

## **The Financial Crisis and Public Health in the ECE Region**

Presentation of UNECE Executive Secretary Jan Kubis

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The presentation will provide a brief overview and update of the economic situation in the ECE region and explain why the crisis has been so severe in the region. Also discussed will be the longer run implications of the crisis in affecting health care in the region as well as how the region's contributions to ODA and thus health provision in the developing world will be affected. The status of public health in the region will be summarized with a special focus on how previous periods of economic turmoil affected health outcomes; this includes the transition to market economies and the Russian currency crisis of 1998. The status of the health-related MDGs in the ECE region is also mentioned. A comparison of health expenditures in the ECE relative to world norms is provided. The ECE is active in a number of activities that are having a direct impact on public health in the areas of transport policy and environmental standards; the importance of these activities will be explained.