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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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(Paris, 13-15 June 2000)

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2000/2001 and 2001/2002:
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6
DISSEMINATION AND SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES**

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/2000/4/Add.1)
- Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues
(CES/2000/4/Add.2)
- Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.3)
- Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.4)
- Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.5)
- Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2000/4/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 supplied to the secretariat for inclusion in this updated version of the integrated presentation which was considered by the Conference at its 1999 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 Conference took in these fields of statistics, and identifies various issues that the Bureau brought to the attention of the Conference at 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 decided should be brought to the attention of the Conference at the plenary session.

DECISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE CES BUREAU TO THE 2000 PLENARY SESSION: List of decisions on its programme of work that the Bureau recommends the Conference to take at the 2000 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).

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

5. 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

6. 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/2000/4) describes the background to the development of the format used here and provides additional information including an explanation of acronyms used.

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/2000/4/Add.1)	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)
<u>Programme Activity 2:</u> Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2000/4/Add.2)	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 2.8 Sustainable development indicators NEW
<u>Programme Activity 3:</u> Economic statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.3)	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 and communication statistics 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 Agriculture, forestry and fishery 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

Programme Activity	Programme Element
<p><u>Programme Activity 4:</u> Social and demographic statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.4)</p> <p>New numbering of programme elements to achieve better correspondence to the Programme Classification of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)</p>	<p>4.1 Demographic statistics (including projections, migration, fertility and families and households) (<i>formerly 4.11</i>)</p> <p>4.2a Population and housing censuses (<i>formerly 4.5</i>)</p> <p>4.2b Statistics on population groups of special interest (<i>formerly 4.14</i>)</p> <p>4.3 Human settlements and housing statistics (<i>formerly 4.12</i>)</p> <p>4.4 Labour statistics (<i>formerly 4.10</i>)</p> <p>4.5 Education and training statistics (<i>formerly 4.8</i>)</p> <p>4.6 Culture statistics (<i>formerly 4.9</i>)</p> <p>4.7a Statistics of household income and expenditures, of the welfare of the population, and of poverty and income inequality (<i>formerly 4.13</i>)</p> <p>4.7b Social security statistics (<i>new</i>) NEW</p> <p>4.8 Crime and criminal justice statistics (<i>formerly 4.7</i>)</p> <p>4.9 Health statistics (<i>formerly 4.6</i>)</p> <p>4.10 Gender statistics (<i>formerly 4.2</i>)</p> <p>4.11 Other work in the field of social and demographic statistics (<i>formerly 4.xx</i>)</p> <p>4.11a Social indicators and frameworks (<i>formerly 4.1</i>)</p> <p>4.11b Multi-purpose social surveys (<i>formerly 4.3</i>)</p> <p>4.11c Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics (<i>formerly 4.4</i>)</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 5:</u> Environment statistics (CES/2000/4/Add.5)</p>	<p>5.1 Sectoral concepts, definitions and classifications <i>Themes: emissions, waste, land use/cover, etc.</i></p> <p>5.2 Environmental accounting</p> <p>5.3 Environmental databases and reporting</p> <p>5.4 Meteorology statistics NEW</p>
<p><u>Programme Activity 6:</u> Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2000/4/Add.6)</p>	<p>6.1 Coordination of international data collection</p> <p>6.2 Other statistically-related activities of the ECE secretariat</p>

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 6 DISSEMINATION AND SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES

6.1 COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL DATA COLLECTION

Objectives over the next several years:

To coordinate policies of the international organizations involved in the collection of national statistical data which are needed for their economic analysis and publications. To make collected data available to national and international statistical agencies in printed or electronic form. To avoid any inefficient duplication in the data collection activities between international organizations, and to ensure that the burden placed on NSOs in responding to international data requests is kept to a minimum. To implement jointly prepared questionnaires in international data collection. To share data stored in statistical databases which are maintained by international organizations. Further improvement in on-line data capture aiming to improve timeliness of data collection.

Expected collective output in the next two years:

Issuance of statistical publications and products by all the organizations. Improved procedures and tools for improved data collection coordination.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- A new protocol on the exchange of statistical data between Eurostat and OECD was signed in January 2000. The protocol is viewed by each of the organisations as a model for future arrangements.

