



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CES/1998/34  
30 June 1998

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-sixth plenary session  
(Paris, 18-20 May, 1998)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 1997/98 AND 1998/99:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

**INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

(Post plenary session version)

**Purpose of this document and its addenda**

1. The main purposes of the plenary sessions of the Conference of European Statisticians are for the Conference to coordinate the statistically related work that various international and supranational organizations carry out in the ECE region, and for the Conference to decide on its future work programme. The CES plenary session has become the forum in which the work programmes of all other international and supranational agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas (including the European Union) are considered and reviewed in the context of the CES programme. Although the Conference has no jurisdiction over the work programmes of other agencies because they have their own decision-making bodies, the Conference has an authority based on its comprehensive and very senior membership and its close scrutiny of international statistical work.

2. Increasingly, too, as this document shows, expert meetings are organised jointly by two or more agencies such as the ECE with Eurostat or OECD.

3. The most important document for the plenary session is always therefore this Integrated Presentation Programme of Work of all international agencies active in the ECE and OECD areas. This single comprehensive document is intended to bring together all the information necessary to enable the plenary session to make well-informed decisions about future work in its own programme and to comment and give advice on statistical work planned to be undertaken by other institutions. It is important to note too that the work is considered in the light of objectives defined by national statistical offices rather than by international secretariats. More details are given under the heading "Background information" below.

4. The Integrated Presentation has been prepared and agreed by the Bureau of the Conference and drafted on their behalf by the ECE secretariat in collaboration with all of the other institutions.

#### **Mandate of the Conference**

5. The Integrated Presentation and the programme of work of the Conference provides the structure within which the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians provides guidance and direction in pursuing its objectives as confirmed by the Conference at its 1993 plenary session, as follows:

- ! to improve national statistics and their international comparability having regard to the recommendations of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, the Specialized Agencies and other appropriate bodies, as necessary;
- ! to promote close coordination of the statistical activities in Europe of international organizations so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions and to reduce to a minimum the burdens on national statistical offices; and
- ! to respond to any emerging need for international statistical cooperation arising out of transition, integration and other processes of cooperation both within the ECE region and between the ECE region and other regions.

#### **Background information**

6. The Integrated Presentation contained in this document and in its six addenda, each dealing with a different work area, provides an overview of the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next

two years by all of the major international organizations that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. Some examples of the approximately two dozen organizations concerned are the Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the European Commission (Eurostat), the OECD, the UN Statistics Division, the ILO, the IMF, UNESCO, the World Bank, the World Tourist Organization, the World Trade Organization, and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS STAT).

7. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared after the Conference of European Statistician's 1998 plenary session, and therefore it lists in each programme element of the Integrated Presentation the issues that the Bureau of the Conference brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session. It also lists the various decisions that the Conference took at the plenary session under each of the programme elements.

8. The material presented in the Integrated Presentation is intended to assist the Conference in carrying out its primary role of coordinating international statistical work that will affect ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation also serves as a valuable coordinating tool at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them in deciding on their participation in meetings convened by the various international organizations.

9. This is the sixth Integrated Presentation that has been prepared for review by the Conference at its annual plenary sessions. (The five earlier presentations were prepared for the Conference's 1993-1997 plenary sessions). The major innovations introduced by the Bureau since June 1997 have been incorporated into the presentation contained in the addenda to this note. **The most recent innovations may be summarized as follows:**

- a) **The Bureau conducted an in-depth review of programme activities 3, 5 and 6 (see Table 1) since the 1997 plenary session** This resulted in numerous proposed changes to the objectives and outputs for the programme elements or projects in each of these work areas. (The Bureau conducts similar types of in-depth reviews of three programme activities each year, so as to ensure that the entire work programme can be reviewed in depth every two years).
- b) Because of the large size of the Integrated Presentation, the Conference agreed at its 1997 plenary session that rather than reviewing each of the 44 or so programme elements in turn at the plenary session, it would be preferable for the Bureau to select a small number of programme elements that would be reviewed in detail, and to review the remaining programme elements in a more cursory manner and generally on the basis of the outcome of the review that the Bureau conducted on the Integrated

Presentation at its February meeting. In view of this, based on proposals drawn up by the Bureau at its January 1998 meeting, the Conference reviewed the following four topics in greater depth at its 1998 plenary session, in its review of the Integrated Presentation:

