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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-seventh plenary session  
(Neuchâtel, 14-16 June 1999)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1999/2000 and 2000/2001:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1  
ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

The format of this integrated presentation

1. This is intended to be a fully integrated presentation of international work programmes in the ECE region. That is to say it includes not only the statistical work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), but also the relevant statistical work carried out in the ECE region by the Commission of the European Communities, OECD, the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ILO, WHO, IMF, the World Trade Organization (ex GATT), the World Bank, The Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT) and many other agencies. The programmes are presented in six separate documents - one for each domain in the Conference's programme of work - as follows:

- Programme Activity 1: Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/1999/10/Add.1)
- Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/1999/10/Add.2)
- Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/1999/10/Add.3)

- Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics  
(CES/1999/10/Add.4)
- Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/1999/10/Add.5)
- Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat  
activities (CES/1999/10/Add.6)

2. The integrated presentation is prepared annually, according to the following timetable:

- i) December-January: The ECE secretariat obtains information from the other organizations on their programmes of work and prepares a first draft of the integrated presentation for review by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians at its February meeting of each year.
- ii) February-May: The integrated presentation is updated and amended to include the Bureau's recommended decisions to the Conference in each field of statistics. This "pre-plenary session version" is presented in draft form for review by the Conference at its annual meeting in June.
- iii) July-August: The integrated presentation is amended to reflect the decisions taken by the Conference at its May meeting concerning its own work programme. This "post-plenary session version" is issued in its final form for the forthcoming two-year period.

3. Thus, the material presented in the six documents referred to above contains updated text that organizations have supplied to the secretariat for inclusion in this updated version of the integrated presentation which was considered by the Conference at its 1998 plenary session. In addition to providing updated information on the planned future work programmes of the different international organizations in different fields of statistics, it lists numerous decisions that the Bureau recommends the Conference take in these fields of statistics, and identifies various issues that the Bureau thought should be brought to the attention of the plenary session.

4. Each programme activity is sub-divided into a number of programme elements, and each programme element is described within the following framework:

**OBJECTIVES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS:** Broad aims of national statistical offices for international work in that field over the next several years.

**EXPECTED COLLECTIVE OUTPUT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Specific outputs expected by countries in the next two years.

**ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE IS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING:** List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference considers should be brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

**DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE CES BUREAU TO THE 1999 PLENARY SESSION:**

List of decisions on its programme of work recommended to be taken by the Conference at the 1999 plenary session.

**MEETINGS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Sponsoring agency, title, date.

**RAPPORTEUR:** International organization that the Conference has recommended be assigned responsibility for preparing short issue- and strategic-oriented reports for the Bureau and for assessing on behalf of the Conference progress towards the objectives and outputs specified for a programme element.

**ACTIVITIES AND MEANS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS:** Description of the major activities of agencies in that field from mid-June 1999 to June 2001. Information is also given in this section on ECE resource implications for the work to be carried out by the ECE secretariat. The resource implications are classified as follows: minimal (less than 3 work months); moderate (3-6 work months); and substantial (over 6 work months).

**Priority menus**

5. The "priority menu" summarising the major types of activities the Conference plans to work on during the next two years in all projects in the programme activity is given at the end of this addendum.

**List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference**

6. The list of programme elements in the whole programme of work of the Conference is given in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found.

**Other related information**

7. As the Integrated Presentation is being presented in the same format in six separate documents, this explanatory note on the format of the presentation is being reproduced in each of the documents. A separate short document (CES/1999/10) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.

**Table 1. List of programme elements in the programme of work of the Conference (together with an indication of the document in which information for that programme element can be found)**

| Programme Activity  | Programme Element  |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Programme Activity 1:</u><br/>Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.1</b>)</p>      | <p>1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work<br/>1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices<br/>1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region<br/>1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)</p>  |
| <p><u>Programme Activity 2:</u><br/>Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.2</b>)</p> | <p>2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure<br/>2.2 Statistical data collection and processing<br/>2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information<br/>2.4 Statistical classifications<br/>2.5 Statistical research and development<br/>2.6 Geographical and regional data<br/>2.7 Human resource development</p>  |
| <p><u>Programme Activity 3:</u><br/>Economic statistics (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.3</b>)</p>                                     | <p>3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts<br/>3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments<br/>3.3 International trade in goods<br/>3.4 Transport<br/>3.5 Distributive trades<br/>3.6 International trade in services<br/>3.7 Tourism<br/>3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services<br/>3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities<br/>3.10 Agricultural statistics<br/>3.11 Industrial statistics<br/>3.12 Energy statistics<br/>3.13 Science and technology statistics<br/>3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics<br/>3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics</p> |

