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(Geneva, 10-12 June 2003)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK IN THE ECE
REGION, 2003/2004 AND 2004/2005: AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 5
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS**

Paper prepared by the ECE secretariat

Introduction

1. This document is part of the “Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work” which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 5 which is entitled “Environment statistics”, and it is sub-divided into two “programme elements (PE)” or fields of work.
2. The Integrated Presentation is prepared for review at the 10-12 June 2003 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of coordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. It is also used by countries to plan their statistical activities and to decide on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations. The information presented in this version of the Integrated Presentation will be amended after the plenary session, and re-issued as the “post-plenary session” version.
3. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed at its meeting on 13-14 February 2003 that the full version of the Integrated Presentation will be produced and disseminated in future in

English only. The reason is that in previous years the translation of the Integrated Presentation into French and Russian was often delayed and not available in time for the CES plenary session in the three ECE official languages. However, the Bureau decided that an excerpt of the Integrated Presentation (totalling about 90 pages) be prepared. This excerpt is translated into French and Russian. The shorter version of the Integrated Presentation is presented in document CES/2003/4. It offers in an integrated unique document general information on the various statistical areas, and includes the following sections: goals, issues and problems, strategic medium-term objectives; expected outcomes in the next two years; attention of the Conference is drawn to; meetings and activities of the CES.

PE 5. 1

PE	Heading	Text
5.1	Title	Sectoral concepts, definitions, classifications and environmental databases
5.1	Goal	Move towards an integrated system of internationally comparable environmental statistics capable of assisting governments in setting and adjusting regulatory, taxation and resource management policies which directly or indirectly affect the environment.
5.1	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Need for further work on developing methodologies, harmonising the concepts and identifying common sets of indicators. The following areas can be mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measuring emissions to air, especially relating to climate change, - monitoring hazardous waste generation and movements, - bio-diversity and chemicals. ◆ Need for filling the gaps and improving the quality of data collected in the field of environment.
5.1	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Produce agreed standard methodologies for environmental protection expenditure and facilities; waste and recycling; eco-industries; environmentally related taxes and other economic instruments. ◆ Improve the quality of data available in international databases. ◆ Review and assess current questionnaires and ensure the joint development of any new questionnaire with a view to eliminating redundancy and avoidable differences in concepts and definitions. ◆ Extension of EEA monitoring networks to include EU accession countries and the Balkans. ◆ Review the list of indicators for environment statistics and update the respective classifications. ◆ Streamline and harmonise the dataflow from countries to international databases, by developing concepts such as a shared European Environmental Information System.
5.1	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A reviewed core indicator list to be used by EEA networks and in EEA assessments, 2003 (EEA). ◆ <i>Environmental Signals</i> indicator report 2003, 2004 (EEA). ◆ The Kiev report, the 3rd pan-European assessment report on the environment, by May 2003 (EEA). ◆ Draft of second volume of <i>Manual of Environment Statistics</i> (UNSD, 2003) – <i>to be confirmed</i>.
5.1	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The UN Statistical Commission (March 2003) approved the creation of an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics. ◆ Need for better coordination of data collection, avoid duplication and focus on priority data sets (“streamlining data collection”). ◆ Need to fill data gaps for prioritised environment statistics and to improve the data quality. ◆ The development of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development (see also PE 2.8 Sustainable development indicators).
5.1	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ That the Conference approves the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see “Activities of CES” below).
5.1	Rapporteur	Eurostat