- ! Financial statistics and indicators in the light of the Asian economic crisis, and the growing importance of statistical information to the financial stability of countries (part of PEs 1.2, 2.3 and 3.2)
  - ! Countries in transition in the ECE region (part of PE 1.3)
  - ! Preparations for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses (part of PE 4.5)
  - ! Education and training statistics (PE 4.8).
- c) The Conference also agreed to the proposals made by the Bureau concerning an approach to be used by the Conference in the future in **prioritising programme elements in the Conference's work programme** (see CES/1998/9, the report of the 1998 plenary session (ECE/CES/54, para. 15), and the text under the heading "Decisions taken by the Conference at the 1998 plenary session" of Programme Element 1.2 of the Integrated Presentation shown in CES/1998/34/Add.1). The Bureau developed this approach to prioritising programme elements in its programme of work as an aid to the Economic Commission for Europe's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work when it meets in the autumn of 1998 to consider the ECE's planned work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium. Although the Conference generally endorsed the approach that the Bureau had proposed to prioritising the work programme, it asked the Bureau of the Conference at its autumn 1998 meeting to look more closely into the approach that the Bureau has recommended to the Conference (see CES/1998/9), in the light of the stipulations called for both in the Plan of Action and in the decision taken by the Commission concerning this matter at its April 1998 session, particularly with reference to subparagraphs (d) and (e) of para. 6 of CES/1998/15.

#### **Structure of the Integrated Presentation**

10. The Integrated Presentation is divided into six major work areas ("programme activities") which comprise the programme of work of the Conference, and they are in turn sub-divided into a total of 44 programme elements (see Table 1).

11. Programme activity 1 covers issues concerned with the general management of the programme of work of the Conference, issues of statistical policy that are of direct concern to heads of NSOs, and issues such as international coordination, technical assistance in statistics and relations with countries outside the ECE region.

12. Programme activity 2 deals with substantive cross-cutting issues (including the managerial aspects of such issues) of concern to heads of NSOs, which do not relate to a specific subject-matter field of statistics. The issues dealt with in this programme activity do not need to be addressed by the Conference at its plenary sessions or at the CES seminars for heads of statistical services that are convened at five year intervals. Technical issues that affect only a particular subject-matter area are addressed under that subject-matter area, and only technical issues of a cross-cutting nature that affect different subject-matter areas are addressed under programme activity 2.

13. The core of the programme lies in the substantive programme activities 3, 4 and 5 which address economic statistics, social statistics, and environment statistics respectively. Each of these programme activities may address conceptual issues, standards, and questions of design, collection, production, dissemination and analysis of statistical data arising in their domains.

14 Programme activity 6 covers the coordination of international data collection, the work of the secretariats in disseminating statistical data, and other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat.

15. The division of these six programme activities into 44 programme elements aims to be exhaustive while keeping the number of programme elements to a minimum consistent with the aims of the Conference. Each programme element is characterized by a statement of broad objectives and scope in a homogeneous area of statistical activity. The complete list of programme elements in the Conference's programme of work is provided in Table 1, together with an indication of the document in the Integrated Presentation in which information for the programme element can be found. The list of abbreviations used in the work programmes is given in Annex I.

16. While the structure and delineation of programme elements are expected to change slowly, the level of activity within programme elements will vary more rapidly between elements and over time. At any one time, some programme elements will be dormant, while others may be hyperactive. For each planning period, the Conference will be required to review proposed goals and activities for particular programme elements and to decide on priorities.

17. The descriptions of each of the programme elements aim to provide a framework for all international statistical work relevant to national statistical offices in ECE, EU and OECD countries. The following standard headings are used within each programme element.

**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 WAS DRAWN TO THE FOLLOWING** List of issues in each field of statistics that the Bureau of the Conference brought to the attention of the Conference at its plenary session.

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AT THE 1998 PLENARY SESSION** List of decisions taken by the Conference on its programme of work at the 1998 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-May 1998 to June 2000. 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).

### **Functions of Rapporteurs**

18. The Conference concluded at its 1995 plenary session that in programme elements where several international organizations are actively working, it would be useful for the Conference to ask one agency to serve as the "rapporteur" for work in that field. Rapporteurs have now been appointed for most of the programme elements. Rapporteurs report to the Bureau, who in turn take the reports into account in proposing changes to the integrated presentation.

19. The Bureau has decided that in the future it should conduct an in-depth review of three programme activities each year, so that the entire work programme can be reviewed every two years. It began this two year review cycle during the 1996/97 year, and in 1998/99 the Bureau will conduct in-depth reviews of programme activities 1, 2 and 4 (see Table 1). These in-depth

reviews are conducted on the basis of the following material: (i) the amended version of the integrated presentation that is prepared immediately after the Conference's plenary session, and which reflects the outcome of the discussion that took place at the plenary session (Addenda 1, 2 and 4 of CES/1998/34); and (ii) short reports that the Rapporteurs prepare for the Bureau in the fields of statistics covered by these work areas.