| Programme Activity   | Programme Element  |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Programme Activity 4</u>: Social and demographic statistics (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.4</b>)</p>                    | <p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks<br/>           4.2 Gender statistics<br/>           4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys<br/>           4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics<br/>           4.5 Population and housing censuses<br/>           4.6 Health statistics<br/>           4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics<br/>           4.8 Education and training statistics<br/>           4.9 Culture statistics<br/>           4.10 Labour statistics<br/>           4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households)<br/>           4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics<br/>           4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality<br/>           4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest</p> |
| <p><u>Programme Activity 5</u>: Environment statistics (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.5</b>)</p>                               | <p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications<br/>           5.2 Environmental accounting<br/>           5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p>   |
| <p><u>Programme Activity 6</u>: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document <b>CES/1999/10/Add.6</b>)</p> | <p>6.1 Coordination of international data collection<br/>           6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>  |

## **PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 1 ORGANISATION AND OPERATION OF STATISTICAL SERVICES**

### **1.1 PROMOTION AND COORDINATION OF MULTILATERAL STATISTICAL WORK**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To manage multilateral relations between international statistical organizations on matters relating to national statistical offices; to ensure minimal duplication in data collection from member countries; to ensure the consistency of published data; to promote coherence in the agenda of statistical committees, working parties, task forces and groups so that international exchanges of views are mutually reinforcing; and to promote the adoption of unified work programmes with a consistent view of priorities. To investigate the possibility of the Conference establishing more interaction with academia, NGOs (e.g. IAOS and ISI), the media and the business community.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Decisions by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) to the ECE secretariat on the Conference's own work programme and (at the request of one of the Conference's parent bodies, the Economic Commission for Europe) on the work programme of the ECE's Population Activities Unit, and guidance by the Conference to other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and to other international and supranational organizations on statistically-related activities in their work programmes. Periodic agreements and protocols with wide dissemination on unified questionnaires, single data bases, work programmes and meeting agendas. Submission to such fora as the plenary session of the CES and the UN Statistical Commission of integrated work programmes and streamlined programmes of data collection. Actual demonstration of consistency in the data dissemination by international statistical offices.

**Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:**

- The initiative being undertaken by the UNSD to put together a type of Integrated Presentation at the world level for the forthcoming session of the UN Statistical Commission;
- The decision by the Bureau to reallocate P.E. 3.10 (agricultural statistics) from the "medium priority" category to the "lower priority" category for purposes of the work to be carried out by the Commission's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, so as to meet the requirements that were laid down by the Economic Commission for Europe at its April 1998 session, which stipulated that all PSBs have in the "lower priority" category work areas whose resource allocations in the 2000-2001 biennium will amount to at least 52 weeks.
- The participation of six representatives of the International Statistical Institute in the Bureau's November 1998 meeting, to facilitate the Bureau's discussion of whether and how the ISI might be

able to assess the Integrated Presentation and contribute to its further development.

**Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1999 plenary session:**

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below).

**Meetings from July 1999 to June 2001:**

ECE-OECD-Eurostat: Joint Programme Review Meetings (Annual)

ECE-Eurostat-OECD: Numerous meetings of various Intersecretariat Working Groups.

UNSD: ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means from July 1999 to June 2001:**

**Task Forces engaged in coordination:**

The UN Statistical Commission has set up intersecretariat working groups to deal with coordination issues and related matters in the following fields of statistics. (Additional information on the work of these working groups is presented in other parts of the integrated presentation, as indicated.)

- a) Task force on national accounts (see project 3.1 in document CES/1999/10/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in CES/1999/10/Add.3).
- c) Task force on trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/1999/10/Add.3).
- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in CES/1999/10/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/1999/10/Add.3).
- f) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/1999/10/Add.5).

