

The ECE is composed of representatives of European states, both members and non-members of the United Nations, and the United States. Canada is not a member, but has been represented by an observer at meetings of the Timber and Steel Committees, and follows the annual meetings of the Commission.

The U.S.S.R. and other East European countries have recently shown an increased willingness to co-operate in the work of the Commission. The ninth session (March 9-25, 1954) was generally considered to be the most successful yet held, the discussions on East-West trade underlining the importance attached by all representatives to the expansion of trade among the countries of Europe. Further talks between trade experts were arranged and took place at Geneva during April. The Commission also approved a proposal that similar trade consultations might be held between members of ECE and the other two regional commissions.

The Economic Commission for Latin America is composed of the 20 Latin American states which are members of the United Nations, and also France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Full sessions are usually held every two years to review generally the regional economic situation. In alternate years there is a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to examine and approve the work programme and to consider current problems. In February 1954, at a meeting of the Committee of the Whole in Santiago, Chile, many members expressed concern about the declining prices of raw material; the possibility of a recession in the United States; the worsening of the terms of trade for the area; and the lack of investment capital for industrialization. Canada is not a member of the Commission but, in view of its substantial trade with the area, has followed the activities of the Commission with interest.

In February 1954 representatives from 15 member and 9 associate member states met at Kandy, Ceylon, for the tenth session of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Although not formally associated with the Commission, Canada was represented by an observer. The Soviet Representative for the first time participated actively in the discussions. A study jointly prepared for release by ECAFE, ECE and the Food and Agriculture Organization on trade between Asia and Europe was one of the topics discussed and a Soviet offer to provide technical assistance to the governments in the region and to consider concluding long-term trade agreements with them was recorded. The Commission has continued to provide various advisory services to help the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the Specialized Agencies to further their technical assistance programmes in the region. In March 1954, the Commission joined with the UNTAA, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences and the Government of Burma in sponsoring a seminar on the organization and administration of public enterprises. Relevant information on Canadian organizations was forwarded to the seminar and Canadian experts were invited to attend the meeting.