20. The specific functions which the Bureau asks the Rapporteurs to perform on behalf of the Conference are summarized below:

- ! to report to the Bureau, in short reports that are essentially issue- and strategic-oriented in character, on the extent to which progress is being made collectively by the agencies in meeting the objectives' and 'outputs'. (The reports are to be submitted to the Bureau through the Secretary of the Conference, no later than the beginning of September each year for programme activities to be reviewed that year; the Bureau will report to the Conference the following June);
- ! to keep abreast of the relevant activities that are being undertaken by other relevant agencies, in order to fulfil function (a) above;
- ! to advise the Bureau, through their candid reports, on how the objectives and outputs might best be achieved;
- ! to suggest to the Bureau, when necessary, how the objectives and/or outputs should be amended so as to ensure that they reflect the intended meanings of these terms (see para. 16 above) and to make clearer which organization is responsible for each output indicated; and
- ! when deemed appropriate, to identify and include in their reports a small number of key issues concerning ongoing or planned future work in the project which they consider sufficiently important to bring to the attention of the Bureau and of the Conference at its annual plenary session.

#### **Planned future development of the integrated presentation**

21. The process of improving the integrated presentation is an on-going one. It will continue with the in-depth reviews of individual programme activities that the Bureau will conduct each year.

#### **Other relevant information**

22. The list of abbreviations that are used by Eurostat and the OECD in describing their work programmes is given in Annex I.

23. Background information on ECE secretariat resources that was provided to the Conference at the 1998 plenary session and that the secretariat expected to be available to help support the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 work programme of the Conference is given in Annex II of this note. The Conference took that information into account when it reviewed its draft work programme at the 1998 plenary session.

24. It should be recalled that the approach that the Bureau recommended the Conference to take in prioritising its work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium is presented in **CES/1998/9**. The Bureau developed this approach to prioritising programme elements in the Conference's work programme as a possible aid to the Economic Commission for Europe's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work when it meets in the autumn of 1998 to consider the ECE's planned work programme for the 2000-2001 biennium. Although the Conference generally endorsed the approach that the Bureau had proposed to prioritising the work programme, it asked the Bureau of the Conference at its autumn 1998 meeting to look more closely into the approach that the Bureau has recommended to the Conference (see CES/1998/9), in the light of the stipulations called for both in the Plan of Action and in the decision taken by the Commission concerning this matter at its April 1998 session, particularly with reference to subparagraphs (d) and (e) of para. 6 of CES/1998/15. The Bureau will do this at its 2-3 November 1998 meeting, and the outcome of its deliberations on this will be brought to the attention of the Commission's Group of Experts on the Programme of Work when it meets in the autumn of 1998.

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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> Organization and Operation of statistical services (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.1</b>)</p>	<p>1.1 Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work 1.2 Managerial and policy issues of direct concern to presidents of national statistical offices 1.3 Countries in transition in the ECE region 1.4 Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)</p>
<p><u>Programme activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.2</b>)</p>	<p>2.1 Management of information technology infrastructure 2.2 Statistical data collection and processing 2.3 Dissemination and interchange of statistical information 2.4 Statistical classifications 2.5 Statistical research and development 2.6 Geographical and regional data 2.7 Human resource development</p>

Programme activity	Programme element
<p><u>Programme activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.3</b>)</p>	<p>3.1 Implementation of the system of national accounts 3.2 Money and banking, government finance, and balance of payments 3.3 International trade in goods 3.4 Transport 3.5 Distributive trades 3.6 International trade in services 3.7 Tourism 3.8 Other marketed services, and non-marketed services 3.9 Price statistics, including purchasing power parities 3.10 Agricultural statistics 3.11 Industrial statistics 3.12 Energy statistics 3.13 Science and technology statistics 3.14 Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics 3.XX Other work in the field of economic statistics</p>
<p><u>Programme activity 4:</u> Social and demographic statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.4</b>)</p>	<p>4.1 Social indicators and frameworks 4.2 Gender statistics 4.3 Multi-purpose social surveys 4.4 Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics 4.5 Population and housing censuses 4.6 Health statistics 4.7 Crime and criminal justice statistics 4.8 Education and training statistics 4.9 Culture statistics 4.10 Labour statistics 4.11 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households) 4.12 Human settlements and housing statistics 4.13 Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality 4.14 Statistics on population groups of special interest</p>
<p><u>Programme activity 5:</u> Environment statistics (See document <b>CES/1998/34/Add.5</b>)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications 5.2 Environmental accounting 5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p>

