brought about major success in improving the environment across the region and have enjoyed the support of countries throughout UNECE. Even so, challenges remain. The Convention governing bodies are aware that implementation is not always effective across the region and that there are still issues to address, many of them common to several Conventions. These common issues, as well as indicators of progress made and lessons learned will be brought before ministers at the Belgrade Conference with recommendations for future action.

A particular challenge is the EECCA and SEE subregions. Many countries from these subregions are not yet party to many instruments and have expressed concern about the difficulties they face in accession. This is a priority issue for UNECE, and the MEAs are working hard to define the problems and find solutions.

Most MEAs have developed reporting and compliance regimes which are playing a major role in assessing the effectiveness of the instruments and ensuring that Parties meet the obligations to which they are signed. While these are targeted at countries that are already party to MEAs, results show there is an important need to draw Parties' attention to the requirements of implementation. Reporting can also demonstrate to the "outside world" the effectiveness of the

instruments and give strength to what many consider "soft law" instruments.

**The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution** and its eight protocols have been successful in cutting emissions of major pollutants across the region. Sulphur dioxide levels have fallen since 1980, with a 65 per cent decrease in Europe since 1990. But there are still challenges ahead. While acidification is no longer a widespread problem, nitrogen deposition, particulate matter, and ozone still give cause for concern. Targeting specific emission sources such as international ship emissions and developing combined strategies to cut emissions of pollution and greenhouse gases are likely to be important mechanisms for future success.

**The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** has successfully contributed to improving industrial safety throughout the region. It helps countries to prevent industrial accidents that may have transboundary effects, to prepare for them in case they occur, and to respond to them if they do. It also encourages countries to assist one another in the event of an accident, cooperate on research and development, and exchange information and technology. Future challenges are to enhance cooperation between countries and strengthen the Convention's implementation, especially in countries with economies in transition. To this end, the Convention organizes an Assistance Programme for these countries.

Recent review of the **Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context** showed increased application of its provisions to transboundary projects; the Convention has helped provide information on the transboundary environmental impacts of projects. However, the Convention's application can be further improved, for example by the organization of public participation in a transboundary context, which is a major challenge. Practical issues too, like the translation of documents for authorities in "affected countries", merit improvement; some Parties consider this the responsibility of the "Party of Origin", but others have indicated that responsibility for translation varies from case to case.

**The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters** (Aarhus Convention), which entered into force in 2001, has 40 Parties including the European Community. Regarded as the world's leading international instrument on procedural environmental rights, the Aarhus Convention has prompted countries from throughout Europe and Central Asia to take steps to strengthen their laws and practices. As well as promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, the Convention is a tool for furthering democratization and human rights.

In the 10 years since its entry into force, the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes** has provided a sound legal framework for transboundary water cooperation and has been the basis for many agreements (e.g. Danube, Rhine, Estonian-Russian). Challenges remain to establish efficient joint institutions to manage resources in an integrated way and to develop joint river basin management plans addressing old and emerging issues such as point source and diffuse pollution, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The entry into force in 2005 of the Protocol on Water and Health, serviced by a joint UNECE-WHO/Europe secretariat has triggered an intense implementation roadmap to establish appropriate targets and tar-

get dates for providing safe water and adequate sanitation for all and for curbing water-related disease through better water management.

Following up on their successes within the region, most MEAs are looking to share knowledge and experience outside the region. Some instruments are already open to countries outside the region; several others have taken steps to become open through amendment of the legal text. Such amendments, however, may take some time to enter into force. Some Conventions are therefore making special efforts to link with non-UNECE countries and networks with similar interests and to “globalize” the Convention aims through this means.

## Mr. Miroslav Spasojević,

*Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials “Environment for Europe”*

In October 2007, Serbia has the pleasure to host the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Belgrade. “Building Bridges to the Future” is the overall theme for this important gathering of Ministers of Environment and Education, high-level representatives of international organizations, environmental NGOs and other civil society representatives. I expect the Conference to make important contributions in several areas to the further development of environmental policies in the UNECE region. Ministers are expected to adopt a Declaration which will focus on the state of the environment in the region, the state of implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other commitments, the need for capacity-building and partnerships in important areas like energy and sustainable production and consumption patterns, and on the goals and focus for the future of the “Environment for Europe” process. The particular challenges and needs both of the SEE and the EECCA regions will also be addressed.

UNECE is our main partner in steering the preparations for this Conference. The “Environment for Europe” process with all its partners is a complex endeavour, and it greatly facilitates the host country's task to benefit from a conference secretariat that brings the institutional memory, experiences and lessons learned during five earlier conferences to the table. In addition to this institutional knowledge, the UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division also provides considerable substantive inputs through its programme of work. This applies to the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment as an important forum for the consultation of the European Environment Agency (EEA) Belgrade Assessment Report and through its work with member States, particularly in the EECCA region, to improve their mechanisms for collecting and processing reliable environmental data. The Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs) of the UNECE provide important insights into the challenges that individual member countries face. Serbia will present its own EPR at the Belgrade Conference. Other issues to be addressed at the Conference, like the implementation of legal instruments on the environment, water and sanitation, energy efficiency and education for sustainable development, will also benefit from substantive UNECE input.

## TRANSPORT

During the past six decades, UNECE has worked tirelessly to develop a pan-European regulatory framework for inland - road, rail and water - transport. This effort has mainly stressed the negotiation and management of international agreements, conventions, norms and standards. These negotiated legal instruments, in turn, provide the foundation upon which UNECE constituents can build coherent, efficient and safe transport systems and infrastructures. In addition to facilitating closer integration, the UNECE transport-related work has contributed to the construction of safer and less polluting vehicles, safer and more effective traffic rules, and simplified border-crossing procedures.

UNECE regularly carries on with the updating of its transport-related international agreements and conventions. In 2006, the number of countries that became Parties to the UNECE international transport agreements and conventions increased by 52, of which seven were non-UNECE member countries, as many legal instruments are global in scope.

These numbers are a direct result of the UNECE efforts to promote its transport-related international legal instruments. In 2006, UNECE carried out as many as 60 advisory missions and capacity-building activities on transport in more than 30 countries. Nearly a thousand experts from the public and private sectors attended several sub-regional and national capacity-building workshops, and many countries benefited from a EU-funded pilot project that offered the opportunity for national experts to better understand the importance of the accession to UNECE transport-related legal instruments.

**Road transport.** The Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1) continued its work developing UNECE legal instruments aimed at facilitating international road transport. SC.1 adopted a draft Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road, introducing the possibility of using electronic consignment notes in international goods transport by road.

**Road safety.** Aimed at establishing the conditions for minimizing the risk of road accidents and for reducing their consequences, the activities of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) include amending the conventions, agreements and recommendations on road traffic safety. In 2006, the WP.1 adopted new recommendations that address:

- driving under the influence of alcohol;
- improving bicycle, motorcycle and moped safety;
- increasing seat-belt usage;
- the safety of pedestrians;
- driving at night;
- driving permits;
- communication and road safety campaigns; and
- daytime running lamps.

In 2007, it will work on recommendations dealing with such subjects as speed, mobile phones, the safety of children and the proper contents of first-aid kits.

**Transport of Dangerous Goods.** The ECOSOC Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals



(GHS) approved the amendments to the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and to the GHS. Amendments to instruments regulating the transport of dangerous goods by road (ADR), rail (RID) and inland waterway (ADN) were adopted for entry into force in 2007. Consolidated versions of ADR and ADN for entry into force in 2007 were published and remain top-selling United Nations publications. The Agreement on the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs and on the Special Equipment to be used for Such Carriage (ATP) was updated, and a consolidated version will be published in 2007.

**Border Crossing Facilitation.** In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, UNECE organized successful seminars in Moscow (for the EurAsEc region) and Belgrade (for the SEE region) on the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods and integrated border management. Work continued on the computerization of the TIR Convention procedures, in particular the so-called eTIR system, which provides for Customs-to-Customs information exchange as well as a system for the management of guarantee information. TIR computerization is expected to facilitate goods transit operations and contribute significantly to the security of the international supply chain.



**Intermodal Transport.** A Web tool was developed to monitor the implementation at the national level of infrastructure treaties administered by UNECE. As a first step, online information has been made available on the performance of the pan-European rail and intermodal infrastructure networks and their compliance with the infrastructure and performance standards stipulated in the AGC and AGTC Agreements.

**TEM and TER Master Plan.** Following release in 2005, which provided an investment strategy for developing the road and rail transport backbone networks in 21 Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, UNECE monitored the implementation of the Master Plan.

**Euro-Asian Transport Links.** Substantial progress was achieved in 2006 in the implementation of the joint UNECE-UNESCAP Project to develop Euro-Asian Transport Links as part of a global United Nations Development Account Capacity-building Project. Government officials from 18 countries in the two regions attended a meeting at which they finalized the main itineraries and GIS maps of the principal road, rail and inland water transport routes connecting Europe and Asia. 230 projects were evaluated and prioritized, at a total cost of \$42 billion.

As part of the same global United Nations Development Account project, UNECE cooperated with the other United Nations regional commissions to develop interregional transport links. The main road, rail and road/rail/sea routes connecting Europe and the Middle East with Africa, as well as the main Mediterranean and African ports, have been identified. Cooperation is under way to address physical and non-physical obstacles to interregional trade and tourism.

**The World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations** continued involving new countries into its activities, with India, Malaysia and Thailand acceding to the legal instruments it administers. The European Union (EU) continued to increase the use of regulations adopted by the World Forum, raising their total number

to 105 in 2006. The European Commission has already replaced the technical prescriptions of 15 EU directives with referencing corresponding UNECE regulations. Following the recommendations of the report of a Competitive Automotive Regulatory System for the 21st century (CARS 21), a further 37 EU directives were expected to be replaced by references to UNECE regulations.

In 2006, the World Forum adopted two new UNECE regulations annexed to the 1958 Agreement, updated 77 of the 125 existing regulations, and adopted three new global technical regulations in the framework of the 1998 Agreement. The new regulations and amendments will further improve the active and passive safety of vehicles as well as their environmental performance.

**Inland Water Transport.** Work in 2006 included the release of a new updated edition of the Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E-waterway network ("Blue Book") and of a Map of the European Inland Waterways, and the adoption of a set of recommendations on technical requirements for inland navigation vessels which will harmonize existing heterogeneous national regulations on ship certification. In the future, particular attention will be paid to further harmonization of national technical requirements for inland water transport and other relevant regulatory issues.

For UNECE, the overall challenge in the field of transport will be to continue improving efficiency, safety, environmental protection and security in the transport sector. This will be accomplished through revising the relevant international legal instruments and recommendations as appropriate in close cooperation with the European Commission; various United Nations agencies; international organizations such as the newly created International Transport Forum (previously European Conference of Ministers of Transport); the Organization of International Railway Transport (OTIF), the River Commissions and NGOs representing the public and private sectors.

To achieve these goals, UNECE will organize a special high-level transport segment during the 60th-anniversary Commission session. Discussions on "Secure transport development: a key to regional cooperation" will concentrate on the practical steps needed to further

develop efficient, secure and environmentally-sound transport links in the UNECE region, including their importance in enhancing regional economic cooperation and stability.

To meet the global challenge of road accidents and victims, UNECE, together with the other regional commissions and the World Health Organization, is organizing the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week from 23 to 29 April 2007, which will target young road users including young drivers. Another road-safety related challenge in 2007 is to help non-EU countries to prepare for the introduction of the digital tachograph, which measures drivers' work and rest periods and will be required by the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) from June 2010.

Another challenge in 2007 will be to find the means to ensure financial support for continuing intergovernmental cooperation vis-à-vis transport infrastructure and transport facilitation. Priorities will be: facilitating attendance of Central Asian and Caucasus countries in UNECE transport meetings; further developing and implementing the TEM and TER Master Plan and the Euro-Asian Transport Links Projects, and organizing capacity-building workshops and training seminars.

In the area of transit facilitation, one key will be ensuring the sustainability of the TIR system through strengthening of the Convention and improving transparency in its management. TIR computerization, including Customs-to-Customs electronic data exchange, guarantee data management as well as the launch of e-Declaration for TIR transport, will also present significant challenges.