PE	Heading	Text
5.1	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Work Session on Methodological Issues of Environment Statistics (2004/05). ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Environment statistics incl. economic accounts for the environment, once a year (10-12 September 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Environmental expenditure statistics once a year (24-26 November 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Waste statistics, twice a year (9-10 April 2003, 27-28 October 2003) ◆ EUROSTAT WG: Sustainable Development indicators (3-4 February 2003) ◆ OECD: Working Party on Waste Prevention and Recycling (two meetings per year) ◆ OECD: Joint Working Party of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment (16-18th June 2003; 17-19 November 2003) ◆ OECD: Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (one or two meetings per year, next: 24 June 2003; 26-28 November 2003) ◆ OECD: Working Party on National Environmental Policies (two meetings per year) ◆ OECD: Joint Meeting of Environment and Tax Experts (one meeting per year) ◆ OECD: Working Party on Territorial Indicators (one or two meetings per year; next: June 2003) ◆ UNSD: Expert meeting to discuss the draft second volume of the Manual of Environment Statistics (2003) (<i>to be confirmed</i>) ◆ EEA: National Focal Point meetings (4-5 February 2003, 7-8 May 2003, 7-8 October 2003)
5.1	Activities of the CES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ECE/Eurostat/OECD Joint Work session on methodological issues of environment statistics to consider in 2004/05 the following topics: (i) Linking environmental statistics to environmental accounts; (ii) Keeping up the momentum of Johannesburg 2002; (iii) Environment, transport and tourism; (iv) Coordination of data collection. ◆ Resources permitting, participating in coordination schemes, in particular in jointly sponsored Task Forces. ◆ Preparing, if resources permit and when required, 'readings volumes' of methods used in the collection, compilation and dissemination of environment statistics. ◆ Organisation according to need of cross-sectoral activities, with other organisations and within the ECE.
5.1	Activities of the ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (ENHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The <u>Ad Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring</u> serves as an instrument to provide recommendations, to propose action plans, and to strengthen international initiatives within the region in the area of environmental monitoring and related areas (http://www.unece.org/env/europe/environmental_monitoring.htm). The Working Group assists the European Environment Agency (EEA) to produce a 3rd pan-European assessment report on the environment based on region-wide indicators. The report will be prepared by the time of the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Kiev in May 2003. The work on the indicators for the Kiev report is accompanied by support to countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia to improve and streamline the development and the application of environmental indicators at the national level. An inventory was also compiled of international environmental data bases in the UNECE region.
5.1	Activities of OECD	<p><u>Environmental data:</u></p> <p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continued <u>improvement of the quality</u> of the data compiled and used by the OECD, and stored in the OECD System of Information on Resources and the Environment (SIREN) database. Development and implementation of a common strategy and action plan on environmental data quality. Priorities include: a) data needed for the calculation of <u>international environmental indicators</u> and for country environmental performance reviews; b) further development of <u>economic data of environmental</u>

PE	Heading	Text
		<p><u>relevance</u>, including data on environmental protection <u>expenditure</u>. Special attention is given to: a) international harmonisation and comparability; b) timeliness and coherence over time; c) transparency and interpretability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Update and maintenance of the databases on environmentally related <u>taxes</u>, and on other <u>economic instruments</u> and voluntary approaches used in environmental policy, in cooperation with the EEA. ◆ Further <u>review of the OECD questionnaires</u> on the state of the environment (joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaires for European Union, EFTA and EU candidate accession countries; cooperation with UNSD for non-OECD countries). Special attention is given to: a) the <u>definitions and classifications</u> used in the questionnaires that are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the latest international developments; standard statistical classifications adopted by the CES and other relevant international bodies are used where possible; coordination with the UN-ECE and the FAO (forest section) and with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (waste section); b) the prioritisation of the data requested in the different questionnaire sections and the identification and use of new international data sources to <u>reduce the response burden</u> on countries. Priorities for 2003 and 2004: questionnaire sections on air, wild life and marine environment. ◆ <u>Data collection and treatment</u> (regular two-year cycle; next collection in 2004). Cooperation with EUROSTAT, the European Environment Agency, UNSD. ◆ <u>Territorial environmental data</u>: compilation of selected environmental variables at territorial level; to be done jointly with Eurostat. ◆ <u>Waste management reporting</u>: Harmonisation of the OECD control system for recoverable waste with the Basel Convention and development of a global harmonised control system. <p><u>Priority objectives and outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Draft revised OECD <u>questionnaire section on marine environment in 2004</u> (jointly with Eurostat and in cooperation with other relevant international bodies). ◆ Draft revised OECD <u>questionnaire section on wild life</u> in 2004 (close cooperation with the EEA). ◆ Revised OECD <u>questionnaire section on air</u> for 2004 data collection (jointly with EUROSTAT and in close cooperation with EEA and other relevant international bodies). ◆ Publication of the OECD <u>Compendium of Environmental Data</u> (biennial; next edition: 2003). ◆ Publication of monograph on <u>pollution abatement and control expenditure in OECD countries</u> (2003). ◆ OECD <u>database on environmentally related taxes</u> (http://www.oecd.org/env/tax-database). ◆ OECD <u>database on economic instruments and voluntary approaches</u> used in environmental policy (http://www.oecd.org/env/ei-database). ◆ <u>Waste management reporting</u>: Updated guidance manual for the implementation of the OECD Council decision on the Control of Trans-frontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations. <p><u>Environmental indicators:</u></p> <p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <p>Continued work on methodology, comparability, publication and use of environmental indicators. Cooperation with other international organisations: e.g. EEA, UNCSO, World Bank. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ improvement of OECD Core and key environmental indicators (CEI; KEI) ◆ refinement of environmental de-coupling indicators.