Programme activity	Programme element
<u>Programme activity 6:</u> Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (See document CES/1998/34/Add.6)	6.1 Coordination of international data collection 6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat

**Annex I. List of more frequently used abbreviations employed  
in the work programmes of Eurostat and the OECD**

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (Eurostat)
PAC	[Politique agricole commune]
CCEET	Centre for Co-operation with the European Economies in Transition [Centre pour la Coopération avec les Economies en Transition]
CDIS	Management Committee on Statistical Information (Eurostat) [Comité Directeur de l'Information Statistique]
CD-ROM	Compact disks with read-only memory
CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
PECO	[Pays d'Europe centrale et orientale]
CESD	European Training Centre for Economists-Statisticians from Developing Countries (Eurostat) [Centre de formation des Economistes-Statisticiens des pays en voie de Développement]
CIT	Countries in transition
CMFB	Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (Eurostat) [Comité des statistiques Monétaires, Financières et de Balance des paiements]
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of Government (Eurostat)
CFAB	[Classification des fonctions des administrations publiques]
CPA	Classification of Products according to Activity (Eurostat) [Classification des Produits liés aux Activités]
DGINS	Conference of the Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat) [Conférence des Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique]
DOSES	Specific programme for the Research and Development of Statistical Expert Systems (Eurostat) [Programme spécifique de recherche-développement des systèmes experts en statistique]
DSIS	Distributed Statistics Information System (Eurostat)

[Système d'Information Statistique Réparti]

EAA	Economic Accounts for Agriculture (Eurostat)
CEA	[Comptes économiques de l'agriculture]
ECCI	European Employment Cost Index (Eurostat)
ECHP	European Coordinated Household Panels (Eurostat)
ECMT	The European Conference of Ministers of Transport
CEMT	[Conférence Européenne des Ministres des Transports]
EEA	European Economic Area (Eurostat)
EEE	[Espace économique européen]
EEA	European Environment Agency (Eurostat)
AEE	[Agence européenne de l'environnement]
EECI	European Employment Costs Index (Eurostat)
	[Indice européen du coût de la main-d'oeuvre]
EHLASS	European Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System (Eurostat)
	[Système européen de contrôle des accidents au foyer et lors des activités de loisir]
EMI	European Monetary Institute (Eurostat)
IME	[Institut monétaire européen]
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union (Eurostat)
UEM	[Union économique et monétaire]
ESA	European System of integrated national Accounts (Eurostat)
SEC	[Système européen de comptes nationaux intégrés]
ESSPROS	European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (Eurostat)
SESPROS	[Système européen de statistiques intégrées de la Protection Sociale]
FISIMs	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured (in the European System of Accounts, ESA 95)
GISCO	Geographic Information System for the Commission
NACE	General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities within the European Communities (Eurostat)

[Nomenclature générale des activités économiques dans les  
Communautés Européennes]

NIS	New Independent States (former Republics of the USSR) Nouveaux Etats Indépendants
NSI	National Statistical Institutes (Eurostat)
INS	[Instituts nationaux de statistique]
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (Eurostat) [Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques]
OWN/d	OECD World data Network
PHARE	Action plan for coordinated aid for restructuring economies in Poland and Hungary (Eurostat) [Pologne-Hongrie Assistance à la Restructuration des Economies]
PIT	Partners in Transition (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics)
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SCCTAS	Steering Committee to Coordinate Technical Assistance in Statistics to countries of the former Soviet Union
SERIEE	Collection of economic information on the environment (Eurostat) [Collecte d'informations économiques sur l'environnement]
SERT	Business statistics and telematics networks (Eurostat) [Statistiques des Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques]
SIRENE	System of Distributed Information on Energy (Eurostat)
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises (Eurostat)
PME	[Petites et moyennes entreprises]
SOPEMI	Continuous Reporting System on Migration [Système d'observation permanente des migrations]
SPC	Statistical Programme Committee (Eurostat)
CPS	[Comité du Programme Statistique]
SPEL	Sectoral production and income model for Community Agriculture (Eurostat) [Modèle de la production et des revenus du secteur agricole communautaire]

TACIS	Technical Assistance CIS (Eurostat)
TES	Training of European Statisticians (Eurostat) [Formation des statisticiens européens]
TRAINS	Transport Information System (Eurostat) [Gestion statistique des transports terrestres]
UOE	UNESCO-OECD-Eurostat (joint questionnaire on education statistics)

## Annex II

### **ECE secretariat resources expected to be available for the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians in 1998/99 and 1999/2000**

1. The programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians for 1998/99 and 1999/2000 is presented in addenda 1-7 of this note, in conjunction with the planned statistical work programmes of other international and supranational organizations whose work relates to ECE, EU and OECD countries.