Finally, in cooperation with the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine and the Danube Commission and other international organizations, UNECE will assist its member States in implementing the recommendations adopted in 2006 at the Bucharest Ministerial Conference on Inland Water Transport.

## Mr. Evgeny Mokeev,

*Chairperson, Inland Transport Committee*

The year 2006 – if measured by interest in the UNECE transport conventions – was highly successful. The number of States that became Parties to UNECE transport agreements and conventions continued to swell: overall, 52 new accessions were registered, and while almost half were from Montenegro, the rest – 29 in all – were new accessions from other countries. As importantly, the European Commission decided in 2006 to replace its vehicle regulatory system with the UNECE vehicle regulations. This was a major breakthrough, as from now on, instead of developing its own vehicle directives, the EU will rely on those developed at the UNECE.

In our fast changing and competitive world, this record-breaking number of accessions and the European Commission's decision on vehicle regulations confirmed that the Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue to provide valuable and useful services. In short, the legal tools the Committee creates and updates remain in high demand. These outcomes have also confirmed the appropriate selection of transport as a top UNECE sectoral priority during the organization's 2006 reform.

The Committee also develops recommendations on issues on which international consensus cannot be easily achieved. In performing these regulatory and standard-setting functions, some of which are global in scope, it fulfils a need which is not likely to be met anywhere else. This unique function is often overlooked, as is the Committee's continuing role as an effective forum for the exchange of best practices as well as technical and legal transport expertise, on a pan-European scale and beyond.

The Committee and its subsidiary bodies must remain forward looking and ready to tackle new challenges in 2007 and beyond, for example, capacity-building for countries with economies in transition. Without a doubt, many of UNECE member countries require expert assistance on transport regulatory and infrastructure issues. Capacity-building and expert advice is not without costs, but the implementation of the TEM and TER Master Plan, the Euro-Asian transport links project, and the training seminars on border crossing facilitation have shown that financial support can lead to successful outcomes.

In 2007, the Committee will be focusing on helping non-EU countries to prepare for the introduction of the digital tachograph in their vehicle fleets. Security of inland transport will be another area of concern. Transport is about integrating countries and peoples. That is why every effort should be made to overcome the potentially divisive challenges related to the introduction of new regulatory requirements. In this context, many transport-related difficulties will need to be addressed at the national level to continue to ensure uninterrupted traffic flows across Europe.

## STATISTICS

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) plays an important role in addressing the issues and problems that arise in official statistics and the challenges that lie ahead for national and international statistical agencies.

Given the many international organizations, it is an ongoing challenge for the CES and the UNECE Statistical Division **to coordinate the international statistical activities** in the region. The CES and its Bureau deal with matters of coordination on a continuous basis by:

- Reviewing in-depth the most topical statistical areas;
- Identifying gaps and duplication in ongoing work; and
- Looking for emerging issues not yet addressed.

As a result of the long tradition of working together, the division of labour among international organizations active in statistics in the UNECE region is well established, and the CES provides the mechanism to resolve problems on an ongoing basis in an efficient way. Recently, the CES and its Bureau decided to focus the attention of the CES on the strategic issues ahead in the coming years, rather than discussing only current issues and problems.

The CES **seminars**, the focus of the annual plenary sessions, are a unique forum for top-level management in statistical offices to explore in depth the fundamental issues of statistical systems and leading-edge emerging topics. The seminars often lead to work in new areas and the preparation of new standards and recommendations. Recent examples include Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing and Guidelines for Confidentiality and Microdata Access.

Two areas to be discussed by the CES in June 2007 are (a) improving efficiency and productivity of statistical offices and (b) the measurement of capital, going beyond the traditional measures. The former is a pertinent issue due to increasing demands and expectations of users on the one hand, and financial constraints on the other. With regard to measuring capital, the conventional notions have become too narrow as the values of companies are increasingly determined by their innovative capacities in such intangible forms as scientific research, information technology, and branding. The CES will explore how these supplementary forms of capital can be captured by official statistics and measured in a meaningful way.

In developing **statistical methodology**, the main work areas are economic, social and demographic statistics, and cross-cutting issues such as statistical information technology and dissemination.

The UNECE secretariat actively participates in the updating of the global methodological standards for the compilation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other major economic indicators, such as the System of **National Accounts** 1993 (SNA 93). Special attention is paid to ensure that the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) are well informed of the process and their opinion on the revision issues is taken into account. The UNECE Statistical Division provides technical assistance to the EECCA and SEE countries to improve national accounts to help these countries follow developments in the EU member States. Projects for 2007 include the survey on employment data and measures of productivity in the EECCA and SEE countries.

The Statistical Division is actively involved in developing methodology on emerging issues of interest to both developed and transition economies, such as measurement of the impact of **globalization** on the national statistical systems in general and on economic statistics in particular. Reductions in trade and political barriers together with rapid advances in communication and transport allow companies to operate across national boundaries. As a result, the measurement of national economies through the traditional statistical measures and national accounts framework becomes more difficult. In cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the CES explores how statistical offices can cope more effectively with the statistical distortions that accompany globalization. Work will first focus on the economic side of globalization, moving to employment, population, and migration at a later stage. Within the technical assistance framework, in 2007 UNECE is organizing a workshop on globalization and its effect on national accounts in Ukraine.

**Measuring sustainable development** is another area where joint work by UNECE, OECD and Eurostat is following up a CES seminar. Given the many different definitions of sustainability and the different indicator sets used to measure it, identifying good practices that could help national governments and international organizations to develop official statistics in the area poses a challenge. A working group is researching a conceptually sound, statistically-based approach to the measurement of sustainable development, by reconciling two main approaches used so far by different countries and organizations based either on the concept of capital or sets of indicators linked to sustainable development policies.

In the field of **economic short-term statistics**, there is a serious lack of international comparability for the EECCA and SEE countries in terms of key indicators such as industrial production and price indices. A pilot project to analyse the possibilities of calculating seasonally adjusted short-term statistics will continue through 2007, and methodological work on the compilation of coherent data series will be undertaken. Furthermore,



UNECE aims to ensure that EECCA and SEE countries are able to catch up in the implementation of business registers – an indispensable tool for an efficient system of data collection from businesses.

The UNECE Statistical Division maintains an **online statistical database** that provides the basis for comparing major economic and social indicators for the developed countries and economies in transition. The macroeconomic and gender databases will be improved to implement the recommendations of the external assessment carried out in 2006.

In recent years, UNECE has played a leading role (sometimes jointly with other organizations) in developing **social and demographic statistics**, for example **gender statistics and census, migration and health status statistics**. In addition to methodological work, UNECE provides policymakers, gender analysts and the general public with timely data on gender disparities. Some of the available data include areas such as decision making that are not disseminated by any other international organization. A new series of training tools and events is planned that will improve the availability and quality of gender statistics, particularly in the EECCA and SEE countries (in collaboration with the World Bank). UNECE is also offering a unique forum for statisticians, researchers, and policy makers to improve the measurement of violence against women.

UNECE provides support for the production of comparable social and demographic data particularly in the areas of population and housing censuses (in cooperation with Eurostat), migration statistics, and measurement of health status (in cooperation with Eurostat and WHO), as well as technical assistance to EECCA and SEE countries on the implementation of standards in these areas. UNECE works to provide statistical support in **monitoring achievement of the Millennium Development Goals** and improving the use of statistics for policymaking and monitoring in the EECCA and SEE countries. Challenges also relate to more involvement of Central Asian coun-

tries and statistical users in the development of standards.

The UNECE secretariat provides a unique forum where informatics managers from national and international statistical offices can share experience with other countries. It also plays an important role in the standardization of statistical metadata. The Common Metadata Framework, maintained online by UNECE, provides statisticians with a single gateway to multiple information sources on metadata related standards.

UNECE has also facilitated the development of new methods to improve the quality of statistics. Three volumes of methodological guidelines on statistical data editing and imputation have been published. Future challenges in the management relate to reconciling sometimes contradictory goals, e.g. making data providers increasingly responsible for data quality while decreasing response burden; increasing the detail and availability of data in online databases while improving the protection of confidentiality; linking various data sources and combining statistical surveys with administrative registers; and promoting the understanding of the importance of statistical metadata as a key to statistics. The work on dissemination provides a forum for statistical



organizations to discuss issues related to media and public relations activities.

The UNECE Statistical Division also assists countries in building and improving their statistical capacity by organizing seminars and workshops, providing advisory services, promoting the implementation of international standards and recommendations, transmitting best practices, and acting as a forum for exchange of experience. UNECE helps countries to implement the **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** by giving advice on statistical legislation and institutional frameworks, and on how to ensure the independence and impartiality of official statistics, especially to countries with economies in transition.

One continual challenge for the Statistical Division, the deficit of financial resources for providing the highly required assistance for statistical capacity building in the EECCA and SEE countries, can be partially solved through increasing cooperation with other international organizations. The Statistical Division is exploring the possibility of establishing a Trust Fund to support statistical capacity-building in the UNECE region.

## Ms. Katherine K. Wallman,

*Chairperson, Conference of European Statisticians*

Coordination of work and division of labour between UNECE, Eurostat and OECD – always a focus of the CES – has become increasingly important in the light of the fact that 27 of the 56 UNECE member States now belong to the EU and nearly all OECD member countries participate in the work of the CES. In addition to providing substantive contributions and secretarial support to numerous joint activities, the UNECE framework allows non-EU and non-OECD countries in the region work with these partner organizations. UNECE also provides a bridge for European-based specialized United Nations agencies (e.g. FAO, UNESCO, ILO, and WHO) to work with national statistical offices.

CES organizes meetings with other international organizations on topics of mutual interest, particularly in the area of standards development. The active and fruitful cooperation with other international organizations has led to many joint projects bearing excellent results. With OECD and Eurostat, over the past 15 years UNECE has developed the “Database of International Statistical Activities in the UNECE Region.” This interactive database (available at <http://unece.unog.ch/disa/>) includes information on the more than 30 organizations that undertake statistical work in the region (e.g., data collections, standards development, and exchanges of expertise). Using this forward-looking database, one can not only monitor and coordinate the goals and planned activities of the various organizations, but also capitalize on their comparative advantages and reduce redundancies in the work.

An important feature of the CES is that it provides a neutral platform where all member countries and organizations have the opportunity to participate in the discussions on an equal footing, and are able to interact regularly with Eurostat, OECD, the United Nations Statistics Division, IMF, the World Bank, and ILO. The work agenda is determined primarily by the needs of countries, not by those of international organizations. The CES provides a flexible structure that allows the UNECE secretariat (within the limits of its resources) to address emerging issues in statistics promptly by creating ad hoc working groups that have clear sunset clauses, and to continue its efforts to efficiently and effectively address the challenges ahead.

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Energy has always been important for UNECE. When UNECE was founded in 1947, it took over the European Coal Organization, which had been created urgently towards the end of the Second World War. The first practical task of the UNECE Coal Committee was to help alleviate acute post-war coal shortages. East-west energy cooperation expanded thereafter to include work on the production, consumption and trade of coal, electric power and natural gas. Energy security became a priority during the 1970s “energy crisis” as east-west energy trade and cooperation allowed western consuming countries to diversify their sources of oil and natural gas supplies away from the Middle East. As energy security has risen to the top of the economic agenda again during the past few years, the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy has responded both as a forum for an intergovernmental dialogue and through the practical work of its expert groups and technical assistance projects.

### Secure and Sustainable Energy Supplies

There are a number of key reasons why energy security has emerged again as an overriding economic concern. During 2006, steeply rising oil import demand in developing countries and the narrowing margin between oil supply and demand drove up prices. The volatility of oil prices is further aggravated by international tensions, terrorism and potential supply disruptions. Hydrocarbon reserves and resources are abundant globally, but they are concentrated in a few geographic regions, some of which are economically vulnerable and unstable. Even developing these reserves in some countries is difficult because of the restricted access of oil and gas companies. While energy-consuming countries seek the security of energy supplies, energy producers seek the security of energy demand to diminish the risks associated with large long-term investments.