Decisions recommended by the CES Bureau to 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 2000 to June 2002: Not applicable

Rapporteur: Not applicable.

Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:

Activities of ECE/CES:

- a) To collect data for and publish in printed and electronic form "Trends in Europe and North America - the Statistical Yearbook of ECE", and to collect annual data from non-OECD/IEA member countries in the field of energy statistics; to prepare the four quarterly issues of the UN/ECE Statistical Journal; and to prepare the annual statistical-oriented publication "World Industrial Robots".
- b) To prepare, in collaboration with Eurostat, OECD, UNSD and other international organizations, an annual report on joint data collection for submission to the plenary session of the Conference.
- c) Information on ECE's statistical publications is available on the ECE Statistical Division's WWW site: <http://www.unece.org/stats/>

Cross reference: Ad Hoc publication on Gender Statistics to be prepared by the ECE Statistical Division and published in year 2000 (See programme element 4.2, CES/BUR.2000/4/Add.4).

Secretariat resources: Substantial

Activities of ECE:

Activities of the ECE Economic Analysis Division:

Statistical data on economic developments in countries in transition and in traditional market economies are collected in cooperation with the Statistical Division and used for the preparation of three issues per year of the "Economic Survey of Europe" as well as other work done by the division.

Activities of the ECE Timber Committee:

- a) Collection and analysis of timber statistics data and their publication in the annual ECE/FAO "Timber Bulletin" which consists of 6 issues per year.
- b) The annual ECE/FAO/Eurostat Forest products questionnaire collects data on production and trade in forest products, world-wide for use by the three organisations, for use in publications as well as a wide range of studies. In 1999 the International Tropical Forest Organisation (ITTO) joined this arrangement.
- c) In coming years, as resources permit, more data and analysis in a more user friendly format will be made available on the Web site (<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/tim-fact.htm>).

Activities of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements:

The biennial "Bulletin on Housing and Building Statistics for Europe and North America" provides statistical data and information for analysing and monitoring housing policy implementation in the ECE region (trilingual: English/French/Russian).

Activities of the ECE Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development Division:

- a) Steel: Preparation of two annual publications entitled Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe and Statistics of World Trade in Steel. It is also planned to produce biennial statistics on iron and steel scrap which are collected from countries and published every two years, and quarterly statistics on production and trade in steel products which are distributed on a quarterly basis to users who have requested to receive them.
- b) Chemical industry: The Chemical Industry - Annual Review is planned to be published on the basis of statistical and other information provided by member States for all major chemical products and areas. It is also envisaged to continue publication of the Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products.

Activities of the ECE Transport Division (Inland Transport Committee):

- a) Publications: (i) CD-Rom of 1995 Census of Motor Traffic (GIS database, Arcview project); (ii) Internet Application of 1995 Census of Motor Traffic (using Internet Map Server or a similar software to make data and maps available on-line: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/census95.htm>); (iii) (possible) Publication (hard-copy and electronic version) of other areas of statistical data and maps in GIS context, depending on resources available (2000-2001); (iv) Annual Bulletin on Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, which now includes gender-specific employment in the transport sector, 2000 edition; (v) Bulletin of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America (2000, and possibly 2001 editions); (vi) Glossary for Transport Statistics, Third Edition (containing chapters of previous two editions and new chapters on road traffic accidents, urban transport and environmental indicators), expected by end 2001.
- b) The Common Questionnaire for Transport Statistics is circulated annually to member Governments, in cooperation with ECMT and Eurostat, and data is published for each organizations member Governments in annual or less frequent publications. In the case of ECE this data is published in the Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America (ABTS) cited above.
- c) Questionnaire on Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America is circulated annually by ECE to its member countries and is currently NOT collected or compiled by a Common Questionnaire,

although coordination on road traffic accident terminology has been undertaken recently in a Task Force on Road Traffic Accidents (convened jointly by ECE /ECMT and Eurostat, see above under meetings).

d) Data collection effort other than for annual publications: 2000 Combined Census of Motor Traffic and Inventory of Main International Traffic Arteries in Europe, to be published on hard-copy, CD-ROM and Internet using GIS application. (2002)

Activities of OECD:

The OECD collects data which are further used for a wide variety of publications in print, diskette, CD-ROM and on-line. These are often listed in the integrated presentation under the programme elements concerned. The catalogue of the OECD Online Bookshop: <http://www.oecd.org>

Activities of Eurostat:

Eurostat works closely with the other international organisations, through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme Review (which consists of ECE, OECD and Eurostat) to ensure good co-ordination of data collection from Member States and the avoidance of duplication in that area. More joint data collection activities are foreseen in the coming years. However these are sometimes hampered by differing standards being used and timetables of the various organisations.