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Coordinate the production of the integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes involving countries in the ECE region, based on input provided by ECE, Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, the UN specialized agencies, CIS-STAT and others.
- b) Collaborate, with Eurostat and OECD, in organizing Inter-secretariat Working Group meetings in individual fields of statistics and in organizing Joint Programme Review meetings periodically to deal with potential problematic issues.
- c) Coordination of statistical work undertaken by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies and/or by ECE Divisions.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

**Activities of OECD:** Continued cooperation with other international institutions, particularly through the participation in the Joint Programme Review meetings and regular contacts with other major players. Continued participation in technical meetings organised by Eurostat for EU and EEA Member states and candidate countries with the aim of supporting European integration and aiding transparency for OECD member countries outside the region. Participation in all the Task Forces listed above and convenor of the Task Force on Service Statistics.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 91 - International relations*):

Eurostat will continue to participate as an active observer in the various international fora for statistics: the biennial United Nations Statistical Commission and its Working Group and the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau. The main purpose of this participation is to ensure that the European Commission's voice is heard during the process of the setting of global standards in statistics and the management of the global statistical system.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**UN Statistics Division:**

- a) Development of concepts and methods and improving coordination of programmes of environmental statistics and accounting in cooperation with UNEP, OECD, Eurostat, the World Bank and other international organizations.
- b) Work in the harmonization of international economic and social classifications in cooperation with a broad representation of countries and agencies active in this field.
- c) Serving as a secretariat to the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (Eurostat, OECD, IMF and World Bank) aiming at the coordination of multilateral efforts to support the implementation of the 1993 SNA.
- d) Promotion of multilateral consultations of experts to address critical problems in statistics. In this context UNSD is facilitating the work of so called city-groups i.e. informal consultation groups (see programme element 3.XX).
- e) Coordination of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics UNSD (in cooperation with ECE, EUROSTAT, OECD and other international organizations).
- g) Coordination of international indicator activities; organization of an expert group meeting on the topic of development indicators and preparation of an analytical report to the UN Economic and Social Council on the same topic.



**International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Convener of the: (i) Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union; (ii) IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics; and (iii) Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics.
- b) Membership in the interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; (ii) Task Force on Merchandise Trade Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Environment Statistics; and (iii) Task Force on Service Statistics
- c) Participation in the management of global statistical system through: (i) the biennial sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; (iii) the work of the UN regional commission's statistical activities, including the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau (as an observer); and (iv) special activities such as Working Sessions on Best Practices in Statistics.
- d) Cooperation with BIS, EUROSTAT, ECB, and OECD in areas of common concerns.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:**

The Committee's activities are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonizing statistical tools with international standards in the areas of the system of national accounts, economic, demographic and social statistics and processing of data and information of the Commonwealth member countries. Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. Once finalized, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. The methodological materials are published in the information bulletins issued six times a year for wide application by a variety of users. Advisory services are provided by CIS-STAT free of charge.

**1.2 MANAGEMENT AND POLICY ISSUES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO PRESIDENTS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To review managerial and statistical policy issues at the international, national and regional (subnational) levels of direct concern to Heads of national statistical offices. To enable heads of national statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on matters affecting the organisation, management and relations with the outside world of the institutions of which they are in charge; to formulate priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods and to promote their use; to enable heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that are creating pressures for the reform of statistical policies and institutions. Consideration of issues such as the development strategy of national statistical offices, the overall design and conception of official statistics and professional ethics in statistics. To promote the application of the

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. To monitor the conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources. To promote the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries. To enhance the role that statistics play at the national and international level.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** Proceedings of meetings of Heads of Agencies. Decisions and guidance from the Conference on international organisations' planned statistical work programmes. Minutes of the major Bureau meetings, and briefing notes of the meetings of the Conference's parent bodies to be available at the plenary session as room documents. Substantive papers and in-depth reviews prepared for the plenary sessions on development of international statistical standards and methods and their application in statistical practice. Provide examples of the application of the Fundamental Principles and report periodically on them to the ECE on this.

**Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:**

- Reorganisations are taking place on in several international organisations in the ECE region which will likely have an impact on their statistical operations.
- Some adjustments to the statistical activities engaged in by the international organisations will be needed to take account of the added pressure NSOs in EU countries will encounter due to the introduction of Euro.
- NSOs of EU countries are working increasingly in cooperation with partnership associations.
- The importance of countries improving their labour statistics.
- Review of national statistical systems undertaken by the EU Candidate Countries within the context of EU standards and requirements; Expected difficulties these countries may encounter in meeting these standards in some fields of statistics such as agriculture statistics, financial statistics and regional statistics; Required financial support to assist the EU Candidate Countries in meet EU standards.
- The outcome of the January 1999 meeting that UNSD and IMF organized in Singapore, and the meeting's desire to progress towards the implementation of the Fundamental Principles (e.g. by having the UN Statistics Division creating a new WWW site on which interested countries could insert information on things that they have done or plan to do relating to the Fundamental Principles and their implementation).
- The Bureau recommends that the Conference select the following subject as the topic for substantive discussion at the 2000 plenary session: "Use of statistics for administrative, managerial and analytical purposes".

**Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1999 plenary session:**

- To select the topic "Use of statistics for administrative, managerial and analytical purposes" as the topic for substantive discussion at the 2000 plenary session.

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below).

**Meetings from July 1999 to June 2001:**

ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (June 2000)  
ECE: Annual plenary session of the Conference (June 2001)  
ECE: 3-4 meetings of the Bureau of the Conference, annually.  
Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme 1-2 July 1999  
Eurostat: Committee: 30th SPC 16 September 1999  
Eurostat: Committee: 8th CEIES 17 September 1999  
Eurostat: Committee: 31st SPC 24-5 November 1999  
Eurostat: SPC meetings: March, May, September, November 2000  
Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme, June 2000  
Eurostat: DGINS seminar - May 2000  
Eurostat: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees, 2 bureau meetings per year

**Rapporteur:** Statistics Iceland

**Activities and means from July 1999 to June 2001:**

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Annual meetings of the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians.
- b) Regular meetings of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statistician, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference.
- c) Consideration at the forty-eighth (2000) plenary session the topic - "Use of statistics for administrative, managerial and analytical purposes" as the topic for substantive discussion.
- d) Preparation of a summary of country reports on the implementation of the Fundamental principles of Official Statistics for the presentation to the Conference (timing to be determined by the CES Bureau).

Secretariat resources: substantial.

**Activities of OECD:** (i) review and update of the reporting standards in close consultations with member countries and with respect to future member countries; (ii) Assessment of the statistical system of new member countries on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the established reporting standards.

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 92 - Planning and evaluation of work, 93 - Management of human resources, 94 - Management of financial resources, 96 - Audit, 97 - General administration*):

Eurostat is undergoing a period of zero budgetary growth. The main consequence of this is to increase efforts to obtain funding from other services of the Commission to undertake statistical work on their behalf. Owing to current Commission practices it is never entirely clear until a

relatively late stage what funding will become available; thus planning for work is difficult. Eurostat's programming process now specifies what work will not be able to be undertaken and what work is contingent on funding from other sources being made available.

*Within Eurostat and the Commission:* Further work will need to be done to consolidate recent advances of principle in planning of work and resources. This will mean: further integration of statistical work of DGs in the Commission Programme of work; improvements in the identification and resourcing of statistical information needs for new Commission policies; refining of mechanisms to give advanced warning of potentially new areas at Community Policy initiative using internal information systems; assuring the value-added of planning information to facilitate the operational work of Eurostat units; identification of requirements and prototype development of a system for Management information.

A Commission initiative has introduced important changes to the budgetary and management systems. New efficiency and effectiveness objectives are being set which require increased accountability covering not only compliance with budget but also performance information. Increased administrative efficiency and effectiveness through integrating the decentralised services, such as administration of property in the inventory.

*Personnel management:* analysis of the redeployment policy by defining, for the 2000 budget exercise, the lowest priorities, the human resources to be exchanged in the context of "Integrated Resource Management"; preparation, co-ordination and follow-up of a general A competition with a statistical option foreseen for 1999; continuation of the co-operation policy with the NSIs in the field of common human resource management (seconded officials and trainees); implementation of the new "Training Programme" 1998-2000 ; development of co-operation with corresponding departments in the NSIs and other Member States' administrative departments dealing with training : starting phase ; implementation of the pilot quality management exercise initiated by Qualistat

*Internal evaluation:* several audits of systems, units or projects of Eurostat. The objective of these audits is to improve, if needed, the procedures, the quality of the circulation of information and Eurostat's' internal organisation. The section will also participate to the development of evaluation procedures in Eurostat.

Evaluation of statistical programmes; *elaborate frameworks for, and instigation of, ex-ante annual, mid-term and ex-post evaluations; prepare and execute plans for continuous activity reviews and annual evaluation reports; ensure feed back from evaluations into the programming cycle*

*With Eurostat partners outside the institutions:* consolidation of the planning cycles for Community work with National systems; full integration of the sectoral discussion fora (working groups, Committees etc.) with the SPC for programme planning and execution; completing the Leadership Groups (LEGs) initiative and proposing the framework for this for the future; establish guidelines for programme and project evaluation and continued work on Cost-benefit analysis. Development of co-operation with regard to training with

corresponding departments at the NSIs and at other government departments of Member States.

