

# EDITORIAL

*Many interesting articles have been published on the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, with some stating that the catastrophe was avoidable, but had been caused by negligent responses, excessive focus on profit issues and, generally, falling down on the job. Consideration and planning for the future is essential to ensure that this problem is not repeated, particularly when many other companies are already seeking authorisation for more deep-sea drilling.*

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*In the UN Treaty Office, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (EPL 40/6, p. 288) has opened for signature. At the opening ceremony, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called on all countries to expedite the early entry of the Protocol into force, to promote sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We hope that all our readers will help push for quick action at the national level.*

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*The G-20 leaders have asked for indicative guidelines, in the form of a range of indicators, which could facilitate timely identification of large imbalances and enable the differentiation between sustainable and unsustainable trade balances. Until we have seen such guidelines, we cannot know whether they adequately serve the goals of sustainability.*

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*The year 2010 ranked as the warmest on record according to the WMO. The report added that last year also witnessed a large number of extreme weather events.*

*In this connection, we are happy to hear that the EU is on track to meet the 2020 energy targets calling on all Member States to draw at least 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources.*

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*For those seeking to publish the news, it is often necessary to get additional information and background. Most agencies are very cooperative with such requests. But there is always at least one exception to every rule. In this case, the Secretariat of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) often does not provide additional information, submitting reports/results of recent meetings very late (sometimes months after the meeting is over), and completely ignoring requests for information or short summaries in the meantime.*

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*Wolfgang B. S. -*