

**International Regulatory Co-operation  
and International Organisations**



# **The Case of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**



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By the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division



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## Foreword

This study was developed in the framework of OECD work on international regulatory cooperation (IRC). It is part of a series started in 2014 that provides detailed overviews of the structure, governance, instruments and processes of international organisations (IOs) in support of international rule-making and standard-setting. To date the series includes the cases of the OECD, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

The case studies complement the report on *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, which compares the governance modalities and rule-making processes of 50 different IOs in enabling IRC between their Members. They aim to illustrate with greater in-depth and specific evidence the key features, challenges and successes of IOs in setting global rules, and to point out more subtle features of individual organisation that cannot stand out from a broader comparative analysis.

This work is the result of a two-year process that involved discussions on the role of IOs in fostering better rules of globalisation as part of meetings convened annually by the OECD since 2014. It benefitted from the strong commitment of a core group of organisations composed of the FAO, IMO, ISO, OECD, OIML, UNECE and WHO established to provide strategic guidance and specific inputs to the project. The work built on a joint methodology and structure to ensure comparability across case studies; and on an innovative partnership between the OECD, the five IOs involved and the Nanterre Centre of International Law (CEDIN).

The OECD prepared the common structure used to develop the studies and organised the technical workshops bringing together the IOs and the CEDIN to guide the structure and substance and discuss the progress made and challenges faced in the research and drafting phases. In addition, the OECD ensured the quality control by reviewing the different drafts of the case studies and managing the circulation of the final draft to OECD delegates and the 50 IOs involved in the work.

A number of CEDIN students, under the direction of Professor Jean Marc Thouvenin, former Director, contributed closely to the development of the case studies and carried out an internship in the IOs under study to get acquainted to their functioning. The five IOs dedicated staff to work on the case studies, provided access to their processes and information to the students and ensured internal coordination for a comprehensive view of the variety of their practices.

The case study of UNECE was drafted by Lorenza Jachia, Economic Affairs Officer at UNECE with research assistance from Diakite Aboubacar, intern at the organisation and student at the Nanterre Centre of International Law (CEDIN). The author wishes to thank: Ms. Virginia Cram-Martos, Director of the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, for her supervision and substantive input, Ms. Monika Linn, Principal Advisor to the UNECE Executive Secretary for her helpful comments, and UNECE colleagues from substantive divisions for their valuable contributions.

This work was developed as part of a joint project on the rule-making of international organisations under the leadership of Rolf Alter, Director for Public Governance and Territorial Development and Nicola Bonucci, Director for Legal Affairs. It was co-ordinated by Céline Kauffmann, Deputy Head, under the supervision of Nick Malyshev, Head of the OECD Regulatory Policy Division. The OECD review team in charge of quality and comparability control comprised Caroline Breton and Céline Folsché (Legal Affairs), Marianna Karttunen and Céline Kauffmann (Regulatory Policy Division). The case study was prepared for publication by Jennifer Stein.

The work on IRC in international organisations is being conducted under the supervision of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee, whose mandate is to assist both members and non-members in building and strengthening capacity for regulatory quality and regulatory reform.

The Regulatory Policy Committee is supported by staff within the Regulatory Policy Division of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. The OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate's unique emphasis on institutional design and policy implementation supports mutual learning and diffusion of best practice in different societal and market conditions. The goal is to help countries build better government systems and implement policies at both national and regional level that lead to sustainable economic and social development. The directorate's mission is to help governments at all levels design and implement strategic, evidence-based and innovative policies to strengthen public governance, respond effectively to diverse and disruptive economic, social and environmental challenges and deliver on government's commitments to citizens.

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>ADR</b>	Agreements on the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road
<b>AND</b>	Agreements on the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways
<b>ARSO</b>	African Regional Organization for Standardization
<b>BSEC</b>	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
<b>CCAC</b>	Climate and Clean Air Coalition
<b>CEB</b>	Chief Executives Board for Coordination
<b>CEDIN</b>	Centre de droit international de l'Université de Paris Ouest Nanterre
<b>CEN</b>	Centre Européen de Normalisation
<b>CENELEC</b>	European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
<b>CEP</b>	Committee on Environmental Policy
<b>CES</b>	Conference of European Statisticians
<b>COFFI</b>	Committee on Forests and Forest Industry
<b>CHLM</b>	Committee on Housing and Land Management
<b>CICPPP</b>	Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CSE</b>	Committee on Sustainable Energy
<b>EASC</b>	Euro-Asian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Testing
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>ECE</b>	Economic Commission for Europe
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council

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