*Corporate Planning:* definition of main project objectives and strategic goals; creation and maintenance of the project and team structure using both internal and external resources; project planning and resource management including contractual aspects; creation of networks at all levels of management and staff and integration of proposals into a coherent and feasible programme of work; motivation of participants and assurance of proactive communication mechanisms across Eurostat; awareness of Commission and external initiatives relevant to the Corporate Planning process ; promotion of Eurostat initiatives across Commission services and to the ESS as a whole.

*Financial and budgetary management:* Providing a global view of Eurostat and other DGs budgetary resources devoted to the production of Community statistics; Providing timely, relevant and reliable financial and budgetary information for the programming, execution, control and evaluation of the Community Statistical Programme; Ensuring the availability and use of standard and efficient documents for the production of calls for tenders, commitment proposals, payment orders and contracts as well as accompanying notes and reports; Organising on-the-spot controls of the beneficiaries of subsidies, including national statistical authorities' use of Community financial contributions; Elaborating and implementing value for money audits of Eurostat financial operations.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

##### **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

- a) Maintenance of data dissemination standards: (i) a special standard intended to guide member countries that have, or may seek, access to international capital markets (the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) in the dissemination of economic and financial statistics; and (ii) a general standard to guide all member countries (the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic statistics.
- b) Maintenance of the Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board to provide current information (metadata) and hyperlinks to national summary data pages for data categories comprising the SDDS and supporting information on integrity and quality, including on release schedules.
- c) Phased implementation of the GDDS focused on training and direct work with member countries.

##### **Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:**

Efforts will be concentrated on international cooperation in such important areas as synchronization of reforms in national statistics, harmonization of statistical methods around classifiers in general use and other statistical standards, and the creation of a Commonwealth-wide information and statistical space. Consensus and exchanges of experience are achieved through ad hoc working groups in particular fields of statistics, consultations and exchanges of information and plans, and meetings on

subjects and issues of current interest. Final decisions on current problems are taken by the Board of Directors of CIS Statistical Services, which meets at least twice a year.

### **1.3 COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN THE ECE REGION**

**Objectives over the next several years:** To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries to countries in transition in the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries in transition in the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries in transition in the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner.

**Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:**

- The increasing difficulties experienced by NOSs in newly independent states caused by the growing financial problems their countries now have to face. This is compounding the difficulties these countries have to face in improving their statistical systems.
- The outcome of the high-level Conference for the heads of the NSOs of CIS countries on TACIS that recently took place in Almaty at which progress in TACIS co-operation was reviewed and a programme of future work agreed.
- The importance of donor activities aimed in countries in transition being better coordinated.
- The need for ECE and CIS-STAT to check the consistency of data for TACIS countries that ECE supplies to Eurostat.
- CIS-STAT will provide interested countries with an English language version of its work programme.

**Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1999 plenary session:**

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below).
- To ask the ECE, OECD and Eurostat as the co-sponsors of the April 2000 joint meeting on national accounts to join efforts in trying to find ways which would facilitate the CIS countries being able to attend both the 25 April Seminar on National Accounts for CIS countries and the 26-28 April ECE-OECD-Eurostat joint meeting.

**Meetings from July 1999 to June 2001:**

ECE: Workshops and meetings planned to be organised within the UNDP and UNFPA financed regional statistical projects -- See "Work to be carried out by the ECE in its extra-budgetary projects" in the "Activities and means" section below.

IMF: Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (two to three meetings per year)

IMF: Regional Seminar on General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) (Vienna, July 1999).

Eurostat: Working Group: Policy group PHARE, October 1999

Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Co Operation: PHARE and TACIS  
December 1999

Eurostat: Working Group: Management Group PHARE, April 99

Eurostat: Working Group, and Steering Committee with NIS and Mongolia  
(once a year)

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means in the next two years:**

**Activities of ECE:**

- a) Structuring all programme activities and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect priority concerns of countries in transition.
- b) Assistance and guidance to countries in transition, through services provided to these countries by the ECE Regional Adviser on Statistics.
- c) Participation in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting countries in transition
- d) The ECE Statistical Division is the Executing Agency for UNFPA and UNDP extra-budgetary projects (additional information on the activities undertaken in these projects is presented below).

Secretariat resources: Substantial

**Work to be carried out by the ECE Regional Adviser in Economic Statistics**

ECE's Regional Adviser in economic statistics provides technical assistance in the areas of national accounts and consumer prices. The Bureau of the Conference has given high priority to these activities, because the statistical assistance that the Regional Adviser in Statistics gives to countries in transition in the ECE region has been of direct assistance to them.