PE	Heading	Text
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ further development and improvement of biodiversity indicators (and related questionnaire section; see above) in support of and in cooperation with the CBD. ◆ further development and improvement of waste prevention indicators. ◆ further refinement and development of sectoral environmental indicators (SEI): e.g. transport, energy, agriculture (see below), tourism. ◆ expanded use of environmental de-coupling indicators in country environmental performance reviews (link to sustainable development indicators). ◆ development and measurement of territorial environmental indicators at the territorial level 2. ◆ cooperation and exchange of experience with non OECD countries (e.g. China, Russia). <p><u>Priority objectives and outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publication of the <u>OECD Core Set</u> of Environmental Indicators (biennial, alternating with the Compendium of Environmental Data; next edition: 2004). ◆ Update of the OECD Key Environmental Indicators (available on internet). ◆ Publication of OECD <u>Sets of sectoral indicators (next: transport-environment indicators in 2003).</u> <p>See also 2.8 for OECD's work on sustainable development indicators.</p> <p><u>Agri-environmental indicators:</u></p> <p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ See publication, OECD (2001) Environmental Indicators for Agriculture Volume 3: Methods and Results, Publications Service, Paris, France. ◆ OECD (2002), Expert Meeting Summary and Recommendations on Agri-biodiversity Indicators, available at: http://www1.oecd.org/agr/biodiversity/index.htm <p><u>Priority objectives and outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Soil erosion/ soil biodiversity ◆ Land conservation ◆ To provide a comprehensive report by 2004 on the progress made in OECD agri-environmental indicator development. <p><u>New activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Development of new OECD agri-environmental indicators web site, see the OECD web site at: http://www.oecd.org/agr/env/indicators.htm
5.1	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>NB:</u> For Eurostat the information regarding internal module <i>70100 – Sustainability and pressure indicators</i> is described under Programme element 2.8. Work in PE 5.1 on transport and environment is closely linked to PE 3.4, work on environment and agriculture to PE 3.10.</p> <p><u>Overall Goal</u></p> <p>The main effort in the five years <u>2003-2007</u> will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To improve core environmental statistics according to the main environmental priorities under the Sixth Environmental Action Programme, the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Cardiff Strategy for integration of environmental concerns into other sectoral policies, with a focus on statistics needed for environmental indicators and to put in place the necessary legislation for such statistics. ◆ To produce easily understandable environmental indicators in cooperation with other Commission services and the European Environment Agency. ◆ To continue work to produce an environmental component to socio-economic statistics, with the aim of responding to needs relating to indicators for integration of environmental and sustainability concerns into other policies.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To continue to provide indicators for the integration of environmental considerations into the Common Agriculture Policy. ◆ To participate in reviewing reporting obligations and to continue the close cooperation with the European Environment Agency with coordinated actions and by establishing complementary data collection by the two institutions. <p><u>In 2003:</u> The integration of sustainability and environmental considerations into all relevant statistical domains has gained importance. In line with the Amsterdam Treaty, successive European Councils have made policy commitments on integrating environmental concerns into other policies, including follow-up through better indicators. The Sixth Environment Action Programme for 2001-2010 identifies four priority areas: Climate Change, Nature and Biodiversity, Environment and Health and Natural Resources and Waste. The EU Strategy on Sustainable Development sets objectives for economic, social and environmental sustainability. These new programmes will influence the work on sustainability and environment statistics and indicators, but also social statistics and statistics such as transport, energy, health and agriculture, as well as environment accounts.</p> <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Regular reporting:</u> Continuous improvement of the regular reporting and dissemination of environment statistics together with Member States, by filling data gaps and improving data quality and timeliness as well as rationalising data transfer. In 2004, data will be collected through the joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaire, and the EEA will participate in the questionnaire work. The regional dimension of environment statistics will also be continuously improved. A taskforce on Nowcasting will try to explore the possibilities to improve timeliness through estimation procedures. ◆ <u>Waste:</u> Establishment of a system of Community waste statistics, implementation of the Regulation on Waste Statistics and revision and streamlining of other Waste reporting obligations, to remove duplication with the provisions of the Regulation. ◆ <u>Water:</u> Improvement of statistics on water use and wastewater treatment, including production, adoption and implementation of a manual on water statistics. Establishment of a "Gentlemen's agreement" with Member States on the transfer of priority sets of data. Cooperation with the Environment DG to implement the Water Framework Directive. ◆ <u>Hazardous substances:</u> In close cooperation with the Environment DG to improve statistics on pesticides usage to implement the 'Thematic strategy for a sustainable use of pesticides' and to develop a chemical indicator set to support implementation of the new EU chemicals policy. ◆ <u>Emission Inventories:</u> Support for the Environment DG and the EEA on statistical tools for emission inventories. ◆ <u>Agri-environmental indicators:</u> Work on agri-environmental data continues and is being developed. Attention is being paid to agri-environmental "integration" indicators; in particular, a Communication to the Council and European Parliament (COM(2001) 144) adopted by the Commission on 15 March 2001 sets out the statistical requirements for these indicators. ◆ <u>PHARE and MEDSTAT:</u> Support for PHARE countries and for non-EU Mediterranean countries in environment statistics. ◆ <u>Databases:</u> Further develop, maintain and update the environmental statistics production database system ENVSTAT. <p><u>Work dependent on financing from other Commission DG's:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Pilot studies relating to the Regulation on Waste Statistics (Environment DG). ◆ Improvement of the availability of a set of regional environment data by joint work