Eurostat's publications catalogue is available on request. In February 2000 Eurostat launched a new web site at: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>

Activities of other organizations:

UN Statistics Division:

a) Implementation of the new questionnaires based on SNA 93 and ESA 95. Since both systems are consistent, an architecture of data sharing among Eurostat, OECD, UNECE and UNSD has been agreed upon, such that each country will receive only one questionnaire. Countries will send the data electronically to one organization identified as focal point for a group of countries but with simultaneous copies to the other organizations interested.

b) The UNSD coordinates the collection of demographic statistics with the WHO, EUROSTAT, ILO and the Economic Commission for Europe in order to minimize the reporting burden on the national statistical services and to provide as wide a range of users as possible with access to demographic statistics shown in international statistical publications including the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

c) **Social Indicators and Statistics and Indicators on the World's Women are maintained by the Statistics Division on its Internet site.**

d) Publications:

1. Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2

2. Handbooks on population and housing censuses:

(i) Census Management,;

(ii) Digital Census Mapping and Geographic Information Systems;

(iii) Census editing; and

(iv) Guidelines on the Collection of Economic Characteristics

3. Demographic Yearbook

(i) CD-Rom Historical Supplement, containing 50 years of statistics from the Demographic Yearbook.

(ii) 50th Issue: 1998 Demographic Yearbook (print version)

4. The World's Women 2000

5. Handbook on Disability Statistics

6. Handbook on Criminal Justice Statistics

7. Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics 2000

e) Data collection:

Regular collection of data for the United Nations Demographic Yearbook.

United Nations Industrial development Organization (UNIDO):

The reported industrial statistics will continue to be published in the UNIDO's recurrent publication, International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics. External dissemination of the databases will continue to be made through sales or exchange agreement. In addition to data dissemination in the form of diskette/tape, dissemination through Internet will be increased.

The ILO:

- a) Data collected by the ILO from national statistical offices and through national statistical publications are made available in both printed and electronic form. For many years monthly and/or quarterly data on employment, unemployment, hours of work, wages and consumer prices have been transmitted each month from the ILO to the Statistics Division of the UN in New York for inclusion in the UN "Monthly Bulletin of Statistics". At the same time these data are sent to the ECE, FAO, IMF, OECD, UNIDO and the Statistical Office of the European Communities. Annual data published in the ILO "Yearbook of Labour Statistics" are also transmitted to the UN Statistics Division for additional dissemination in their "Yearbook", thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of international questionnaires. Employment and unemployment data published in the ILO "Bulletin of Labour Statistics" and its Supplements, are sent regularly to the IMF for publication in their "International Financial Statistics" bulletin.
- b) Publication of annual employment and unemployment estimates, initially on paper and diskette but later to be disseminated through our Web site (part of the ILO Key Indicators of the Labour Market publication)
- c) The ILO Yearbook of Labour Statistics and related publications will be more concise and user-friendly, making maximum use of modern technology and available dissemination tools.
- d) Publication of "Economically active population 1950-2010" providing estimates and projections of activity rates by sex and age group, and estimates of the distribution of the economically active population by sex and by major sector of economic activity, for each country or territory which had 200,000 inhabitants or more in 1990 (covering *Gaza Strip*, all newly established countries of the Former Soviet Union as well as the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) -- available as a set of diskettes, in ASCII format.

The World Bank: The Bank releases two annual publications both in hard copy and on CD-ROM, World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance. The World Bank Atlas is distributed in hard copy. Selected indicators from the World Development Indicators also appear in the World Development Report and the Little Data Book (both annual). Selected tables from these publications are available on the Bank's website: (<http://www.worldbank.org/data>).