The post of Regional Adviser in Statistics is expected to remain vacant for all of 1999 due to budget limitations. However, in order to maintain at least a limited form of technical assistance in this field, special sessions for the transition countries will be organised back-to-back with the ECE regular meetings in the areas of national account (see PE.3.1) and price statistics (see PE 3.9). However, the level of assistance in these

activities will be dependent on what type of support ECE will be able to receive from other international organisations.

**Work to be carried out by the ECE in its extra-budgetary projects**

**Note:** The activities outlined below are financed by extra-budgetary sources and therefore they are not formally part of the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians. However, they are presented here because they are important activities of the ECE Statistical Division.

a) Planned activities within UNDP and UNFPA financed regional statistical projects

i) UNFPA Regional project to provide 'Assistance to countries in transition with the 2000 round of Population Censuses'. This is funded by UNFPA, and ECE Statistical Division is Executing Agency. The current project is due to conclude at the end of 1999, but possibilities of extending it beyond that date will be explored with UNFPA.

ii) UNDP Regional project on 'Human Development and Social Trends Reporting'. This is funded by UNDP and is divided into two parts: ECE Statistics Division is Executing Agency for one part and Implementing Agency for the other. The project is due to conclude at the end of 2000, but possibilities of extending it beyond that date will be explored with UNDP.

b) Workshops and meetings planned to be organised within the UNDP and UNFPA financed regional statistical projects (All dates are tentative)

Census project - Task Force, Geneva, 1 day in June 1999, funding: UNFPA, participation: Task Force members

Census data analysis, presentation, etc., June 1999, funding: UNFPA, recipient countries: CIS countries

Census data analysis etc., June 1999, funding: UNFPA, recipient countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Social reporting, September 1999, funding: UNDP, Recipient countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Social reporting, October 1999, funding: UNDP, Recipient countries: CIS countries<sup>1</sup>

Poverty, October/November 1999, funding: UNDP, Recipient countries: CIS countries<sup>1</sup>

Census undercount and adjustment, November 1999, funding: UNFPA, recipient countries: all countries in transition

Poverty, December 1999, funding: UNDP, recipient countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Rep., Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



**Activities of OECD:** Countries of interest: a restricted group of transition countries (Russian Federation and Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia and the Baltic countries); other countries outside the ECE region.

Methods of work: Emphasis will change from providing technical assistance to assessment of the data quality.

Priority areas: national accounts, price statistics and purchasing power parities (PPP), short term economic indicators and business and other tendency surveys.

Activities: (i) Continued work to assess the quality of national accounts information and to assist in the interpretation of the data; (ii) Assistance with PPP work for the 1999 round of comparisons; (iii) Continued work on enhancement of quantitative consumer surveys in Central and Eastern European Countries; (iv) Work to utilise the results of business tendency surveys in conjunction with other short term indicators to determine leading indicators of economic activity in Poland and Hungary, Russian Federation and Ukraine; (v) Revision of the regular data provision for transition economies to reflect a smaller sub-set of data but on a monthly basis; (vi) Development of a series of structural indicators for economies undergoing significant change. (In all these activities there is regular co-ordination and, when appropriate, co-operation with other international organisations.)

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Themes 19 - Technical assistance to countries in transition, 20 - Preparation of enlargement*):

*Preparation for enlargement:* Work related to enlargement will reach full speed in 1999 with a number of applicant countries in negotiations. The objectives within this environment will be: Provide easy access to the statistical *acquis communautaire* and its developments and updates to applicant countries; Examining the compliance of applicant countries with the *acquis statistique*: this comprises both basic conditions for operating statistics in a democratic market economy and fulfilment of EU regulations on statistics. Regular provision of reports to the Commission and Council on the compliance of applicant countries. Support of the enlargement process with statistical data. Eurostat units must be mobilised in a co-ordinated way. Support and encouragement of applicant countries: in a "mirror" situation the applicant countries should be able to assume their role of support for political authorities within their countries. Preparation of enlargement internally to Eurostat comprising practical aspects of including new Member States.

The gradual integration of the statistical systems of applicant countries in Eurostat working groups and activities will continue. This will be seen in their position with respect to the five-year statistical programme.

In 1999 some key areas of statistics should be fully comparable to those of Member States.