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>programmes between Member States, the Regional Policy DG and Eurostat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support to PHARE countries and non-EU Mediterranean countries (Enlargement DG and External Relations DG). <p>See also 2.8 for Eurostat's work on sustainable development indicators.</p> <p><u>Other Activities of the European Commission and the Environment Agency:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Data on greenhouse gases and ozone depleting substances is collected by the Environment DG. The validation of the greenhouse gas inventories is delegated to the EEA (European Environment Agency). ◆ Data collected by the Agricultural DG on organic farming is compiled by Eurostat. ◆ The EEA collects data on land cover, water and air quality and bio-diversity. <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implement measures relating to the Regulation on waste statistics (Commission Regulations and guidelines, pilot studies). ◆ Manual on water statistics. ◆ Finalise work on a first set of chemical risk indicators. ◆ Development of Agri-environmental indicators based on COM(2001) 144 and further development of nitrogen balances. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The 6th Environment Action Programme and the seven 'Thematic Strategies' under development will set out new data demands and a wide-ranging review of information and reporting systems. Eurostat will participate in the review, to help to achieve efficient coordination of statistical and administrative data collection. ◆ According to Article 8 (2) in the Waste Statistics Regulation the Commission shall, before the end of 2004, draft a proposal abolishing overlapping (waste) reporting obligations. ◆ Eurostat will create a public Website for free access to statistical data and indicators on the environment and sustainable development and to inform about ongoing work in PE 2.8 and PE 5.1.
5.1	Activities of the European Environment Agency (EEA)	<p><u>Strategic objectives:</u></p> <p>Establishing of Europe-wide networks for monitoring air and water quality, emissions to air and water, and land-cover with regular data flows and central databases (http://eea.eu.int). The EEA uses the information from these networks and statistics from other organisations to provide policy relevant assessments of changes in the state of the environment and the causing factors. Reports for various audiences are based on indicators.</p> <p>The EEA is a central point for methodologies in European air emission inventories. It maintains, together with the UNECE Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, the EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook and accompanying software.</p> <p><u>Priority in the next two years:</u></p> <p>Preparing for the enlargement of the EU by actively involving its new member countries (EU accession countries, including Turkey, Malta, Cyprus) in all aspects of the work programme. Cooperation with the EECCA countries and the Balkan countries to extend the coverage of the monitoring networks.</p> <p>Support the development of the Thematic Strategies under the 6th Environmental Action Programme, with dedicated studies. Increasingly develop assessments of environmental issues in the context of sustainable development.</p> <p>Harmonisation and rationalisation of data flows linked to policy needs, linked with the revision of the EU Reporting Directive. Implementation of the EEA core set of indicators to serve EU policy needs.</p>

