



UNECE Weekly

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It's just happened ...

Economic Survey of Europe 2004 No. 2

UNECE has just launched its Economic Survey of Europe 2004 No. 2 which comprises sections on:

- ◆ The global context
- ◆ Recent economic developments in the UNECE region
- ◆ The short-term outlook

With the global context increasingly positive, the UNECE economies have gained momentum during the last few months. One of the main messages of this *Economic Survey* is that the strong rebound in the UNECE economies will continue in the coming months, although at an uneven pace across countries. The global upswing and the recovery are mainly driven by the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. The weak cyclical momentum in France, Germany and Italy, on the other hand, is dampening the average growth rate of the euro area, which is lagging behind in the international growth cycle. The CIS and eastern Europe continue to be important dynamos of global economic activity.

At the same time, however, there are lingering concerns about important downside risks associated with the necessary adjustments of global external imbalances, high levels of public sector deficits and, in some countries, inflationary pressure and exchange rate appreciation. The main challenge for governments, therefore, is how to ensure both a sustained global recovery and a steady and progressive correction of the policy concerns.

For further information see the Press Release on the UNECE web site or contact the UNECE Economic Analysis Division: info.ead@unece.org

Task Force approves the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

A Task Force set up by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) pursuant to a decision of the 5th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, 2003), has developed a Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Task Force, led by the Russian Federation and Sweden and including representatives from both environment and education sectors, developed the Strategy through a participatory process involving governments, educational institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders of the UNECE region as well as international organizations. The strategy is meant to serve as a flexible framework and its implementation can be adapted to each country's priorities, specific needs and circumstances. It therefore reflects the main considerations expressed by the member States and stakeholders and is based on a general consensus. At its meeting on 15-16 July 2004, held in Rome, the Task Force approved the Strategy

EDUCATION for Sustainable Development
United Nations Decade 2005-2014

which will be submitted to the CEP for endorsement. UNECE is a pioneer among other regions in driving ESD and this unique initiative will provide a substantial regional contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Once endorsed, the Committee may decide to submit the Strategy for adoption by a joint high-level meeting of Environment Ministries and Education Ministries or equivalent State bodies responsible for education in UNECE member States. It is expected that this meeting would, in coordination with UNESCO as lead agency, launch the Decade in the UNECE region.

For more information visit: www.unece.org/env/esd/welcome.htm or contact ella.behlyarova@unece.org

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Aarhus clearing house launched

A new “environmental democracy” clearing house – aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org – was launched by UNECE on 13 July to highlight and promote awareness of issues covered by the Aarhus Convention. It showcases good practices in citizens’ environmental rights and is expected to make implementation of the Convention more effective. The Aarhus clearing house provides a forum for the collection, dissemination and exchange of information on laws, policies and good practices relevant to the rights of public access to information, public participation in decision-making and justice on environmental issues. The clearing house also features information relevant to the implementation

of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992. It will help the Convention's compliance mechanism by providing ready access to information on national implementing legislation and practices. It is hoped that the Parties to the Convention will embrace the clearing house as a mechanism for promoting access to information and widespread participation in the development of environmental democracy throughout the region and beyond.

For more information contact aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org

Single Window

The new website of the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) for Trade and Transport Facilitation (www.gfptt.org) was officially launched in Washington on 7 July. UNECE is a partner in the



GFP, along with the World Bank, UNCTAD, World Customs Organization, UNIDO and other relevant organizations.

The new Draft

Recommendation and Guidelines on Establishing a Single Window, UN/CEFACT Draft Recommendation № 33, is featured as topic of the month on the new website. The Draft Recommendation has been through an extensive review process and has received strong support from various industry, governmental and international organizations. It is already being used by the World Bank in the definition of relevant capacity building projects.

As defined in the Recommendation, a Single Window is a facility that allows parties involved in international trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements. If information is electronic, then individual data elements should only be submitted once. This can enhance the availability and handling of information, expedite and simplify information flows between trade and government and can result in a greater harmonization and sharing of the relevant data across governmental systems, bringing meaningful gains to all parties involved in cross-border trade. In addition, participating authorities and agencies can coordinate their inspections and controls through the Single Window and can provide facilities for payment of relevant duties, taxes and fees. The Single Window is, therefore, a practical application of trade facilitation concepts meant to reduce non-tariff trade barriers and can deliver immediate benefits to all members of the trading community. A

Capacity Building Workshop to be held on 18-20 October 2004 will include one full day of presentations and discussions on the implementation of the Single Window.

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Facts and figures:

Hourly earnings in manufacturing, growth rates

*Selected UNECE economies
(Change over same period of the previous year, per cent)*

	2001	2002	2003	2003				2004
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
France	4.5	3.4	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.8	...
Germany	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.2
Italy	1.9	2.7	2.6	2.5	1.8	3.2	2.7	3.1
Austria	3.2	2.3	2.6	4.5	2.4	1.7	2.1	...
Belgium	2.8	2.5	1.9	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9
Finland	4.8	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.1
Ireland	8.7	5.8	5.7	7.0	7.2	4.2	4.5	...
Luxembourg	5.3	-0.2	0.8	0.4	-0.5	1.8	1.4	...
Netherlands	4.0	3.6	2.5	3.2	2.5	2.2	2.3	1.7
Spain	4.1	5.0	4.9	3.1	9.3	4.5	3.2	...
United Kingdom	4.3	3.5	3.5	5.0	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.5
Denmark	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.0	...
Sweden	2.9	3.4	2.9	2.4	3.0	3.2	3.2	2.6
Norway	4.5	5.2	4.7	5.3	5.4	4.2	3.9	4.6
Turkey	35.2	32.1	17.3
Canada	1.6	2.7	3.2	1.8	2.9	4.0	4.0	3.4
United States	3.1	3.6	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.4

Source: UNECE secretariat estimates, compiled from OECD & national sources.

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