*Other technical co-operation with transition countries:* The continuing objectives are to organise and provide statistical co-operation activities in the framework of the PHARE programme to beneficiary countries in order to:

Progressively integrate the statistical systems into the ESS; Promote compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and, as by-product, enhance comparability with EU statistics; Enable partner countries' NSIs to cope with data supply needed increasingly in the framework of international negotiations on different levels and in various fora; Strengthen statistical systems of the PHARE countries in terms of their institutional capacities; The means used to achieve the goals are enshrined in the New PHARE Horizontal contract and comprise: Participation in Eurostat working groups and TES courses; Bilateral consultancies and study visits with Statistical Offices of Member States; Running common pilot projects with defined results assisted by Member States; Support activities like management consultancies, common publications and others.

To provide technical assistance and training to the Newly Independent States in order to: strengthen the statistical systems of the Newly Independent States with a view to their transition towards official statistics compatible with a democratic society and a market economy, taking into account their needs and absorption capacity; assist the statistical services of the Newly Independent States in *providing* their users with the necessary statistical information in priority areas; improve the statistical support for the negotiation and monitoring of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements between the European Union and the Newly Independent States; promote the comparability of statistical data among Newly Independent States and between them and the European Union.

In the TACIS programme technical assistance can be provided in priority areas: Publication of foreign trade and main economic indicators of selected countries (Russian Federation).

Due to lack of TACIS interstate finance, work which has a multi-country character will be cut or carried out to a very limited extent, i.e. statistical classification work, task force activities, pilot projects and multi country data collection. Data are to be collected on the NSIs, particularly on the Russian Federation and the other western republics, primarily with a view to setting up a database on main macro-economic indicators and priority areas for pursuing commercial agreements between the European Union and these countries. Information technology architecture can only be started modestly.

#### **Activities of other organizations:**

**UN Statistics Division:** UNFPA funded project for support of population and housing census activities in six Central Asian Republics (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

#### **International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

a) Technical assistance program in transition countries on macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, international investment position, government finance, and money and banking statistics, prices, external trade, and quarterly national accounts statistics): (i) two to three week on-site missions; (ii) national and regional seminars, workshops, and training

courses (Joint Vienna Institute and the IMF Institute in Washington);  
(iii) services by resident multisector IMF statistical advisors (Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine).

b) Participation in the Steering Committee on the Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union.

**World Bank:** The World Bank provides technical assistance in the form of grants and loans as well as loan components to strengthen the statistical systems in countries in transition. The projects are aimed to develop statistical infrastructure, address basic issues of data collection and dissemination, and estimation of major macro-aggregates needed for economic and social policy.

**The FAO:** (i) Work with European Countries in transition to improve national fisheries statistics collection and promote adoption of international standards; (ii) FAO-operated project funded by the Danish Government called "Eastfish" to promote and exchange fisheries market information including some production statistics amongst Eastern European countries.

**Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:** CIS-STAT provides technical, advisory and methodological assistance free of charge to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a view to building a single information space within the Commonwealth framework.

#### 1.4 RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE ECE REGION (INCLUDING COUNTRIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION)

**Objectives over the next several years:** To contribute to transferring knowledge concerning statistical priorities and the creation of solid statistical programmes from market economy countries in the ECE region to countries outside the ECE region; to contribute to the implementation of international standards in countries outside the ECE region; and to provide guidance to countries outside the ECE region in their efforts to take on the characteristics required of statistical agencies of market economy countries.

**Expected collective output in the next two years:** To ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international and supranational organizations on the above three objectives are carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner. Periodic consideration by the Bureau of the Conference and by the CES plenary session of ways in which the statistical experience of ECE member countries could effectively be transferred to and /or used by countries outside the ECE region.

**Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:**

- Eurostat held a seminar on MEDSTAT in Lugano in April 1999 to discuss future options for co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

**Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 1999 plenary session:**

- To approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below).
- To ask the ECE secretariat and Eurostat to look more closely into priority programmes of Eurostat's MEDSTAT programme, in order to determine whether, in addition to the field of migration statistics, there is more scope for ECE secretariat to provide Eurostat with back-up support in other fields of statistics of relevance to countries in Mediterranean region covered by MEDSTAT programme.

**Meetings from July 1999 to June 2001:**

FAO: Meeting of the Working Party on Fishery Statistics and Economics  
Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT, 23 - 24 September 1999  
Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT, 30 Sep - 1 October 1999  
Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT, 6 - 7 December 1999  
Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical co-operation with developing countries,  
20 - 21 December 1999  
Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Co-operation with developing countries  
(1 or 2 a year)  
Eurostat: Specialised Task Forces and Seminars

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means from July 1999 to June 2001:**

**Activities of ECE:** To transfer useful knowledge and experience acquired in the programme of work of the Conference relevant to developing countries (e.g. in fields such as population and housing censuses and environment statistics), through reports prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission and other means; to assist Eurostat in a supportive role in activities it carries out in its MEDSTAT project, and particularly in the priority area of international migration statistics (see Activities of Eurostat below).