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>Outcomes: The Kiev report: a Pan-European assessment for the environmental ministers conference in Kiev (May 2003). A core indicator list to be used by the EEA networks and in EEA assessments (Summer 2003) with all indicators gradually published on the web. Indicator report Environmental signals 2003, published in separate issues. Sector and issue environment indicator reports: e.g. Air pollution in Europe (2003), Agri-environmental indicators (2004).</p>
5.1	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<p>Overall goal: With the establishment of the biennial collection of environment statistics from non-OECD countries, UNSD's efforts concentrate on the improvement of the coverage, quality, comparability and timeliness of the data through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Regular revision of the questionnaire; ◆ Development of manuals for data compilation; and ◆ Providing training and advisory services to countries. <p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ UNSD is working on the compendium of environmental statistics and indicators and on the development of environmental country profiles for dissemination on the internet. ◆ Revision of the Questionnaire on Environment Statistics is underway. The next Questionnaire will be sent out to the countries in the 3rd quarter of 2003. ◆ Work continues on manuals that provide hands-on guidance in the compilation of statistics on the environment. ◆ Training and capacity building project in the ESCWA region is ongoing. <p>Priority objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Production of manuals on environment statistics. ◆ Regular dissemination of environment statistics. ◆ Additional collaborative arrangements to harmonize data collection and dissemination efforts. <p>New activities to be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Revision of the Glossary of Environment Statistics and the publication of the revised Glossary in 2004-2005.
5.1	Activities of the World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Bank is and will be contributing to the development of core environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the international development goals adopted by the World Bank, United Nations and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. A recent publication "The Environment and the Millennium Development Goals" highlights some of the World Bank's work in this area (published in summer 2002). The development and expansion of an environmental database is ongoing. Its coverage includes, among others, the ECE countries and it is annually updated from various sources inside and outside the World Bank. Being available to all World Bank staff, it is mainly utilized for the expanded Environmental section of the World Development Indicators. Also, a set of selected environmental indicators is being published annually by the Environment Department and the Development Data Group of the World Bank. The publication, organized by country, covers more than 150 countries and each country page presents more than 50 indicators.
5.1	Activities of CIS-STAT	<p>Ongoing work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Collection, processing, analysis and distribution of data provided by national statistical services in Commonwealth countries illustrating the status of environmental protection. Preparation of annual reports: "Environmental protection in Commonwealth countries" and "Progress of work to deal with the effects of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant". In addition to ad hoc reports, CIS-STAT bulletins periodically publish statistical and analytical material covering a

PE	Heading	Text
		<p>variety of environmental issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ There are plans to provide advisory services to national statistical services on the organisation of statistical observation of environmental protection in Commonwealth countries.

