

Note to the Secretary-General

Message from Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov –
delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Pankin

I wish to bring to your attention the attached note from Ms. Kane informing of the concerns of the Russian Federation on the budget proposals for the Economic Commission for Europe, and the response of the Department of Management which is appropriate at this stage.


Asha-Rose Migiro
19 May 2011

<u>DCDC</u>	<u>CDC</u>	<u>SG</u>
Recommended Action: <i>7h</i> <i>SG's attention</i> Date: <i>20/05/11</i> Comment (if applicable):	For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/> For SG's attention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>6h</i> For SG's information <input type="checkbox"/> For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/> Date: <i>20/05/11</i> Comment (if applicable):	Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Noted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>7h</i> Seen <input type="checkbox"/> Signed <input type="checkbox"/> Date: <i>20/5/11</i>

Message from Russian Federation Minister Lavrov- delivered by Deputy
Per - anent Representative Pankin (11-04403)

cc: Mr. Nambiar
Mr. Kim
Mr. Yamazaki

11-04403

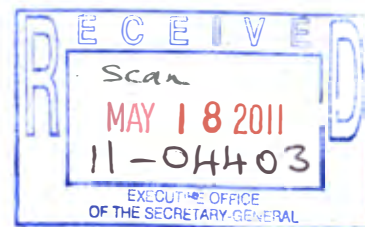
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**Note to the Secretary-General
(Through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

**Message from the Russian Foreign Minister Mr. Lavrov-
delivered by Deputy Permanent Representative Mr. Pankin** ✓

1. The Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Mission, Mr. Pankin, requested to see me urgently today, with regard to the budget proposals for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). We met at 4.45pm in my office.
2. On behalf of Foreign Minister Lavrov, Mr. Pankin expressed grave concerns with the alleged instructions to the ECE to implement a 10% budget reduction. In particular, Russia would deem this unacceptable due to:
 - the small size of the ECE;
 - the fact that ECE services a wider area of Europe than only the relatively wealthy European Union countries;
 - concerns about erosion of mandates by the General Assembly;
 - the fact that the Board had not authorized cutting any activities;
 - the fact that the Russian Federation subsidizes the ECE with cash contributions;
 - the impression that is given that ECE is singled out.
3. Mr. Pankin requested me to convey to you that Mr. Lavrov is personally deeply concerned about this matter.
4. I then discussed with Mr. Pankin our view that:
 - no entity will be disproportionately affected;
 - through intense internal negotiations, mandate implementation will not be affected;
 - the proposed reduction amounts to just under 3%, and not 10%;
 - we have included a footnote in the budget document, stating: "The Economic Commission for Europe is undergoing a process of review of its priorities and the allocation of resources is subject to the final outcome of the Commission's review".


Angela Kane
18 May 2011

cc: Mr. Yamazaki