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- a) Databases available to subscribers on CD-ROM relate to the following publications: "International Financial Statistics (IFS)", "International Financial Statistics Yearbook", "Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook BOBSY", "Government Finance Statistics Yearbook" and "Direction of Trade Statistics (DOT)". A windows browser facility was added to these CD-ROMs for IFS recently and will be added for BOBSY and DOT later in 2000.
- b) The IMF has recently put on its Web site the Joint BIS, IMF, OECD, World Bank Statistics on External Debt and further enhancements in coverage and timeliness are envisaged.

WHO Regional Office for Europe : The statistical "Health for All" database is updated annually and placed on Internet or, on request, mailed on diskette. An online Internet version is available via the EUPHIN-EAST project. The report on "Health in Europe" is published every three years and also available as a hypertext documents on Internet. Concise standardized descriptions of the health status and health-related situation in a particular country with graphical presentation of data, known as "Highlights on Health", are issued and disseminated as paper copies and as a hypertext document through Internet (<http://www.who.dk/country/country.htm>).

Detailed mortality and population data reported by European Member States are published annually by WHO headquarters as part of the global issue of the World Health Statistics Annual

World Trade Organization (WTO):

Annual Report -- Description: Starting with the 1999/2000 issue, this new Annual Report will replace the March issue of the Press Release and the Annual Report previously issued in November. It would include: (i) an overview of the current situation, (ii) an assessment of previous year trade in merchandise and commercial services, including prospects for the current year, (iii) a discussion of trade policy issues, and (iv) an overview of WTO activities. Its statistical contents will be similar to that of the previous March Press Release i.e. statistical tables depicting merchandise exports and imports for the world and selected country groups in value and volume, as well as total exports and imports of major individual countries for merchandise and commercial services in value terms. Media: printed publication, Frequency: annual (April), Languages: English, French, and Spanish.

International Trade Statistics-- Description: detailed statistical information on trade in merchandise and commercial services for the previous year, as well as a number of long-term time-series. Media: printed CD-ROM. Frequency: annual (November), Languages: English, French, and Spanish.

Integrated Databases -- The database includes submissions by member countries comprising imports and tariffs for year $n-1$, tariffs for year n and reference information and national tariff correlations. National tariff correlation tables are furnished by Members showing differences between the tariff nomenclatures for year n and year $n-1$ where the nomenclature changed. For tariffs, the current MFN bound duties and the current MFN applied duties should be provided. Other duties can be provided on a voluntary basis. Tariffs and imports should be provided at the level of customs tariffs lines. For a given year, the imports nomenclature should match the tariff nomenclature. For the time being the information is restricted to WTO Members.

The FAO: Annual publications comprise statistics of capture fisheries production, aquaculture production, fishery commodities production and trade, fishing fleet and fishers, fish consumption statistics based on food balance sheets.

The databases of production and trade are disseminated through FISHSTAT PLUS, a retrieval and analytical software for windows, and are downloadable on the web site:
<http://www.fao.org/fi/statist/FISOFT/FISHPLUS.asp>

They are also disseminated, in a more aggregated form, through the FAO corporate dissemination system (FAOSTAT): <http://www.fao.org>

Through the FIGIS (FAO Fisheries Global Information System) project, an Internet-based system integrating information and statistics, access to databases and networking with national, regional and international centers of excellence will be facilitated.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-STAT):

It is planned to issue the following publications in 2000-2002: 'CIS Statistics' (twice monthly); the statistical yearbook 'Commonwealth of Independent States'(Russian-English); a short handbook of provisional statistical results, 'Commonwealth of Independent States' (Russian-English), and 'The Commonwealth of Independent States: a statistical portrait' (Russian-English).

In addition to the above publications, the following compendia will be issued in 2000: 'Investments, Finances and Prices in Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States'; 'National Accounts of Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States'; 'Foreign Trade of Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States' (Russian-English); 'The Labour Market in Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States' and a short publication, 'Children in Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States'. All of these publications may be issued both in hard-copy form and on diskette."