Secretariat resources: Minimal

**Activities of OECD:** Technical cooperation with China in various areas of economic statistics (Other OECD activities outside the ECE region are described in programme activities 3, 4 and 5.)

**Activities of Eurostat:** (*Theme 21 - Technical co-operation with third countries*):

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership will develop in 1999 with the implementation of complementary national programmes in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, in addition to and in conjunction with the MEDSTAT regional programme.

For ACP countries, the strengthening of the programme with the UEMOA will be achieved in 1999. In addition, programmes will be initiated in

training of statisticians and harmonised price index, external trade and institutional support.

The other two major projects concerning China and MERCOSUR will also be in full swing in 1999.

As regards *statistical tools*, apart from the continuation of consumer price indices and joint surveys on the Informal Sector, two heavy tools will be under review: EXTRADE will be refocused in order specifically to obtain reliable, up-to-date external trade statistics; in addition the central part of the mechanism, the EUROTRACE data processing software, will be rewritten to take into account a new analysis of user needs and new computer technologies; ERE-TES, for national accounts, will be implemented on a very wide scale in the countries of the UEMOA and in the Mediterranean; its pilot version in English will be tested on Ghana.

Finally, there may be a revival of activity in the field of agricultural statistics following a review of this area.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**The FAO:** (i) The collation and dissemination of fisheries statistics for the Mediterranean and Black Seas (on behalf of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean). (ii) Current: collation and dissemination of inland water fisheries in Europe (in Collaboration with the European Inland Fisheries Commission) - annual questionnaires to report catches in inland waters of European countries by commercial and recreational fisheries in quantity and value.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Technical assistance to member countries in the area of government finance, balance of payments, international investment position, money and banking statistics, merchandise trade, price statistics, and national accounts. Forms of assistance: (i) two to three week on-site missions; (ii) services of resident IMF statistical advisors (funding through IMF's own resources, UNDP and the Administered Account for Selected Fund Activities -- Japan); (iii) seminars workshops, and training at the IMF Institute the Joint Vienna Institute-, and the Singapore-IMF Regional Training Institute.

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**ANNEX**

**Priority Menu of the CES for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 in programme activity 1  
(Organization and operation of Statistical Services)**

**a) July 1999 - June 2000**

| <b>WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS<br/>PRIORITY MENU FOR 1999/2000</b> |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Programme element</b>  | <b>Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat</b>   | <b>Major coordination required</b>  | <b>Output for the plenary session 2000</b>  |
| 1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Various intersecretariat working groups</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- various organizations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> </ul>   |
| 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>-</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> </ul>                     |
| 1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP and UNFPA regional projects for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS-STAT</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> </ul> |
| 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including in the Mediterranean region)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation and provision of relevant CES documents to the Statistical Commission, UNSD and the Regional Commissions</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNSD, Regional Commissions</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> </ul>   |

**b) July 2000 - June 2001**

| <b>WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS<br/>PRIORITY MENU FOR 2000/2001</b> |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Programme element</b>  | <b>Substantive action required of the ECE secretariat</b>   | <b>Major coordination required</b>  | <b>Output for the plenary session 2001</b>  |
| 1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of integrated presentation of international statistical work programmes</li> <li>- Participation in various intersecretariat working group meetings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, Specialized Agencies, etc.</li> <li>- Various organizations</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft Integrated presentation</li> </ul>   |
| 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of CES plenary session</li> <li>- Organization of substantive discussion</li> <li>- Organization of Bureau meetings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All international agencies active in the region</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CES Annual Report</li> <li>- Discussion papers</li> <li>- Bureau's reports; minutes of meetings</li> </ul>                     |
| 1.3 Transition countries in the ECE region  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taking full account of the needs of countries in transition in the CES work programme, provision of guidance and advice to transition countries by the Regional Adviser</li> <li>- Participate in inter-agency coordination activities</li> <li>- To manage, as the executing agency, the UNDP and UNFPA regional projects for the development of social and demographic statistics in transition countries</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, World Bank, ILO, etc.</li> <li>- Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, IMF, IWG.COORD, CIS</li> <li>- UNDP, Eurostat, UNSD, CIS-STAT</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> <li>- Progress reports, when required</li> <li>- Progress report, when required</li> </ul> |
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