Clearly the range, magnitude and complexity of these problems are daunting. Sustainable energy development is just as challenging. Ensuring the environmentally benign use of energy resources and their availability for future generations will not be easy to achieve. But it does offer a positive long-term dimension to the urgent need for secure energy supplies. In fact, a sustainable energy future is most likely to be a consequence of prudent energy security policies pursued today. The Committee on Sustainable Energy is structured to promote international cooperation on exactly these policies and measures.

- **Energy security**, so vital to member countries, has been addressed through the Energy Security Forum that brought together high-level representatives of the energy industries and the financial sector under the auspices of the Committee. In 2006, the Committee decided to pursue this important issue directly during its annual meetings.
- **Energy reserves and resources** need to be classified and evaluated using a reliable, global common system such as the United Nations Framework Classification, so as to increase transparency and knowledge on the future availability of fossil energy and mineral resources as well as to better manage these resources over time. This is the subject of much interest and work by one of the expert groups under the Committee.
- **Energy efficiency** can both reduce import dependency for importing countries while freeing up additional resources





for export in energy exporting countries. The UNECE Energy Efficiency 21 Project, as well as Regional Advisory Services, provides self-financing methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency improvements that can also reduce import dependencies and alleviate fuel poverty.

- **Coal**, one of the most secure sources of energy, offers an indigenous fuel to many UNECE countries so long as its production and use can be made environmentally acceptable by introducing clean coal and zero emission technologies. This challenge forms part of the Committee's work on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels as well as a United Nations Development Account project.
- **Coal Mine Methane** can enhance energy security by providing opportunities for inter-fuel substitution and indigenous energy production while at the same time reducing emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. This is one of the newer avenues of work under the Committee that is also supported by a technical assistance project.
- **Natural Gas**, today's fuel of choice and the so-called transition fuel providing the bridge between the present and a much cleaner, environmentally benign energy future, is an important activity of the Working Party on Gas and the UNECE Gas Centre.

In every important respect, the need for secure and sustainable energy supplies poses problems that will not go away and that probably cannot actually be solved. Member States can only hope to manage them better. In order to do this, however, they will need open a new chapter in international energy cooperation.

### **A New Energy Dialogue**

At its annual session in November 2006, delegations recommended that the Committee on Sustainable Energy undertake a broad-based intergovernmental expert dialogue on energy security in one or more of the following areas:

- Data and information sharing, and increased transparency;
- Infrastructure investment and financing;
- Legal, regulatory and policy framework;
- Harmonization of standards;
- Research, development and deployment of new technologies; and
- Investment/transit safeguards and burden sharing.

During its forthcoming 60th-anniversary Commission session, UNECE has been requested to provide guidance to the Committee on Sustainable Energy regarding its future programme of work, in particular which areas of energy security should be addressed first in enhanced expert dialogue on the subject, so as to contribute to a prioritized implementation of the Committee's programme of work.

## Mr. Jean-Christophe Füg,

*Chairman, Committee on Sustainable Energy*

Over the past 60 years, UNECE has offered a forum to Governments of the UNECE region to meet and develop common understandings to resolve and move forward on international issues of mutual concern. During its annual meeting in 2006, the Committee on Sustainable Energy discussed how this neutral UNECE platform might address current energy challenges and how best to mitigate tensions among member States regarding energy. Clearly, this will require a renewed commitment from UNECE countries to the principles underlying energy relationships and trade, energy security and sustainable energy development.

Each policy for promoting sustainable energy development has a corollary in the policy measures for enhancing energy security. For example, soaring transport fuel demand is a crucial but largely unresolved problem for UNECE member States, but one which might be addressed by additional taxes on petroleum, inter-fuel substitution to biofuels and natural gas, lightweight materials in vehicle construction, and hybrid vehicles. Clearly, solutions are needed that will have significant economic consequences for the transport, energy, environment, forestry and agriculture sectors.

Sustainable energy development touches, to a greater or lesser degree, on all economic sectors and all UNECE work areas. Promoting sustainable energy policies calls for cross-sectoral consensus building to arrive at measures that can be implemented through multi-disciplinary means in each sector over the long term. UNECE has the capacities needed to address such problems. The Commission serves as a consensus-building forum for debate on cross-sectoral issues. Technical Committees and subsidiary expert groups work in each economic sector. UNECE has the independent analytical expertise and the ability to deliver technical assistance, as well as the long-term intergovernmental mechanisms to establish agreed norms, standards and legally binding Conventions.

Some of these capacities will need to be reoriented and adapted to new uses, however. This can be done most effectively by drawing on the experience of member States and assimilating this at the international level. A reorientation of UNECE cross-sectoral work on key issues such as sustainable energy development could potentially benefit from these national experiences.

## The Committee on Trade

In 2006, the Committee on Trade approved its new mandate in support of the UNECE Reform. An important aspect of the Reform was a request by member States to all UNECE committees that they develop synergies and joint projects among their subsidiary bodies, with the other UNECE committees and United Nations regional commissions, and with other international organizations.

In fact, the Committee on Trade and its subsidiary bodies have long recognized that working closely with other bodies is crucial to better defining and fulfilling their roles in today's challenging and evolving environment. In the future, the Committee and its subsidiary bodies will continue to further foster and strengthen cooperation with all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure that the contributions of UNECE to trade in the UNECE region are distinct and make full use of the Commission's comparative advantages, in particular as a forum for private-public dialogue.

In 2007, the Committee will pursue research work directed at identifying the most critical outstanding non-tariff barriers to trade among the countries of Central Asia, and how the standards, recommendations and other instruments developed by the Committee can be used to overcome these barriers.

## The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)

Completing an international transaction currently involves a number of different procedures, with traders supplying different sets of data to government agencies and business counterparts when buying, shipping, and paying for their goods. This can entail considerable time and cost for both the buyer and the seller as well as for each of the different players in the transaction (e.g. transporters, freight forwarders, Customs authorities, financial institutions).

UN/CEFACT is working to achieve simpler, more transparent and more effective processes for global commerce. Part of this work supports "end-to-end interoperability", i.e. "seamless automatic co-operation amongst computer systems between a buyer and a seller", in which data can be supplied once at the outset and then be re-used to support the whole "buy-ship-pay" cycle. For this to be achieved, agreements need to be reached on the harmonized data required along the entire supply chain by industry, government and transport applications.

UN/CEFACT is working to support greater efficiency in these processes. It is doing so in partnership with other intergovernmental organizations as well as with the involvement of a wide range of experts from around the world, each of whom contributes to the storehouse of knowledge that is being made freely available for use in business, Government and trade. In particular, the results of this ongoing UN/CEFACT work are helping traders, trade intermediaries (such as banks and transport companies) and government administrations to significantly streamline and improve their data exchange systems.

In 2006, at the UN/CEFACT annual session, stakeholders put their priorities in sharp focus and reached agreement on an integrated strategy in going forward. The next UN/CEFACT Plenary, in May 2007, will continue to examine the challenges ahead and practical next steps towards achieving key deliverables.



## The Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP. 7)

The UNECE Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7) develops commercial quality standards for fruit and vegetables, as well as other agricultural produce. These standards are widely used by traders as well as by the EU and in many countries as the basis of legislation in this area. At the same time, the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables (the "OECD Scheme") adopts the UNECE standards as OECD standards and publishes explanatory material that helps inspectors to interpret these standards in a harmonized manner.

As part of the UNECE Reform, member States decided that UNECE should strengthen its work in the area of agricultural quality standards and that "consultations should be initiated with the OECD in order to concentrate the activities of the two organizations within the ECE."

This proposal would:

- Be more efficient because work on explanatory brochures often brings to light changes needed in the standards, or vice versa.
- Provide an important opportunity to expand participation in the development of the explanatory brochures

(to participate in the OECD Scheme a country must be admitted as a paying member).

- Result in explanatory brochures being available in Russian as well as in English and French (the two official languages of OECD).
- Be less costly for delegates, many of whom attend meetings on similar material at both UNECE and OECD.
- Provide one focal point for the development and maintenance of both the standards and their implementation brochures.

To support this transfer, the UNECE secretariat has prepared a draft transition plan which, after discussion at the sessions of the Specialized Sections on Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables and on Dry and Dried Produce, was endorsed by the Committee on Trade in June 2006. The plan was presented at the November 2006 meeting of the OECD Scheme, which decided to call an extraordinary meeting in April 2007 to further consider the document.

In addition to coordinating the proposed transfer of activities from the OECD, in 2007 WP.7 will pursue its ongoing work of developing and updating UNECE agricultural quality standards and promoting the application of these standards through seminars and workshops throughout the UNECE region.

### **The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6)**

In the UNECE region, diverging product regulations and standards are a critical impediment to trade, especially among the EECCA and SEE countries. Only a few mutual recognition agreements exist among the countries of these regions. Therefore, the certificates accompanying the goods are often not recognized, which can result in significant added costs and delays. The Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6) recently developed an International Model for Technical Harmonization (Recommendation “L”), which comprises a set of voluntary mechanisms and principles for good regulatory practices for countries wishing to align their regulatory regimes in specific sectors or product areas.

In March 2005, the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Community (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) signed an agreement on the principles of harmonization of technical regulations based on Recommendation “L”. More recently, work on the Recommendation and related sectoral projects was presented at the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the CIS, which decided to recommend that the national parliamentary committees in the CIS use Recommendation “L” in drafting national legislation.

In addition, WP.6 has developed two sectoral projects based on Recommendation “L”, on telecommunications products and earth-moving machinery, while preliminary work is under way for two more, on the safety of pipelines and equipment for use in explosive environments.

A further challenge confronting the countries of the UNECE region is the protection of intellectual property rights and the proliferation of counterfeit goods. The latter can be life-threatening – for example, adulterated or contaminated foods, hazardous toys, substandard electrical products and shoddy car or aircraft parts. The UNECE Advisory Group on Market Surveillance (“MARS” Group) under WP.6 has drafted a proposal urging Governments to enlist those authorities charged with enforcing product safety in the fight against counterfeit and pirated goods, where they could complement

the efforts of Customs, police and intellectual property agencies, and outlining how this could be done. The “MARS” Group’s proposal will be submitted for final consideration and approval as a new UNECE Recommendation at the WP.6 annual session in November 2007.

## Mr. Alexander Šafaik-Pštrosz,

*Chairperson, Committee on Trade*

The economies of the UNECE region are very diverse. One indicator is the wide disparity in the average total costs that firms incur to export one container of standard goods – including packing, internal transport, clearing Customs, and shipping from the port of exit. These costs range from \$420 in Finland to more than ten times as much (\$4,300) in Tajikistan (<http://www.doingbusiness.org>). As this example shows, securing a competitive position in the global market by establishing timely, reliable, efficient and cost-effective procedures for international trade transactions can present a considerable challenge, especially for exporters in countries with developing economies.

To achieve these goals, countries need a broad yet cohesive collaborative effort from private companies, business associations, financial and insurance institutions, forwarders, governmental agencies and standard-setting organizations, as well as Customs authorities and other bodies. The Committee on Trade supports these efforts by developing international standards and recommendations to support trade facilitation and the sharing of best practices for simplified and harmonized international trade procedures.

Two important aspects of the Committee's work are the development of international technical and quality standards and the promotion of harmonization and mutual recognition of national standards and conformity assessment procedures. The most basic foundation of international trade is that the buyer and the seller speak a commonly understood language. Internationally agreed standards provide just this. The existence of standards, for example, allows for long-distance trade in agricultural products, because they allow the buyer to purchase and the seller to ship goods based on a mutually understood description of those goods, thus minimizing potential misunderstandings.

The 2006 UNECE reform made sweeping changes to the Committee's mandate, shifting its focus squarely to international trade with an emphasis on the facilitation of international trade, specifically simpler and better integrated trade procedures, e-business, common agricultural quality standards and the harmonization of technical regulations. The work of the Committee, the only United Nations body dealing with these issues, has a worldwide impact. Currently, any producer that engages in international trade cannot do so efficiently without using or referring to the standards elaborated by the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Indeed, when countries want to support the efforts of their producers and contribute to their success in international markets, the standards elaborated by the Committee on Trade are often the instruments of choice. The involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in the work of the "new" Committee on Trade is highly appreciated.