PE 5. 2

5.2	Title	Environmental accounting
5.2	Goal	That there is an integration path between accounts in physical terms and the corresponding elements on national accounts in money terms
5.2	Issues & problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To review developments in natural resource accounting. ◆ Further methodological work on water accounting and practical implementation of environmental accounts. ◆ To suggest ways in which a synthesis of different approaches may be constructed to ensure flexibility for special cases within a framework that is consistent overall. ◆ Avoid a divergence in approach taken by ECE Members and that taken by countries outside the region (specifically developing countries).
5.2	Strategic medium-term objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Some form of monitoring of the voluminous studies on environmental issues to ensure that quick and comprehensive information is available about developments in environmental accounting; new studies undertaken; new approaches developed. Critiques and comparisons of systems designed for general use to highlight similarities and differences. ◆ To determine how to account for the environmental impact of economic activities in relation to marketed natural assets (such as minerals and forests which may be exploited beyond sustainability) and non-marketed natural assets (such as air and water used as environmental sinks). ◆ Implementation of SEEA. ◆ Development of an operational handbook to complement the SEEA handbook. ◆ Promoting the implementation of environmental accounts and the use of the SEEA manual among policy-makers.
5.2	Expected outcomes in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Monograph on Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditure in OECD countries (OECD, 2003). ◆ Handbook on Fishery Resources Accounting (UNSD with FAO and UNU). ◆ Handbook on Water Resources Accounting (UNSD with Eurostat and the London Group).
5.2	Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Close interaction of environmental and economic accounting. ◆ Publication of the revised SEEA handbook and the need to implement SEEA in as many countries as possible.
5.2	Decisions recommended by the Bureau to the Conference	None
5.2	Rapporteur	Eurostat
5.2	Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ OECD Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (one or two meetings per year, next: 24 June 2003; 26-28 November 2003). ◆ UNSD: Regional workshop on environmental accounting for the Latin American and Caribbean jointly with ECLAC (2003). ◆ UNSD: Expert Group Meeting on the draft Handbook on Tourism and Environmental Accounting (2004). ◆ London Group: (date and location of the next meeting to be decided).
5.2	Activities of CES	None.
5.2	Activities of OECD	Work on environmental accounting builds on OECD's experience in integrating environmental and economic thinking. Besides methodological work, it covers collection and treatment of environmental protection expenditure data (in close cooperation with Eurostat); regular information exchange and progress reports in Member and Partner

		<p>countries; environmental accounting as part of the OECD assessments of environmental information systems.</p> <p><u>Ongoing work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ continued work on the quality of data on environmental protection, expenditure and revenues (jointly with Eurostat) (see also 5.1). <p><u>Priority objectives and outputs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ publication of environmental protection expenditure data for OECD countries. ◆ improved data from questionnaire on environmental protection expenditure and revenues (joint work with Eurostat).
5.2	Activities of Eurostat	<p><u>Overall Goal</u></p> <p>The main effort in the five years <u>2003-2007</u> will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ to continue work to add an environmental domain to national accounts through regular production of a set of environmental accounts and to adapt them to the priority sustainability issues. ◆ to continue work on the environmental variables related to business statistics. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <u>Environmental accounting:</u> Work will continue on regular production of a set of environmental accounts and on further development /adaptation to the priority sustainability issues, in coordination with the work of PE 2.8, improving their quantity, quality, comparability and timeliness. Complete the database and publications to improve the accessibility and the range of data made available to users. ◆ <u>Environmental expenditure:</u> Work will continue on the environmental variables related to the Council Regulation on structural business statistics, and a regular data collection system on environmental expenditure in industry will be developed. <p><u>Work dependent on financing from other Commission DG's:</u></p> <p>Pilot studies on environmental expenditure variables in the Regulation on Structural Business Statistics and implementation of environmental accounts in Member States (Environment DG).</p> <p><u>Priority objective of the methodological work to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To implement measures relating to the environmental variables in the Structural Business Statistics Regulation (Commission Regulations and guidelines). ◆ To foster the implementation of the world-level handbook for environmental accounting (SEEA) in as many countries as possible. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken in the next two years</u></p> <p>As environmental accounts are progressively established in Member States, Eurostat will complete the database and publications with a set of EU-wide environmental accounts that are integrated to the extent possible and that will be regularly updated and improved. This will include air emissions, environmental taxes and expenditure and accounts for forest and sub-soil assets.</p>
5.2	Activities of the European Environment Agency (EEA)	<p><u>Priorities in the next two years:</u></p> <p>In the preparation of the next State of the Environment and Outlook report for the EU (2005), which will have a focus on sustainable development issues, the use of accounting results will be investigated, with special attention to relations with the rest of the world and costs of environmental protection technologies ("avoidance cost curves"). Work on water and land accounts will be continued.</p>

