



Laying the foundation in the UNECE region for economic integration and sustainable development towards 2030

International Conference | Minsk | Republic of Belarus | 26-27 October 2016

“I support this initiative to strengthen the dialogue on economic integration and sustainable development in the UNECE region. We need to build bridges instead of walls. The world needs a Europe in 2030 with more integration and cooperation - more trade, more transport, more transit, more tourism. This will help us to achieve sustainable development. The United Nations is well placed to facilitate this dialogue.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Join us

Join us at this International Conference to discuss visions for and approaches to economic integration and sustainable development towards 2030.

The Conference will take place in Minsk on 26-27 October 2016 and is jointly organised by the Government of the Republic of Belarus and UNECE. The Conference will be opened by H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, and Mr. Christian Friis Bach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of UNECE.

The objective is to discuss visions for and approaches to economic integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries in the UNECE region towards 2030 based on peaceful coexistence and respect for international law.

The outcome of the Conference, including proposals for further work, will be submitted to the 67th Commission session dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the UNECE.

The Conference, during opening and closing sessions and four thematic panels, will bring together policymakers, academics and civil society representatives in a forward-looking discussion on the following questions:

WEDNESDAY, 26 October 2016

Registration
09:30

Opening Session
10:00 - 13:00

Welcome

H.E. Mr Andrey Kobyakov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE

Special addresses

H.E. Mr. Vassily Nebenzia, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

H.E. Mr. Galymzhan Koishybaev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

H. E. Mr. Robert Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Sergei Lebedev, Executive Secretary, Commonwealth of Independent States

Vladimir Rakhmanin, Deputy Director General, FAO

Coffee Break
10:50 - 11:00

Sustainable development in the UNECE region: visions for prosperity towards 2030

Opening Session

Which are the principal trends and drivers of competitiveness in our increasingly connected, fast-changing societies where products, services and information technology increasingly merge and move together? Where is there a need for cross-border cooperation and what new opportunities could be created by greater economic integration including by harmonizing integration processes as we move towards 2030?

Moderator: **Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Keynote presentation:

Tatyana Valovaya, Member of the Board (Minister) for Integration and Macroeconomics, Eurasian Economic Commission

Speakers: **Christopher Hartwell**, President, CASE - Center for Social and Economic Research

Peter Havlik, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), and Guest Research Scholar, The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

Julia Woerz, Head, Central, Eastern and Southeastern European Analysis Unit, Economic Analysis and Research Department, Austrian National Bank

Questions and Answers

Lunch break for participants at the invitation of the Office of the United Nations Development Programme in Minsk
13:00 - 14:00



Trade and standards: putting in place the building blocks of commerce
14:00 - 16:00

Thematic Panel 1

In order to create greater prosperity by 2030, how could the UNECE region develop greater trade integration by building on the current regional trading blocks while, at the same time, facilitating the participation in trade by all countries, across the region, through the development of harmonized policies, common standards, cross border value chains and the increased implementation of best practices?

Moderator: **Valery Koreshkov**, Vice Chair, UNECE Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policy, Republic of Belarus; Minister in charge of Technical Regulation, Eurasian Economic Commission

Speakers: **Bernard Hoekman**, Professor and Director, Global Economics, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute

Marion Stoldt, Head of Technical Cooperation, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Germany

Sergey Krasilnikov, Deputy Director, Department of Europe, North America and International Organizations, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation

Tomas Kuchtik, Policy Coordinator CIS, DG Trade, European Commission

Questions and Answers

Coffee Break
16:00 - 16:15

Transport and infrastructure: the future of connectivity
16:15 - 18:00



Thematic Panel 2

What are the needs for further integration in transport and infrastructure, moving towards 2030, in the light of intelligent transport systems and demands for climate action? How could connectivity be increased and sustainable transport solutions facilitated by common policies and regulations?

Moderator: **Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Speakers: **Vadim Morozov**, Senior Adviser of the Chairman, Russian Railways

Alexandr Bogdevich, Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Dmitry Cheltsov, General Delegate of the Permanent Delegation to Eurasia, International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Goran Svilanovic, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Arvydas Vaitkus, Director General, State Enterprise Klaipeda State Seaport, Lithuania

Questions and Answers

Buffet Dinner and Social Programme
18:30 - 20:30, President Hotel

THURSDAY, 27 October 2016



Energy and the green economy: shifting to a new paradigm

09:00 - 10:45

Thematic Panel 3

What factors are shaping the evolution of the energy sector as it moves toward 2030 and, in particular, what are the opportunities being created by the transition to a green economy; the challenges of climate action and the requirements for future integrated energy markets in Europe?

Moderator: **Christian Friis Bach**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Speakers: **Ute Collier**, Senior Programme Leader, Renewable Energy Policy and Markets, International Energy Agency

Georgy V. Ermolenko, Head, Center for Renewable Energy Development, Energy Institute of the Moscow High School of Economics

John M. Roberts, Energy Security Specialist, MeThinks Ltd; Non-resident Senior Fellow Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center and Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council

Bilyana Chobanova, Senior Energy Efficiency Expert, Energy Charter Secretariat

Questions and Answers

Coffee Break
10:45 - 11:00



Investment and innovation: making change happen

11:00 - 12:45

Thematic Panel 4

What can be done to mobilize the investment and create the innovative solutions that will be needed if the UNECE region is to create integrated economic growth and meet the sustainable development goals by 2030? To what degree are public-private partnerships part of the answer? And which policies could stimulate and support the dynamic role that innovation should play?

Moderator: **Aleksander Zaborovskiy**, First Deputy Minister of Economy, Republic of Belarus

Speakers: **Art Smith**, President, Management Analysis, Incorporated (MAI); President, National Council for Public-Private Partnerships, United States

Irina Zapatrina, Chairperson of the Board, Ukrainian Public-Private Partnership Development Support Center

Salvatore Zecchini, Professor, Università degli Studi di Roma; Chairman, Working Party on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, OECD

Questions and Answers

Summary of the discussion and next steps

12:45 - 13:00

Closing Session

What could integration and cooperation in support of sustainable development within trade, transport, energy, investment and innovation look like in the UNECE region in 2030?

Statement: 'Vision 2030 – Trends and Challenges', **Michael Gerber**, Ambassador of Switzerland

Questions and Answers

Further information

- **Participants:** The Conference will be attended by UNECE member States and all key organizations working in the pan-European region on the economic aspects of the SDGs, including EAEU, EU, CIS, OECD and EBRD, and other representatives from interested organizations, public, financial and academic institutions.
- **Format and language:** The opening session and the four panels will be participatory and interactive and draw on the experience of all participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and Russian.
- **Venue:** The Conference will take place in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, Lenin Street 19, Minsk.
- **Contact information:** For further information see www.unece.org/vision2030 or write to vision2030@unece.org and uesur@mfa.gov.by.

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