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## FORESTRY AND TIMBER

Forests cover about a third of the land area in the UNECE region and are havens of rich biodiversity. The forest and timber sector also provides for millions of jobs, and contributes to mitigating climate change by replacing fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency. Europe's forest area is expanding by 700,000 ha per year, and several transition countries have based part of their economic expansion on an export-oriented forest sector. At the same time, the forest sector is quite susceptible to cross-sectoral policy influences, especially from the energy and environment side, which are causing major structural changes.

Public policymakers, private-sector decision-makers and policy-oriented environmental or social NGOs need an objective source of comprehensive information and analysis as well as a forum for the exchange of views. This role has been fulfilled by the UNECE Timber Committee and its partner, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) European Forestry Commission, since 1948. However, this role is becoming more demanding with the increasing complexity of the issues and the need to find synergies with forest-related initiatives in other areas. Competition between energy uses and traditional wood processing industries for limited wood supplies and the trend in public procurement policies to specify that wood has been produced sustainably are two issues that have been the subject of UNECE forums/workshops in 2006 and early 2007. These events not only facilitated the exchange of views between stakeholders from widely differing backgrounds, they also provided inputs to other international policy processes, notably the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, which will take place in November 2007.

The Timber subprogramme works to create a better regional understanding of the forest resource and whether it is being managed sustainably, notably by monitoring indicators of sustainable forest management. The joint UNECE/FAO subprogramme plays a leading role in the collection, validation and analysis of national information, as well as provides the necessary linkage between this work at the pan-European level and global activity of FAO (for which UNECE/FAO is responsible for the European part). All effort is being made to improve data quality and coverage, notably information on the environmental, social and policy frameworks, while minimizing the reporting burden by coordinating and harmonizing international data requests. The resulting analysis will be presented to the Ministerial Conference mentioned above.

Another goal of the subprogramme is to provide a better understanding of topical issues. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, with the European Commission, the International Energy Agency and private sector bodies, seeks to improve the information base on wood energy, a major part of wood consumption as well as a future key to energy security and sustainability. Current enquiries have already shown that the size and nature of wood bioenergy is larger and more complex than previously thought, and that the potential and constraints are not well understood at the policy level.

To promote the sound use of wood through better information on trends and influences, the UNECE/FAO subprogramme publishes the Forest Products Annual Market Review. In 2006, main topics included the influence of China on world wood markets, which is considerable and not well understood, and the options and dilemmas surrounding







education institutions, and a seminar on safety and health in forest operations is scheduled for 2007.

In all of its timber and forestry activities, UNECE works with partners, in addition to its chief partner FAO, with which it has a joint programme, joint publications and a joint secretariat. Close cooperation is in place with the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, as well as with relevant services of the European Commission. Talks are under way to effect more integrated European activities, partly in response to the call from the United Nations Forum on Forests to develop regional input to promote sustainable forest management. The UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission will meet in a joint session in 2008, possibly with an expert meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, and in cooperation with some EU activities. The resulting “European Forest Week” should prove a powerful symbol of regional cooperation for sustainable forest management.

public procurement policies for forest products (the so-called “green procurement”). Relations with the private sector have always been close in the field of market analysis, and trade and industry associations contributed strongly to the subprogramme’s work for many years. In 2007, Timber Committee discussions will be held jointly with the International Softwood Conference, allowing for an intense exchange of opinion on policies, markets and their interactions.

To build capacity in the EECCA and SEE countries, forest sector issues need to be better integrated and prioritized in the broader development agenda, especially in those countries with acute forest-related environmental/rural livelihood issues or where there is a potential to develop a dynamic, sustainably managed forest sector (e.g. where export-led growth can play a part in national development, as with the Baltic countries). Workshops to develop capacity for forest products marketing were held in Novi Sad, Serbia, and Dubrovnik, Croatia, and a team of specialists builds networks and provides strategic guidance to UNECE and FAO on their forest sector activities for these subregions.

During the year, the subprogramme began improving its capacity to monitor and analyse trends in forest/timber sector policies and institutions, as agreed in the UNECE Reform Plan, in particular about the “qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management” which concern policies and institutions. An enquiry to private forest owners in Europe with the objective of collaborating on a comprehensive and reliable system to monitor and analyse regional trends is also in progress.

The subprogramme continued its efforts to improve the quality of information in sensitive areas, for instance on illegal logging, certified forest products, and wood energy. Other activities included a publication on Gender and Forestry prepared by a team of specialists in 2006 and published by FAO, a FAO/UNECE/International Labour Organization (ILO) Joint Expert Network effort to implement sustainable forest management, the initiation of a network of forest

## Johannes Dengg,

*Chairperson, Timber Committee*

One important aspect of the Timber Committee's value added is its ability to provide relevant, reliable information and analysis on emerging issues, either in its regular activities or by a more flexible response, bringing together stakeholders and analysts.

For instance, increment in our forests is far higher than annual harvest, and has been so for many decades. But recently, roundwood market conditions have changed radically, so that buyers markets have become sellers markets. What underlies this change?

The market discussions at the 2006 Timber Committee session pointed to improving economic framework conditions and a surprisingly strong fuelwood demand, mainly driven by increasing prices for fossil energy sources and also by promotion of renewables.

However, there is growing concern about this development and the tough competition which has started between value-added processing of timber and energy generation from wood. Some voices already claim that there might be not enough wood left in the forests to sustainably supply growing markets with timber. Some have even asked for a halt to the promotion of wood for energy purposes. One possible answer is to mobilize more wood, which is possible inside and outside the forests (e.g. short rotation).

In January 2007, the UNECE Timber Committee together with related bodies responded to the new situation by holding a workshop on this topic. Discussions made clear that solutions are closely linked to numerous cross-sectoral implications such as economic background, legal constraints, and ecological aspects. This workshop may have been the starting point for an important debate, focusing the experience of concerned stakeholders in many countries.

Another value added of the Timber Committee is its ability to work closely with the private sector. For instance, in October 2007 the UNECE Timber Committee is looking forward to welcoming the International Softwood Conference, a leading trade organization. Thus, UNECE continues to provide one of the most effective international discussion platforms for analysis of forest policy and timber market development.

# HOUSING, LAND MANAGEMENT AND POPULATION

## Housing and Land Management

Housing, spatial planning and land administration issues are of practical concern for every citizen. Housing and construction are important sectors of each country's economy. Spatial planning and land administration contribute not only to the physical quality of urban and rural environments, but also account for the social dimension of human settlements.

If the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management has contributed to the improvement of housing conditions, spatial planning and land administration policies, it continues to face various and complex challenges regarding these three pillars of work throughout the UNECE region. Under the auspices of the Committee, member States and other stakeholders exchange experiences, disseminate information and discuss and agree on good practices in the different policy areas. As a result of this work, widely recognized guidelines on urban renewal, condominium management, housing finance, land administration and social housing have been prepared and distributed by the Committee and its Working Party on Land Administration. At the same time, the Committee provides assistance to countries in the implementation of policy recommendations, for example by organizing subregional workshops. Through its country profiles on the housing sector and its land administration reviews, the Committee also supplies policy advice at the request of individual member countries, which can include the comprehensive review of a country's housing sector or its land administration system by teams of international experts, who offer country-specific recommendations. Much emphasis is put on the subsequent implementation of these proposals with one form of follow-up being the regular reporting of member countries at the Committee's annual session.

The Committee on Housing and Land Management is the only intergovernmental forum related to housing, spatial planning and land administration policies that operates on a permanent basis across all of Europe. It is the oldest of the United Nations inter-governmental organs for human settlements.

In 2006, UNECE Ministers of housing, spatial planning and land administration reconfirmed the goals of the ECE Strategy for a Sustainable Quality in Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century, as previously adopted by Ministers in 2000. The Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the UNECE Region highlighted several areas which deserve particular attention in the future work of the Committee.

The process of socio-economic transformation, in particular in EECCA and SEE countries poses serious challenges to affordable and adequate housing. In many of these countries, the prevailing reliance on market forces has not been sufficiently complemented by actions of Governments in the housing sector. At the same time, significant challenges have arisen in Western Europe, where structural economic changes and unemployment have led to urban segregation and the emergence of deprived neighbourhoods. The Committee will continue to promote integrated housing and planning, as well as



affordable housing policies, in order to alleviate the results of this development.

The renewal, management and maintenance of multi-family residential buildings has become one of the most critical problems in the UNECE region over the past 15 years. In many EECCA countries, multi-family housing is in poor technical condition, further burdened by the lack of maintenance and repair and the absence of institutions such as homeowner associations who might take responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The Committee addresses these challenges in its core activities and supports the establishment of effective management schemes.

The experience of many countries has proven that the application of sound principles of land administration contributes to the security of all types of tenure and the development of land markets, and that it supports land and property taxation. Spatial planning contributes to improving the local physical and social environment, controlling urban sprawl and balancing urban expansion. The Committee will continue to promote the implementation of good practices in land administration and spatial planning, and to support the necessary legal and administrative changes.

## Ms. Doris Andoni,

*Chairperson, Committee on Housing and Land Management*

In September 2006, the Ministers responsible for housing, spatial planning and land administration of the UNECE region met under the auspices of the Committee on Housing and Land Management. The presence of Ministers and the heads of delegations of 36 UNECE member countries and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations reaffirmed the strategic direction of the Committee and provided guidance for future work. The key debate focused on two specific challenges: (i) Social and economic integration through human settlements development, and (ii) Ownership, maintenance, renewal and management of the multi-family housing sector. Ministers committed to contributing to social inclusion through the development of affordable housing, to improving the management of multi-family housing estates, and to supporting good practices in land administration and spatial planning.

As a unique forum for the region to discuss and decide on common policy directions with special attention towards countries in transition, it is the task of the Committee to focus on policy implementation regarding the above challenges. The thematical workshops organized by the Committee at a subregional level are one good way to foster the exchange of experiences and information between member States. Albania has the pleasure to host a workshop on affordable and social housing in 2007, carried out in cooperation with UNECE, UN-HABITAT and the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. The event will address access to housing for low- and medium-income population groups, housing finance, and urban renewal. It will be crucial to formulate and implement integrated housing, urban planning and land administration policies in order to meet the existing challenges in these areas and to conduct effective legal, institutional and administrative changes.

### **Population**

After more than three decades of below-replacement fertility in most countries of the UNECE region, the period of economically favourable age structure of low youth and old-age dependency rates, the so-called demographic bonus, is coming to an end and will not return. In other words, the population is both ageing and starting to decline. These demographic developments have important and far-reaching implications, encompassing economic development, social cohesion, sustainability and equity, and posing key challenges to public policies. Societies must adjust to this critical change.

In September 2002, five months after the World Assembly on Ageing, UNECE organized the Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Berlin. The Conference adopted the Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), which includes a concrete catalogue of measures in the form of 10 commitments. The holistic approach of the Strategy rests on the premise that the right policies in many different domains – if coordinated and consistently applied – could successfully meet the challenges arising from demographic change and release the unused potential of certain population groups, in particular older persons.

UNECE is assisting member States in implementing the RIS and in evaluating their progress by organizing an exchange of information on good practices through its network of focal points on ageing, coordinating the review and appraisal of the first five-year cycle of MIPAA/RIS, and developing capacities in the EECCA countries for developing ageing-related policies and projects. The 2007 UNECE Conference on Ageing (to be held in León, Spain, in November 2007) is expected to be an important milestone in reviewing the developments and in identifying priorities for future coordinated actions.

In the light of the Programme of Action of the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD), and the conclu-

sions of its follow-up conferences organized by the UNECE, it is vital that we better understand the causes and consequences of demographic developments and find sustainable responses to the challenges they pose. At the International Meeting on Generations and Gender (Geneva, 2000), member States invited the UNECE secretariat to organize another round of region-wide data collection and research on population issues, building on the successful experiences of the 1980s and the 1990s. This meeting initiated the UNECE Generations and Gender Programme (GGP), the most compelling source of policy-relevant research on population issues in the UNECE region.

The Programme comprises a survey of a broad range of influences on demographic behaviour in a triennial longitudinal panel study and a contextual database that covers national and regional trends and policies on these issues. It provides for interdisciplinary analyses covering a wide range of different societies, that are oriented towards the needs of policy-making and rely on up-to-date data. To demonstrate the potential impact on the Programme's population-related policy in the UNECE region, a conference on Causes and Consequences of Demographic Change, bringing together experts and policymakers, is planned for 2008.