2. This annex contains information on the amount of ECE secretariat resources that are expected to be available for the Conference's work programme for 1998/99 and 1999/2000, for the Conference to take into account when deciding on its own work programme.

3. In considering its draft programme of work for the coming two year period, the Conference is also invited to take the following information about secretariat resources into account. It responds to the provisions of Commission decisions E (48) on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Economic Commission for Europe and I (48) on reporting from the Subsidiary Bodies to the Commission:

! The budget for the 1998-1999 biennium makes provision for the UN/ECE Statistical Division to be comprised of 36 regular budget posts, of which 21<sup>2</sup> are to be devoted to work of the Conference. The salary and related costs associated with these regular budget posts are expected to comprise more than 98% of the budgetary allocation, and the remaining part is composed of small amounts available for official travel, consultants, equipment and external printing of publications.

! As noted above, of the staff costs, 21 posts are available for the work of the Conference of European Statisticians. The remaining 15 posts are

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<sup>1</sup> Thirty-five of the 36 regular budget posts are in the "ore" (Section 18) budget of the ECE, and the Statistical Division's Regional Adviser post is financed from Section 21 ("Regular programme of technical cooperation") of the budget.

<sup>2</sup> Last year's Integrated Presentation reported 22 posts for the Conference. One junior professional post has subsequently been transferred from the support work for the Conference to support work carried out in the Statistical Division on economic data collection required in producing the annual Economic Survey for Europe which, like Trends, is one of ECE's flagship publications.



intended for work that the Statistical Division performs for other Divisions of the ECE. This refers to the work the Statistical Division does for the Economic Analysis Division (12 posts), and to the ECE Graphical Design Unit which provides graphics design work for all parts of the ECE (3 posts). This resource base is supplemented by 5% of the UNOG (United Nations Office at Geneva) costs apportioned to ECE for conference services, which is absorbed by the Conference of European Statisticians.

- ! There are an additional six regular budget posts in the ECE which report to the Director of the Statistical Division, but for budgetary purposes are shown as part of the "Programme support" (Section 18, part D) of the ECE budget, because those posts are devoted to providing information technology support and services to all parts of the ECE. However, they are not used to service the programme of work of the Conference. The Division therefore has 42 budgeted posts of which 22 are devoted to the Conference's work.
  
- ! The work of the Statistical Division is also being supported during the 1998-1999 biennium by some extra-budgetary funds. The extra-budgetary funding involved pertains to the following areas: (i) the UNFPA-funded project on population and housing censuses, which is aimed at assisting countries in transition and particularly newly independent states in planning and organizing their 2000 round population and housing census; (ii) the UNDP-financed project on social reporting and human development, which is aimed at assisting countries in transition and particularly newly independent states in producing a wide range of basic social statistics for inclusion in national and international yearbooks of social statistics; (iii) the UNDP-funded project on the population census of Armenia; and (iv) a possible additional UNDP-financed project aimed at developing and strengthening the national statistical capability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Statistical Division has an additional two extra-budgetary posts to facilitate its managing work in these projects, but these posts are not available to support the work of the Conference.
  
- ! Of the 21 secretariat posts available to service the work programme of the Conference of European Statisticians, they are planned to be allocated to the following work areas during the coming year:
  - ! 21% will be devoted to programme activity 1 (Organization and operation of statistical services);
  - ! 21% will be devoted to programme activity 2 (Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues);
  - ! 31% will be devoted to programme activity 3 (Economic statistics);
  - ! 11% will be devoted to programme activity 4 (Social and demographic statistics);

- ! 3% will be devoted to programme activity 5 (Environment statistics); and
  - ! 13% will be devoted to programme activity 6 (Dissemination and support for secretariat activities).
- ! Of the 36 posts available to the Division in the 1998-1999 biennium, seven were vacant at the end of February 1998. Five of them are professional posts and two are general services posts. Of these, two are intended to support the work of the Conference (one is a professional post in the field of economic statistics and the other is a professional post in the field of social and demographic statistics). The five other vacant posts are intended to support the work the Statistical Division performs for other divisions in the ECE.
- ! The number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation used to support work of the Conference of European Statisticians in the past one-year period (i.e. between April 1997 and March 1998), in accordance with Commission Decision O(45), was 45 (this amounts to 5.5% of the total number of half-day meeting sessions with interpretation ECE had during this period).

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