5.2	Activities of UN Statistics Division	<p><u>Overall goal:</u> With the publication of the revised handbook of national accounting <i>Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting</i>, commonly referred to as SEEA, jointly with the IMF, Eurostat, OECD and the World Bank, UNSD main efforts will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implementation of the SEEA in as many countries as possible; ◆ Continued cooperation with the London Group in the development of methodological guidelines and in the implementation of the SEEA. <p><u>Ongoing methodological work:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ In response to the need for implementation manuals which focus on the practical issues of the compilation of specific resources accounts, UNSD is preparing the following handbooks on: (a) Fishery Resources Accounting in collaboration with FAO and UNU; and (b) Water Resources Accounting, in collaboration with Eurostat and the London Group. The work on water accounting has identified the need for the standardization of terminology in water statistics and accounting. UNSD will set up a web page listing the terms related to water and the different definitions in use with the objective to reach a standard set of definitions. ◆ UNSD will work on the preparation of training material and a revised SEEA software that will complement the revised SEEA handbook. The handbook will provide practical guidance on how to compile the accounts and will link the compilation of each account with its use in policy-making. It will also include exercises and solved examples. The training material and the software would serve as background material in training workshops and would provide guidance for implementing the SEEA in countries with little or no experience in the compilation of environmental-economic accounts. <p><u>New activities to be undertaken:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ UNSD will work on a handbook on tourism and environmental accounting and will undertake country projects in this area.
5.2	Activities of the World Bank	<p>The World Bank works closely with the UN Statistics Division in this area and continues to support initiatives in the field of environmental accounting primarily through the London Group. The Bank has contributed to the preparation of the revised SEEA dealing with the issues of valuation, as well as potential operational policy relevance and use of the proposed manual in informing a wider range of management decisions. Work in this area is bolstered by the development of accompanying indicators of environmental change including estimation of "genuine savings" for more than 120 countries.</p>
5.2	Activities of the London Group in Environmental Accounting	<p><u>On-going methodological work</u> The London Group has completed its revision of the United Nations handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounting (the SEEA 2000). The group's final draft was submitted to the United Nations Statistical Office in February 2002. Following a review by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the document underwent a final revision over the spring and summer of 2002. It was submitted to the United Nations in its final form in September 2002.</p> <p>Now that this major effort has been concluded, the group plans to continue its regular work programme of sharing country experience and furthering the methodological development of environmental accounts.</p> <p><u>Priority objectives in the next two years</u> The London Group's work programme for the next two years remains to be established. The need for additional methodological work in the area of water accounting is recognized as a priority. So too is the clearer identification of the needs of those who are the users of environmental accounts. The group has also discussed the need to focus on the practical questions surrounding the implementation of environmental accounts. The possibility of producing implementation manuals has been raised as a response to this need.</p> <p><u>New activities</u> The London Group's recognition of the need to focus on the implementation of</p>

		environmental accounts (in addition to continuing their methodological development) represents a new activity for the group. As noted above, this focus may result in the production of implementation manuals or other means of guiding those responsible for implementing the accounts. The exact form of these new activities will be agreed upon in the coming months as the group plans its next meeting.
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