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## ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

Globalization, the new technologies and the fall in transport and communication costs have created opportunities for increased prosperity, but have also given rise to new challenges and new competitive pressures in the world economy. Fostering innovation and knowledge-driven development is the cornerstone of any strategy to enhance national competitiveness, increase productivity and provide for sustained economic growth. The creation of the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division (ECID) was a direct result of the UNECE reform adopted in December 2005. This new subprogramme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of member States' economies by promoting knowledge-based economy and innovation, confirming member States' belief that international cooperation has an important role in fostering national competitiveness and shared prosperity.

As the challenges of globalization are especially pronounced for those economies currently making the transition to a market economy, the subprogramme's main focus is on these economies, and their particular needs. For countries facing developmental problems as well, increased competitiveness can be instrumental to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The common understanding is, however, that the issues addressed by the subprogramme are relevant for all member States.

The subprogramme has a clear policy and practical orientation. Main policy outputs (e.g. synopses of good practices, policy recommendations and guidelines) will be broadly disseminated in member States and will serve as the basis for capacity-building activities that respond to their needs and demands.

**Innovation and competitiveness** are driven by a multitude of factors, which is reflected in the different thematic areas of the programme of work adopted by the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI). Intergovernmental dialogue on innovation and competitiveness policies identifies good practices in promoting innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness. The diversity of policy experiences and the wealth of institutional arrangements among member States provides for a fertile ground for knowledge-sharing, leading to the formulation of better policies. Identifying good practices supports an ongoing dialogue and participatory process in which experts from Governments, the private sector and academia all take part.

**A favourable environment for entrepreneurship** nurtures the forces of innovation and change. New enterprises play a critical role in generating commercially successful new processes and products. The work in this area seeks to identify the barriers hindering entrepreneurship and to help create an environment in which it can flourish. As in other areas, developing wide support networks that bring together Government, the private sector, and academia ensures better policymaking and facilitates its dissemination.

**The access of innovative entrepreneurs to finance**, through the whole cycle from a product's invention to its commercialization, is critical for knowledge-driven development. CECI work in this area seeks to identify good practices and the effects of government policies and regulation on financial intermediation. A shared assessment, with inputs from member States representatives and the private sector, can lead to policy recommendations based on best practice.

The creation of networks of experts and stakeholders is particularly important in this area, especially for businesses challenged by small size, remoteness or financing constraints.

**Intellectual property rights (IPR)** have a paramount significance in the innovation process. Adequate protection and enforcement are crucial, as they create the necessary incentives, allow for the recovery of initial investment costs, and compensate innovators for the risks they take. IPR protection and enforcement also affect health and safety standards and fair competition. They are particularly significant for transition economies, where the transformation of R&D outputs into intangible assets often falls short of its potential.

**Public-private partnerships (PPPs)** can play essential role in the development of competitive advantages and the promotion of innovation. PPPs can be designed to share risks and undertake projects in various fields. The work of the CECI in this area draws on the practical experience of PPPs in market and transition economies, including those with related regulatory policies, with the objective to identify good practices that can eventually lead to policy recommendations.

At its first annual meeting, CECI decided also to create two Teams of Specialists (one on innovation and competitiveness policies and the other on intellectual property) to support programme implementation in these areas. CECI and ECID are also establishing networks of experts in all thematic areas, to facilitate dialogue between various interested parties in different member States and beyond.

This brief overview of the CECI programme of work shows that a variety of policy interventions in different fields support competitiveness and promote innovation. A broad integrated consideration of the issues allows for a better understanding of their interrelations between them and the identification of bottlenecks where policy intervention could yield larger gains.

UNECE is obviously not the only organization carrying out work on these important topics. Collaboration and coordination with other international organizations is necessary to avoid overlap and identify common themes of interest where joint work may be possible. While building on the results of other organizations, CECI will add new value by providing a multilateral forum for intergovernmental discussions and reaching out to countries not covered in the work of others. The broad membership of UNECE allows it to bring the experience accumulated by smaller organizations to a wider constituency.

## **The way ahead**

While we are still at the beginning of the road, a number of important meetings will take place in 2007, including the first session of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies, the meeting on IPR Protection and Transforming R&D Outputs into Intangible Assets, the annual meeting of the Team of Specialists on Intellectual Property and the annual session of CECI. Various events are also planned in the areas of entrepreneurship, financing for innovative development and PPPs. These meetings, which will bring together members of our broader constituency, will have a capacity-building dimension, as they will provide an opportunity for participants from low-income transition countries to engage with the support networks that have access to valuable materials and resources.

We envision that the adoption of CECI policy recommendations and guidelines and ongoing networking activities will mobilize additional resources and expand the range of our capacity-building acti-

vities. The networks created will support the broad dissemination of our work, ensuring its maximum effectiveness, as a further driver for enhanced cooperation at the regional and subregional levels. The Web-based virtual platform for exchange of information being established by ECID will provide a structured channel for dialogue between experts as well as a repository for useful material supporting shared assessments and the exchange of experiences.

## Mr. Matti Pietarinen,

*Chairman, Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration*

The range of issues to be considered by the Committee defines an exciting programme of work that is of great relevance to our member States. Innovation is the outcome of complex interaction between individuals, organizations, institutions and the existing system of economic incentives. While competition is a clear driver of innovation, collaborative efforts between private agents and between the public and private sectors are crucial. Innovation is the foundation of sustainable economic development, and addresses challenges to future improvements in welfare.

In many transition countries, the main focus of CECI activity, education levels and a tradition of scientific research create a potential for innovation that is not fully realized due to certain factors. Tapping into this potential would contribute to the increased prosperity of our region.

The creation of wide networks of experts in the various thematic areas is a promising direction for CECI, as they facilitate the circulation of knowledge and the review of the various initiatives undertaken.

CECI provides a unique intergovernmental forum for the exchange of best practices and the sharing of experiences. These can be lessons learned at the national level, or the exploration of those areas where international cooperation have an impact on competitiveness and innovation.

# GENDER ISSUES

## UN mandate and framework

Equality between men and women is among the “oldest” United Nations mandates: the Commission of the Status of Women was one of the first bodies established by the United Nations in 1947. Its relevance is well illustrated by the fact that of the 160 signatories of the Charter of the United Nations, only four were women.

Global United Nations conferences on women have played a catalytic role in raising awareness, mobilizing political support and establishing policy recommendations on how to move towards gender equality. UNECE and other regional commissions are an important part of this process, providing a platform for regional reviews of progress, the exchange of good practices, and recommendations for further action. They work closely with national bodies working for gender equality, but also with NGOs, which have been a major partner in taking initiative and lobbying for change.

The Beijing Conference in 1995 in particular is considered a success of the women’s movement. Its outcome document, the Platform for Action, gave a strong political mandate, providing a policy framework and recommendations for action in 12 areas, including poverty, education, health, economy, decision-making, institutional mechanisms and human rights. Gender equality is also an integral part of other United Nations global processes, such as the Millennium Development Goals and Financing for Development.

## Progress made

Beijing +5 and Beijing +10 reviews in the UNECE region have revealed that since 1995 most member countries have made progress, but its speed and success vary substantially among countries and sub-regions. There are also worrisome trends in most countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, where women’s position in the economy has deteriorated during the transition process, with job losses, an increase in low-paid jobs in both the formal and informal sectors, and cuts in social protection. In these countries, women’s access to health services has also deteriorated and there has been a substantial rise in poverty. Traditional views about women’s roles are also resurging in a number of countries.

On the positive side, in the most advanced economies women’s employability has improved and new measures are helping both parents combine work with family responsibilities. Legislation and institutional mechanisms promoting gender equality have improved across the UNECE region, but legal gains still have to be translated into de facto equality, especially in terms of economic opportunities.

## Gender equality and economics: why equal opportunities matter

Gender equality, a traditional domain of sociologists and political scientists, is increasingly addressed by economists. Equality is seen as an asset and a smart choice for policies aimed at improving competitiveness and economic performance. The reasons for this change are particularly relevant for European societies in the context of current ageing and demographic trends.



In many countries, women are a major source of new labour (except migration) necessary to ensure sustainability of the pension system and to cover for growing expenses on pensions, health care and other services for the non-working population. Women are also well educated (in some countries better than men in terms of tertiary education).





Equal opportunities policies allow for the best allocation of human resources, opening up on the ideas and talents of women and men as entrepreneurs, managers and economic decision-makers to develop the new products and services necessary to compete on global markets. The link between equal opportunities and competitiveness is well reflected in the Lisbon Strategy for EU countries and in the policies of Nordic countries, which are among both the most equal and competitive countries in the region. Similar problems need to be addressed by other countries, especially those with transition economies, to combine the process of industrial restructuring with the reduction of poverty and inequalities in the transition to a market-based system with many welfare provisions.

### **Policy implications**

Both economic institutions and policies still draw on a male breadwinner model in which women are secondary earners and depend on a man for social benefits and pensions. Moving to a dual-earner model requires making connections between paid and unpaid (caring) work and a more equal distribution of caring work between women and men.

Change means adopting a gender perspective in employment and labour market policy, including female entrepreneurship and welfare reforms. While progress in mainstreaming gender in employment policy is encouraging in many countries, gender equality has only been a marginal concern in welfare reforms. Women have been largely forgotten as partners of these reforms, which would affect a number of areas vital for women's interests, such as family benefits and pensions. Pension reforms have particularly weakened the position of low-income women, making likely an even greater proportion of older women who will live in poverty.

Adopting a gender perspective also requires changes in the ways that Governments raise and spend money. Initiatives to promote Gender Responsive Budgeting in the public sector have been

undertaken in the region in the last few years, including in the United Kingdom, the Nordic countries, Canada and Switzerland. These initiatives should be broadened and deepened as most are in the pilot phase. A gender analysis of taxation, for example, could look into the content of tax rules in relation to the treatment of women as autonomous, different types of paid and unpaid work, and how the redistributive effect reduces the gender gap in income.

Change, furthermore, means equal opportunities policies in the private sector, which is now "discovering" that gender equality makes business sense. Leading companies include gender equality criteria in initiatives for corporate social responsibility and measures for more effective development and management of human resources.

Progress in effective mainstreaming of gender equality issues in economic decision-making across the region, in both Government and business, requires more research and the creation of a regional network of men and women economists to work on developing gender-sensitive economic policy, gender disaggregated data, more dialogue with policy makers and the exchange of good practices. Many of these are just emerging.

### **What UNECE does for equal opportunities?**

UNECE does not have a special subprogramme on gender, as its activities focus on economic areas and supporting countries in mainstreaming gender through economic and sectoral policies. This process is coordinated by the Office of the Executive Secretary (Gender Focal Point), which also initiates and runs selected activities. These activities rely on guidance from Commission sessions and sectoral committees as well as recommendations from regional reviews under the Beijing process. The new geopolitical situation after EU enlargement has increased the need for the exchange of experiences and the dialogue among all countries, and to initiate convergence of equality standards and various forms of cooperation in a pan-European perspective.

## Aitkul Samakova,

*Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan and Head of the National Gender Machinery*

SPECA – the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia – provides an excellent framework to help countries mainstream gender into economic activities and policies. Women’s potential in our countries still remains untapped, even though they are more educated than men. The unemployment rate is higher among women. Although the future of Kazakhstan is linked with its industrial development, few women study technical specializations and they constitute only one third of industrial sector employees. Average wages for women are lower than for men by one third. Progress in this area is essential not only to ensure equal opportunities for women and men, but also to effectively use the country’s economic potential for sustainable development. Countries could thus benefit from raising awareness on women’s economic contribution, exchanging good practices, and identifying tools for mainstreaming gender into the labour market, budgetary, trade and ICT policies. We will also be able to discuss how to eliminate gender-specific barriers resulting in a wage gap, the difficulties of combining work with family responsibilities as well as cultural and social stereotypes of women’s roles. Kazakhstan, as well as other SPECA countries, already has good practices in some of these areas, such as in developing micro-credit schemes. This initiative was launched by Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan at the International Conference on Strengthening Subregional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of the UN SPECA (Astana, 2005), where SPECA member countries agreed to consider establishing a new Working Group on Gender and Economy. Its work will be supported by UNECE and UNESCAP in cooperation with partner organizations. Kazakhstan will actively participate in the work of the new Working Group.

### **The future**

The UNECE reform in 2006 re-affirmed the need for particular attention to be paid to the gender dimension of development as a priority cross-cutting theme and for strengthening mainstreaming efforts, taking into account the economic areas addressed by the regional Beijing +10 review.

In line with the reform, UNECE can continue to play its role as a regional platform to review progress, exchange experience and discuss a new approach to gender equality as a crucial factor for smart economics. One illustration of this work direction is the proposal to organize a regional meeting to review progress and identify good practices in the area of “women and the economy” in the context of preparations for the Beijing+15 review.

## UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)

Central Asia's strategic importance makes it a unique region within the UNECE area: it plays a significant role in the energy security of Europe and Asia, it is a potential transport hub between the two continents, and it is central to the fight against such global security challenges as terrorism, religious extremism or drug trafficking. Central Asian countries face unique challenges: they are all landlocked, they are following divergent paths of economic development and they all face a rapidly growing gap between the income levels of energy exporting and non-energy exporting States. All face the urgent task of diversifying their economies and moving away from their present status of energy and commodity exporters. Strengthening regional cooperation is a key precondition for the rapid, balanced and sustained economic development of all the countries of the region. Only through close regional cooperation can they fully capitalize on their strategic advantages and collectively address the challenges that can potentially de-stabilize the region.

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) addresses the unique needs of its member countries. SPECA was established in 1998 by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Azerbaijan joined in 2002 and Afghanistan in 2005. It is supported jointly by UNECE and UNESCAP. The SPECA Programme has distinct comparative advantages: it was initiated and established by its member countries; it is governed by them; it focuses on critical issues of regional cooperation, taking advantage of international legal instruments, norms, standards and recommendations of UNECE and UNESCAP; and it combines technical assistance and capacity-building by the in-house experts of UNECE and UNESCAP with cross-sector, inter-ministerial policy discussions and regular policy-business-research dialogue. Since all the major countries of Central Asia are members either of UNECE or UNESCAP, SPECA provides a neutral forum for the discussion of complex strategic issues of intra- and interregional cooperation.

Due to these comparative advantages, SPECA has demonstrated an impressive level of adaptability. In 2004, the United Nations Secretary-General gave the two regional commissions the task of reinvigorating and strengthening the Programme. The reform was launched at the International Conference on Strengthening Subregional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of SPECA in May 2005 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The first results are now becoming visible. The new governing structure (the Governing Council attended by deputy prime ministers and the Coordinating Committee attended by deputy foreign ministers) provides for dynamic and effective strategic guidance to the six Project Working Groups.

The 2005-2007 SPECA Work Plan includes 28 projects/activities in the above areas. Currently, 14 projects are assured funding of about \$4 million. Three projects with an outlay of about \$1 million have been approved for funding under the fifth tranche of the United Nations Development Account. The activities of each Project Working Group are supported by the relevant Divisions of UNECE and UNESCAP in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way.



**The Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing** focuses on the development of Euro-Asian transport linkages, including the possible extension of the TER (railway) and TEM (road) networks into the region. It plays an active role in preparations for the Mid-Term Review (2008) of the Almaty Declaration of Land-Locked and Transit Developing Countries.

**The Project Working Group on Water and Energy** has drafted, inter alia, the Cooperation Strategy for the Rational and Efficient Use of Energy and Water Resources in Central Asia (2003) and prepared diagnostic reports on the energy and water resources of the region. It has played a key role in establishing cooperation between the Governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the management of the Chu and Talas Rivers. It is currently working on a dam safety project for Central Asia, which is strongly and actively supported by all SPECA member countries.



**The Project Working Group on Trade** is engaged in trade facilitation through the introduction of electronic data corridors based on UNECE norms, recommendations and standards, as well as capacity-building on issues related to the WTO accession for Central Asian countries.

**The Project Working Group on ICT for Development** facilitates cooperation in initiatives related to knowledge-based economy development. It has been organizing capacity-building activities in the area of ICT policy development and supporting initiatives to improve ICT access through Community Access Points. The Group serves as a forum for ICT policymakers of SPECA member countries.

**The Project Working Group on Statistics**, in addition to general capacity-building activities for the statistical offices of SPECA member countries, is currently launching projects in areas where there is an urgent need to improve data collection and analysis, such as labour migration statistics and statistics related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**The Project Working Group on Gender and Economy** is about to launch a project financed by the United Nations Development Account aimed at developing additional MDG targets for the region in the areas of social inclusion and the participation of women in the economy.

At the December 2006 meeting of the Coordinating Committee in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, representatives of member countries demanded better coordination between SPECA and other regional programmes and organizations, first and foremost CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation programme), a coordination framework for the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, IMF, EBRD, Inter-American Development Bank and UNDP. In 2007, UNECE plans to make serious efforts to establish regular coordination and cooperation between SPECA and CAREC.

**The SPECA Economic Forum**, organized back-to-back with the Governing Council, is a venue for strategic discussion and source of new ideas for the Programme. The 2006 Economic Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, addressed the theme “The Energy Dividend: Spreading the growth impulse for prosperity and stability in the SPECA region”. The 2007 SPECA Economic Forum will deal with trade and investment links between Central Asia and its most important partners in Asia and Europe. It will consist of two meetings: the first, in May 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan (“Focus on Asia”), will be part of the Asia-Pacific Business Forum of UNESCAP. The second, in November in Berlin (“Focus on Europe”), will be an event jointly organized with the German Government, which holds the EU Presidency in the first half of 2007. The Berlin meeting will also offer an opportunity to discuss practical implementation plans for the new Central Asia Strategy of the EU, including potential contributions by SPECA. The two meetings are expected to identify shared or identical interests of the largest economic partners of Central Asia; the 2008 SPECA Economic Forum may discuss the conclusions of the previous two conferences in this crucial area.

A further programme of importance in 2007 will be the Partnership for Economics Education and Research Support (PEERS), currently being established by UNECE, UNDP, OSCE and the Economics Education and Research Consortium to support economic research in Central Asia and provide an analytical underpinning for the activities of the SPECA Project Working Groups.

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Technical cooperation forms an integral part of UNECE activities as emphasized in the 2005 Work Plan on UNECE Reform. The overarching aim of UNECE technical cooperation is to promote knowledge of internationally recognized standards and best practices in EECCA and SEE countries, and to improve their national capacities to implement UNECE instruments and other regional standards. Other important objectives include:

- Assisting with the formation of institutional frameworks supporting subregional and regional integration;
- Strengthening the ability of countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement policies and achieve internationally agreed development goals; and
- Helping countries with economies in transition elaborate and implement multisectoral and/or subregional technical assistance programmes/projects in the areas, in particular those related to resolving transboundary problems.

UNECE involvement in providing technical assistance is stipulated by its mandate, builds upon its capacity and expertise, and reflects member States' demand for this type of services. Its rationale is based upon the clear set of advantages UNECE offers to member States and partner organizations. In particular, its ability to carry out normative, analytical, and technical cooperation functions allows the UNECE to ensure a direct link between intergovernmentally agreed norms and standards assisting member States in their implementation. Its effectiveness in establishing and maintaining national and subregional networks of policymakers and technical experts is essential for ensuring the long-term impact of its technical assistance to recipient countries. Another important advantage of UNECE is the availability of in-house technical expertise in policy development and standard-setting, which allows UNECE to ensure optimal use of the resources allocated for technical cooperation, and better respond to the demand for its technical assistance.

UNECE offers the following three main types of services:

- Advisory services aimed at assisting its member States with economies in transition to implement UNECE legal instruments, regulations and norms, and to formulate specific technical cooperation programmes and projects;
- Capacity-building workshops, seminars and training courses aimed at improving the capacity of recipient countries to implement global and UNECE legal instruments, regulations and norms; and
- Technical cooperation projects, including those with multisectoral and/or subregional focus, in areas where UNECE has a mandate and/or expertise.

In providing these services, UNECE works to enhance cooperation with other international organizations and institutions both within and outside the United Nations system, including the business and academic communities and NGOs. The main principles underpinning this cooperation include necessities of avoiding potential duplication of activities, ensuring effective allocation of resources, and promoting the complementarity of efforts and a more rational division of responsibilities.



In line with the reform, in 2006 UNECE strengthened the overall intergovernmental governance of technical cooperation. Greater focus was given to ensuring that technical cooperation activities took into account the needs to maximize their impact on the national capacity of recipient countries and strengthen their monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting on their outcomes to member States.

UNECE continued to collaborate with other organizations and institutions involved in the provision of technical assistance in the UNECE region, such as UNEP, OSCE, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank. Particular attention was given to cooperation with UNDP, which throughout the year has been a key partner in many areas. Technical cooperation with subregional organizations and initiatives such as the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Southeast European Cooperative Initiative/Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe, Eurasian Economic Community, and CIS continued to deepen in the areas of transport, trade facilitation, statistics, environment and sustainable energy. Partnership with other United Nations regional commissions was particularly active in the framework of technical cooperation projects financed from the United Nations Development



business. Advisory services in the field of energy to national government agencies on the formulation and/or implementation of sustainable energy projects came to a total value of \$ 32 million for Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Technical cooperation services delivered in 2006 will in turn contribute to strengthening the impact of UNECE technical assistance in 2007-2009.

Account. SPECA has been another example of joint efforts in providing technical assistance.

In 2006, regular budget staff of the UNECE Divisions and Regional Advisers carried out more than 150 advisory missions providing advice and expertise to transition and emerging economies to help them in their accession to and implementation of UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards. In addition, 55 capacity-building workshops, seminars, and other training activities were organized throughout the year, focusing on UNECE legal instruments, norms and standards.

Another way in which UNECE provides technical assistance is in the implementation of nine technical cooperation projects financed from the United Nations Development Account, of which three were led by UNECE. These joint projects, focused on capacity-building in such areas as trade facilitation and integration, environment protection, clean energy, the development of interregional transport linkages and statistics, helped promote more systemic approaches to resolving specific development problems of beneficiary countries and strengthened complementarity of action among the United Nations regional commissions. In 2006, more than 40 other UNECE technical assistance projects/activities were funded with extrabudgetary resources contributed to its General and Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds.

Although it may be premature to assess the overall impact of UNECE technical assistance this past year, it should be noted that technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2005-2006 contributed to 28 new ratifications of UNECE environmental conventions and protocols in 2006, and 52 new accessions to UNECE legal instruments on transport were registered during the period. National reporting shows in 2006 member States made significant progress in implementing both UNECE legally binding instruments and "soft laws", in particular recommendations on environment performance, statistical standards, guidelines on housing policies, recommendations on land administration, guidelines for energy efficiency, and standards and recommendations for trade facilitation and electronic

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Mr. Heikki Pajuoja (Finland)

Mr. Branko Glavonjic (Serbia)

#### Committee on Housing and Land Management

##### Chairperson:

Ms. Doris Andoni (Albania), Chairperson

##### Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Azer Khanlarov (Azerbaijan)

Ms. Natia Jokhadze (Georgia)

Mr. Peter Creuzer (Germany)

Mr. Hubert van Eyk (Netherlands)

Ms. Elena Szolgayova (Slovakia)

Ms. Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie (Slovenia)

Mr. Marcos Vaquer Caballeria (Spain)

Mr. Ernst Hauri (Switzerland)

#### Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

##### Chairperson:

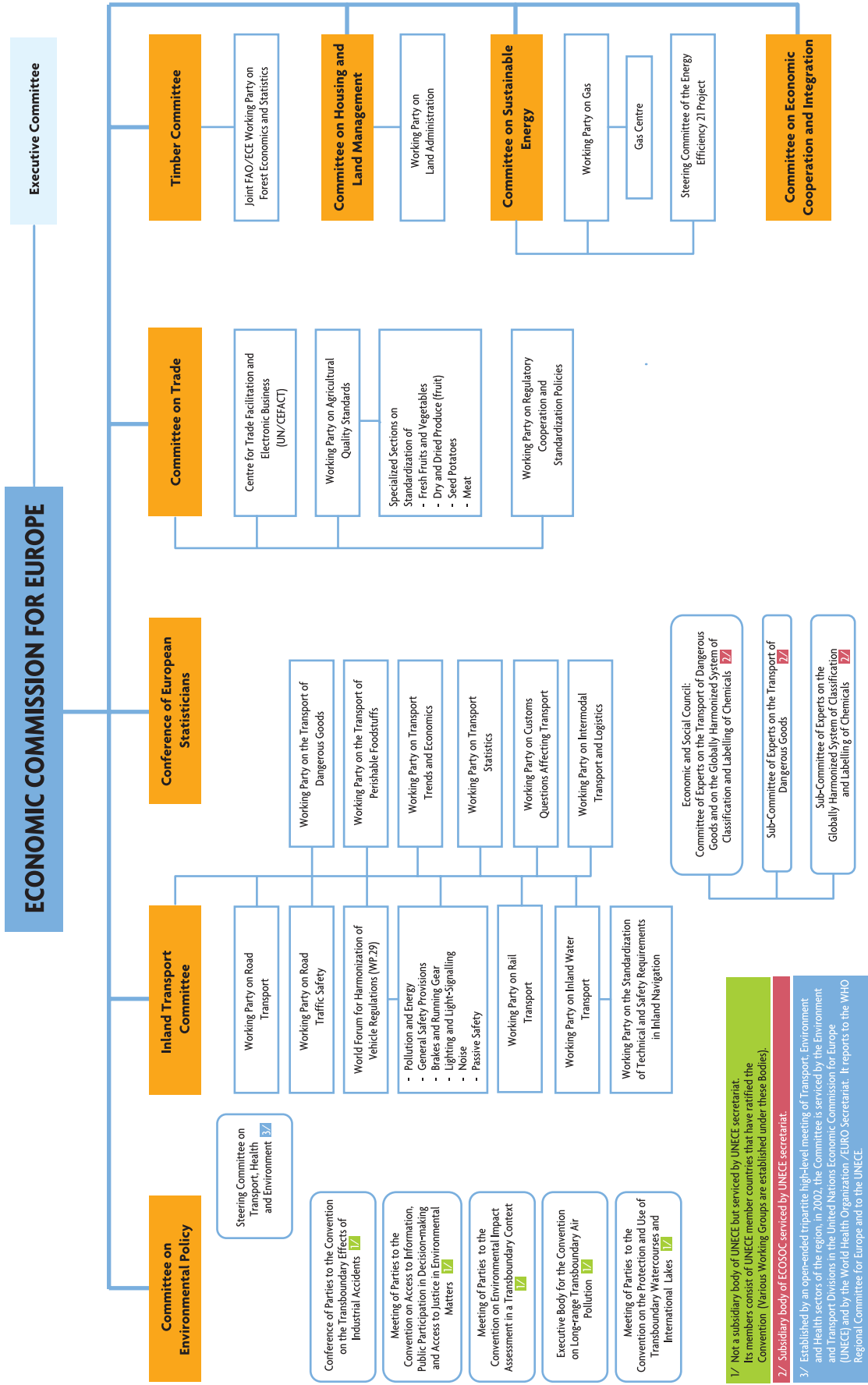
Mr. Matti Pietarinen (Finland)

##### Vice-Chairpersons:

Ms. Stephanie Eshelman (United States of America)

Mr. Andrei Savinykh (Belarus)

# Intergovernmental Structure



<sup>1/</sup> Not a subsidiary body of UNECE but serviced by UNECE secretariat. Its members consist of UNECE member countries that have ratified the Convention. (Various Working Groups are established under these Bodies).

<sup>2/</sup> Subsidiary body of ECOSOC serviced by UNECE secretariat.

<sup>3/</sup> Established by an open-ended tripartite high-level meeting of Transport, Environment and Health sectors of the region. In 2002, the Committee is serviced by the Environment and Transport Divisions in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and by the World Health Organization /EURO Secretariat. It reports to the WHO Regional Committee for Europe and to the UNECE.



## Member States and Member States Representatives

<i>Albania</i>	H.E. Mr. Sejdi QERIMAJ
<i>Andorra</i>	H.E. Mr. Francesc BONET CASAS
<i>Armenia</i>	Mr. Zohrab MNATSAKIAN
<i>Austria</i>	H.E. Mr. Wolfgang PETRITSCH
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	H.E. Mr. Elchin AMIRBAYOV
<i>Belarus</i>	H.E. Mr. Sergei ALEINIK
<i>Belgium</i>	H.E. Mr. Alex VAN MEEUWEN
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	H.E. Mrs. Jadranka KALMETA
<i>Bulgaria</i>	H.E. Mr. Petko DRAGANOV
<i>Canada</i>	H.E. Mr. Paul MEYER
<i>Croatia</i>	H.E. Mr. Gordan MARKOTIĆ
<i>Cyprus</i>	H.E. Mr. James DROUSHIOTIS
<i>Czech Republic</i>	H.E. Mr. Tomáš HUSÁK
<i>Denmark</i>	H.E. Mrs. Marie-Louise OVERVAD
<i>Estonia</i>	H.E. Mr. Tõnis NIRK
<i>Finland</i>	H.E. Mr. Vesa HIMANEN
<i>France</i>	H.E. Mr. Jean-Maurice RIPERT
<i>Georgia</i>	H.E. Mr. Levan MIKELADZE
<i>Germany</i>	H.E. Mr. Michael STEINER
<i>Greece</i>	H.E. Mr. Franciscos VERROS
<i>Hungary</i>	H.E. Mr. Gyula SZELEI KISS
<i>Iceland</i>	H.E. Mr. Kristinn F. ÁRNASON
<i>Ireland</i>	H.E. Mr. Paul KAVANAGH
<i>Israel</i>	H.E. Mr. Itzhak LEVANON
<i>Italy</i>	H.E. Mr. Giovanni CARACCILO di VIETRI
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	H.E. Mr. Kairat ABUSSEITOV
<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	H.E. Mr. Muktar DJUMALIEV
<i>Latvia</i>	H.E. Mr. Janis KARKLINŠ
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	H.E. Mr. Norbert FRICK
<i>Lithuania</i>	H.E. Mr. Edvardas BORISOVAS
<i>Luxembourg</i>	H.E. Mr. Jean FEYDER
<i>Malta</i>	H.E. Mr. Saviour F. BORG
<i>Moldova</i>	Mr. Victor MORARU
<i>Monaco</i>	H.E. Mr. Robert FILLON
<i>Montenegro*</i>	H.E. Mr. Nebojša KALUDJEROVIĆ
<i>Netherlands</i>	H.E. Mr. Boudewijn J. VAN EENENNAAM
<i>Norway</i>	H.E. Mr. Wegger Christian STRØMMEN
<i>Poland</i>	H.E. Mr. Zdzisław RAPACKI
<i>Portugal</i>	H.E. Mr. Francisco Manuel da FONSECA XAVIER ESTEVES
<i>Romania</i>	H.E. Mr. Doru Romulus COSTEA
<i>Russian Federation</i>	H.E. Mr. Valery LOSHCININ
<i>San Marino</i>	H.E. Mr. Dario GALASSI
<i>Serbia</i>	H.E. Mr. Slobodan VUKČEVIĆ
<i>Slovakia</i>	H.E. Mr. Anton PINTER

<i>Slovenia</i>	H.E. Mr. Andrej LOGAR
<i>Spain</i>	H.E. Mr. Juan Antonio MARCH
<i>Sweden</i>	H.E. Ms. Elisabet BORSIIN BONNIER
<i>Switzerland</i>	H.E. Mr. Luzius WAESCHA
<i>Tajikistan*</i>	H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin M. ASLOV
<i>The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>	H.E. Mr. Georgi AVRAMCHEV
<i>Turkey</i>	H.E. Mr. Ahmet ÜZÜMCÜ
<i>Turkmenistan*</i>	H.E. Mrs. Aksoltan T. ATAeva
<i>Ukraine</i>	H.E. Mr. Yevhen BERSHEDA
<i>United Kingdom</i>	H.E. Mr. Nicholas THORNE
<i>United States</i>	H.E. Mr. Warren W. TICHENOR
<i>Uzbekistan</i>	Mr. Badriddin OBIDOV

\* Permanent Representative in New York.



## Number of UNECE staff members

Regular	195
Regional	6
Project staff	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>223</b>



**Executive Secretary**  
Marek Belka

## Office of the Executive Secretary



Paolo Garonna, Deputy  
Executive Secretary



Susan Bartolo,  
Chef de Cabinet and  
Secretary  
of the Commission



Patrice Robineau,  
Senior Adviser to the  
Executive Secretary



**Environment, Housing  
and Land Management  
Division**  
Kaj Bärlund,  
Director



**Transport Division**  
José Capel Ferrer,  
Director



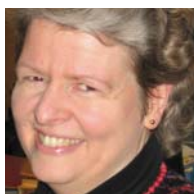
**Statistical Division**  
Heinrich Brüngger,  
Director



**Economic  
Cooperation and  
Integration Division**  
Andrey Vasilyev,  
Director



**Sustainable Energy  
Division**  
George Kowalski,  
Director



**Trade and Timber  
Division**  
Virginia Cram-Martos,  
Director



**Technical Cooperation  
Unit**  
Abdur Chowdhury,  
Director

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

### A. REGULAR BUDGET (in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF BUDGET	2007 Allotment
<b>I. REGULAR BUDGET (SECTION 19)</b>	
Post items	27,800.9
Non-Post items	2,009.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>29,810.5</b>
<b>II. REGULAR PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (SECTION 22)</b>	<b>2007 Allotment</b>
General Temporary Assistance staff (Regional Advisers)	1,235.1
Other non-post items	267.3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,502.4</b>
<b>III. UN DEVELOPMENT FUND (SECTION 35)</b>	<b>2007 Allotment</b>
Non-post items	779.4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>779.4</b>

### B. EXTRABUDGETARY (in thousands of US dollars)

TYPE OF FUND	2006 FINAL EXPENDITURES
General Trust Funds	3,393.6
Local Technical Cooperation Trust Funds/Projects	4,211.6
UNDP/UNFPA Projects	104.4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,709.6</b>

## GENERAL REPORTS

### UNECE Report

- 2007
- 2005-2006

### The Millennium Development Goals – The Way Ahead A Pan-European Perspective

ECE/INF/2005/15 – June 2006

### Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe to the Economic and Social Council

27 February 2005 – 23 February 2006

## ENVIRONMENT

### Environment, Housing and Land Management

ECE/INF/NONE/2005/02/Rev.1 – August 2006 – E,F,R

### Air pollution

#### Clearing the air: 25 years of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

ECE/EB.AIR/84

#### Handbook for the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols

ECE/EB.AIR/85 – E (F,R forthcoming)

### Environmental impact assessment

- *Environmental Series*
- # 8 **Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention**  
ECE/MP.EIA/8 – May 2006 – E/F/R
- # 7 **Guidance on Public Participation under the Espoo Convention**  
ECE/MP.EIA/7 – May 2006 – E/F/R

### Environmental performance reviews

- # 26 **Montenegro** (Forthcoming)
- # 25 **Serbia** (Forthcoming)
- # 24 **Ukraine** (Forthcoming)
- # 23 **Republic of Moldova (Second Review)**
- # 22 **Belarus (Second Review)**
- # 21 **Tajikistan**
- # 20 **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### Industrial accidents

#### UNECE Industrial Accident Notification System – Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

ECE/CEP.TEIA/13 – July 2005 – E/F/R

#### Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters

ECE/MP.WAT/11 & ECE/CP.TEIA/9 – August 2004

### Public participation

Rules of Procedure (Forthcoming)

#### Your Right to a Healthy Environment – A simplified guide to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

ECE/MP.PP/5 – E,F,R

#### Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

ECE/MP.PP/6 – E/F/R

### Water

#### The Protocol on Water and Health: making a difference for a healthy environment (Forthcoming)

#### Legal Basis for Cooperation in the Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters

ECE/MP.WAT/21 – R (E forthcoming)

#### Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

ECE/MP.WAT/20 – E (R forthcoming)

#### Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

ECE/MP.WAT/17 – January 2007 – E/F/R/German

#### Nature for Water: Payment for ecosystems services

ECE/EHLM/NONE/2006/6 – March 2006

- *Water Series*
- # 4 **Transboundary Water Cooperation: Trends in the  
Newly Independent States**  
ECE/MP.WAT/16 – R (E forthcoming)

## GENDER ISSUES

Gender and Economic Policies (Forthcoming)

### Women entrepreneurship

#### Access to Financing and ICT for Women Entrepreneurs in the UNECE Region

ECE/TRADE/336 – E,R

## HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

### Guidelines on Social Housing: Principles and Examples

ECE/HBP/137 – April 2006 – E, R

### Land Administration in the UNECE Region: Development Trends and Main Principles

ECE/HBP/140 – 2005

### Housing Finance Systems for Countries in Transition: Principles and Examples

ECE/HBP/138 – 2005

### Guidelines on Real Property Units and Identifiers

ECE/HBP/135 – 2005

- *Country Profiles on the Housing Sector*  
(available at <http://www.unece.org/env/hs/prgm/prgm.htm#profiles>)

**Georgia** ECE/HBP/137 – E (R forthcoming)

**Serbia and Montenegro** ECE/HBP/139

**Russian Federation** ECE/HBP/131 – E (R forthcoming)

- *Statistical bulletin*

### Bulletin of Housing Statistics for Europe and North America, 2006

Available at: [http://www.unece.org/hlm/prgm/hsstat/Bulletin\\_06.htm](http://www.unece.org/hlm/prgm/hsstat/Bulletin_06.htm)

## POPULATION

### The New Demographic Regime: Population Challenges and Policy Responses

ECE/EAD/PAU/2005/1

- *Generations and Gender Programme*

### Generations and Gender Programme – Survey Instruments

ECE/EAD/PAU/2006/1

## STATISTICS

### Methodological guidelines, recommendations and best practices

#### National practices in the 2000 round of population and housing censuses

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/1 (Forthcoming)

#### The Use of Registers for Social and Demographic Statistics

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/2 (Forthcoming)

#### Guidelines for Confidentiality and Microdata Access

April 2007 – Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/confidentiality>

#### Manual on Engendering National Statistical Systems

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/4 (Forthcoming)

#### Assessment of the Capacity of CIS and South-Eastern Countries in Producing MDG-Relevant Statistics

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/5 (Forthcoming)

### Monograph on Non-Observed Economy

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/6 (Forthcoming)

### The Wye Group Handbook “Rural Households’ Livelihood and Well-Being”

ECE/CES/STAT/2007/11 (Forthcoming)

Available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/rural/>

### Statistical Data Editing - Vol. III: Impact on Data Quality

ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/3 – Sales # E.06.II.E.16 - ISBN 92-1-116952-6

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/sde.vol.3/>

### Conference of European Statisticians – Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing

ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/4 (Forthcoming)

Available at <http://www.unece.org/stats/census/>

### Making Data Meaningful – A Guide to writing stories about numbers

ECE/CES/STAT/NONE/2006/1 – February 2006

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/writing/>

### A Guide to the Websites of National and International Statistical Organizations

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/links.htm>

## Official statistics on Europe, Central Asia and North America

### UNECE Countries in Figures 2007

April 2007

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- *ECE Energy Series*

### # 36 Emerging Energy Security Risks and Risk Mitigation in a Global Context

ECE/ENERGY/70 – E,F,R (Forthcoming)

### # 35 Energy Security in the Caspian Sea Region (CD-ROM and DVD)

ECE/ENERGY/69

### # 34 The Technical and Economic Status of Various Cost-Effective Clean Coal Technology Options and Prospects for their Implementation in Central Asia

Publication of the CAPACT Project

ECE/ENERGY/74 – E,R (Forthcoming)

### # 33 Coal Mine Methane: An Overview (CD-ROM)

ECE/ENERGY/73 (Forthcoming)

### # 32 United Nations Framework Classification of Energy Reserves and Resources: Case Studies (CD-ROM)

ECE/ENERGY/72 (Forthcoming)

### # 31 United Nations Framework Classification for Energy and Mineral Resources

ECE/ENERGY/71 – E, F, R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish (Forthcoming)

### # 30 Financing Energy Efficiency Investment Projects (CD-ROM)

ECE/ENERGY/63 – Sales # GVE.04.0.13 – ISBN 92-1-101078-0 – US\$ 45

## TIMBER

### Forest Products Annual Market Review 2005-2006

ECE/TIM/SP/21

### European Forest Sector Outlook Study

#### 1960-2000-2020 – Main Report

ECE/TIM/SP/20 – E,F,R

### Timber and Forest Discussion Papers, ECE/TIM/DP/series (E only)

- *Country Profiles*

Tajikistan ECE/TIM/DP/46 (Forthcoming)

Uzbekistan ECE/TIM/DP/45 (Forthcoming)

Serbia and Montenegro ECE/TIM/DP/40 – July 2005

Bulgaria ECE/TIM/DP/38 – March 2005

### Wood Energy (Forthcoming)

### Proceedings of the Workshop Mobilizing Wood Resources (Forthcoming)

### International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments for Europe: a Source Book – Update 2007 (Forthcoming)

### European Forest Sector Outlook Study: Trends 2000-2005 Compared to EFSOS Scenarios

ECE/TIM/DP/47 (Forthcoming)

### Forest Certification: Do Governments Have a Role?

ECE/TIM/DP/44 – May 2006

### International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments for Europe: a Source Book (As of February 2006)

ECE/TIM/DP/43 – July 2006

### International Forest Fire News (two issues per year)

# 34 – January-June 2006 – ECE/TIM/IFFN/2006/3 (Forthcoming)

# 33 – July-December 2005 – ECE/TIM/IFFN/2006/2

# 32 – January-June 2005 – ECE/TIM/IFFN/2006/1

### Timber Section Quarterly Newsletter/Brochures

#### Timber Section Quarterly Newsletter

- **April-June 2007**  
ECE/TIM/2007/Newsletter/2
- **January-March 2007**  
ECE/TIM/2007/Newsletter/1

## TRADE

### Agricultural quality standards

#### UNECE Standard for

- **Porcine Meat – Carcasses and Cuts**  
ECE/TRADE/369 – E,F,R (Forthcoming)
- **Llama/Alpaca Meat – Carcasses and Cuts**  
ECE/TRADE/368 – E,F,R (Forthcoming)

- **Turkey Meat – Carcasses and Parts**  
ECE/TRADE/358 – E,F,R (Forthcoming)
- **Chicken Meat – Carcasses and Parts**  
ECE/TRADE/355 (Forthcoming)

### Trade and investment promotion

#### A Primer for Trade Finance in Transition Economies

ECE/TRADE/361 (Forthcoming)

#### Competing in a Changing Europe - Opportunities and Challenges for Trade and Enterprise Development in a Changing Europe

ECE/TRADE/342

#### Norms, Standards and Practices for Trade Facilitation and International Business (CD-ROM)

ECE/TRADE/327

- *Trade and Investment Guides*

- # 10 **International Forum on Common Regulatory Language for Global Trade**

ECE/TRADE/375 (Forthcoming)

- # 9 **Building Trade Partnerships in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia**

ECE/TRADE/376

### Trade facilitation

#### E-document and Standards State-of-the-Art Report (Forthcoming)

#### Guide to Trade Facilitation Benchmarking

ECE/TRADE/366 (Forthcoming)

#### A Roadmap towards Paperless Trade

ECE/TRADE/371 – March 2006 – E,F

#### Summary of UN/CEFACT Trade Facilitation Recommendations

ECE/TRADE/346 – August 2006 – E,F,R

#### Trade Facilitation Toolkit and Forms Repository

ECE/TRADE/329 – February 2006

#### Trade Data Elements Directory (TDED) (UNTDDED 2005 & ISO 7372:2005)

ECE/TRADE/362 – September 2005

### INTERNET publications

#### Trade Promotion Directory (updated annually online)

Available at: [http://www.unece.org/trade/ctied/tradedir/trddir\\_h.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/ctied/tradedir/trddir_h.htm)

#### United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport – UN/EDIFACT Directory (updated biannually online)

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/untdid/welcome.htm>

#### United Nations Codes for Trade and Transport Locations – UN/LOCODE (updated biannually online)

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/service/main.htm>



### Update of Multiplier Points Network website

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/multiplier-points/welcome.htm>

### Revised Trade Facilitation, UN/EDIFACT and electronic commerce on-line training manual and technical material, and UNLK Training Course (UNeDocs) Toolkit for Trade Facilitators

Available at: <http://unece.unog.ch/etrade/>

## TRANSPORT

### Customs conventions and TIR

#### International Directory on TIR Focal Points (restricted to Customs officials) (Forthcoming)

Available at <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/focal/tirfocalpoints.htm>

#### TIR Handbook

ECE/TRANS/TIR/6/Rev.8 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish (Forthcoming)

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/bcf/tir/tir-hb.html>

### Inland navigation

#### Recommendations on Harmonized Europe-Wide Technical Requirements for Inland Navigation Vessels (Resolution No. 61)

ECE/TRANS/SC.3/172 – E,F,R

#### Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the E Waterway Network

”Blue Book” – First Revised Edition – E,F

#### Standardized UNECE Vocabulary for Radio-Connections - Update

(5-language booklet), E/F/R/German/Dutch

Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/sc3/sc3/sc3fdoc.html> (Resolution No. 35)

#### SIGNI – Signs and Signals on Inland Waterways

TRANS/SC.3/108/Rev.1 – E,F,R

### Road traffic and road signs and signals

#### Consolidated version of the Convention on Road Traffic, of 1968 and European Agreement supplementing it, of 1971

ECE/TRANS/195 – E,F,R

### Transport of dangerous goods

#### European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)

ECE/TRANS/190 – Complete set of two volumes – E,F (R forthcoming)

#### European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)

ECE/TRANS/182 – E,F,R

### ADR – applicable as from 1 January 2007

#### European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Vols. I & II

ECE/TRANS/185 – E,F,R

Also available on CD-ROM (full text in pdf and Word and Excel files – E/F)

#### Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods - Model Regulations

- **Fourteenth revised edition**  
ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.14 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish
- **Also available on CD-ROM** – Bilingual English/French  
Also includes:
  - the Manual of Tests and Criteria, 4th revised edition
  - Amendment 1 to the 4th revised edition of the Manual of Tests and Criteria (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amend.1)

#### Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods – Manual of Tests and Criteria

- **Fourth revised edition – Amendment 1**  
ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4/Amend.1 – Arabic, Chinese and Spanish
- **Fourth revised edition**  
ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.4 – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese and Spanish

### Statistical publications

#### Handbook of Transport Statistics in the UNECE Region – 2006

ECE/TRANS/NONE/2006/4 – March 2006

#### Statistical bulletins

#### Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America

- **Vol. LV, 2006** (Forthcoming)
- **Vol. LIV, 2005**  
Available at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/ABTS2005.pdf>

#### Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America

- **Vol. LI, 2006** (Forthcoming)
- **Vol. L, 2005**  
Available at: [http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/\\$RAS%202005.pdf](http://www.unece.org/trans/main/wp6/pdfdocs/$RAS%202005.pdf)

### Others

#### TEM and TER Master Plan – Final Report Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects

ECE/TRANS/183 – May 2006

#### Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

First revised edition – E,F,R, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish

## Maps

**International E Road Network Map - European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR), 2007**  
– E/F/R

**Map of European Inland Waterways – E/F/R**

**Map – International Railway Lines, 2002**

**European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC) – E/F/R**

## OTHER STUDIES

### Occasional Papers

- # 7 **Welfare Policies in the UNECE Region: Why so Different? – Gunnar Myrdal Lecture**
- # 6 **Sustaining Growth in a Resource-based Economy: The Main Issues and the Specific Case of Russia**
- # 5 **Global Governance: The Lessons of Europe – Gunnar Myrdal Lecture – E/F**
- # 4 **Domestic Savings and the Driving Forces of Investment in the ECE Emerging Market Economies**

### Public-private partnership

**Public-Private Cooperation in Industrial Restructuring**  
ECE/TRADE/347 – E,R