International Organization for Migration (IOM):

- Publication of statistics of IOM-managed migrant movements on IOM's Website
- Study on institutions and practices of collecting and disseminating migration information in the context of regional intergovernmental co-operation on migration. Intended to have a global coverage with certain regional for a from Europe, Central and Northern America included. Planned to be finalized during the second half of 2000.
- CIS Migration Report. IOM Geneva. Yearly publication on migration stocks and flows in the CIS countries. Contains 12 country chapters reviewing the main migration trends in each CIS country and presenting scores of exclusive data drawn from a variety of sources. Also available on the IOM Web site. In English and Russian. The 1999 edition will be published in September 2000, the 2000 edition in the latter part of 2001 and 2001 edition in 2002.
- World Migration Report. IOM Geneva. A report analyzing and presenting major migration trends in various regions of the world. The report will contain a statistical part, covering as many countries as possible. Demographic, economic, and migration related indicators (foreign and foreign-born residents, remittances etc) will be collected from various sources. The first report will be published during the first half of 2000 and thereafter once in every two years.

World Tourism Organisation (WTO):

WTO belongs, together with OECD and EUROSTAT, to an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the Elaboration of a Common Conceptual Tourism Satellite Account Framework where it is forecasted to elaborate a common questionnaire in order to collect the results obtained from those countries that have a TSA. These results will help the three organizations in extracting the data that will be incorporated in the corresponding publications related to TSA exercises.

- a) "Yearbook of tourism Statistics" providing a summary of world and regional trends on tourism movements and detailed country statistics.
- b) "Compendium of tourism statistics" -- 34 selected series on 204 countries and territories; background information on world and regional trends;
- c) "Barometer on travel and tourism" -- monthly data on arrivals, overnight stays and receipts for the current year in the major international tourism countries and current trends from eleven generating markets.
- d) "Tourism Economic Report" -- analysis of the economic contribution of tourism conducted on a country-by-country basis worldwide.
- e) "Tourism Market Trends" (Africa, Americas, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and South Asia).
- j) "Highlights" -- initial estimated results of international tourism for the current year.
- k) "Budgets of National Tourism Administrations" -- Publications dealing with the effectiveness and returns of advertising and promotional activities.
- l) To continue with the present practice of compiling data on international tourist/visitor arrivals, arrivals by mode of transport, arrivals by purpose of visit, international outbound tourism; accommodation and tourism payments.
- m) To continue providing technical assistance to countries on statistics. Normally, it relates to short-term missions (2/4 days) with the objective of improving the use and/or development of those international standards on tourism statistics that have been approved by the United Nations. During the

next two years, most of this technical assistance will be devoted to the development of the TSA, will guarantee that published figures are strictly coherent and will reduce the burden of respondents.

Council of Europe:

- a) Annual publication of the report "Recent Demographic Developments in Europe" concerning 46 European countries.
- b) Coordination with Eurostat concerning the collection of data from National Statistical Offices is in progress.

European Central Bank (ECB):

The ECB's Monthly Bulletin contains a statistical section covering a wide range of (mainly) euro area data. The coverage of the statistical section will increase over the next 2-3 years as a wider range of data become available. The Monthly Bulletin is also available on the ECB's web site (<http://www.ecb.int>), which also includes more detailed and longer runs of data, and fuller explanatory notes than those in the Monthly Bulletin.

Data collection to be engaged in July 2000 – June 2002

The ECB does not collect data directly from reporting agents. National central banks (or in some cases national statistical institutes) collect data and transmit aggregates to the ECB in a form enabling euro area aggregates to be compiled. The collection of data from national sources and the production of aggregates compiled from them is likely to develop or expand in the future.

Technical assistance in July 2000 – June 2002

The ECB has so far been able to offer very little technical assistance. In the next 2-3 years the priority will be to acquaint (mainly central bank) statisticians in the countries involved in negotiations for accession to the European Union with the ECB's statistical requirements in detail, and so help them to prepare the statistical infrastructure for entry. This is likely to be done through seminars, training courses and bilateral contact.

UNESCO: The longer-term aim is to build on the modest documentation centre which was operated by the former Division of Statistics in UNESCO, to create a publicly accessible Resource Centre for the Institute but this is not possible in the current accommodation. The electronic dissemination of information through the production of CD-ROMs and the placing of data on the web will be further extended. The first CD-ROM to be produced in 2000 will utilise Ivation software and will feature the data collected for the Education for All assessment. It is not planned to produce a Statistical Yearbook for the year 2000 but the needs of users for paper publications and digests is still being explored. It is envisaged that an occasional series of technical and methodological publications will be produced but this needs careful preparation if it is to become a respected series.

6.2 OTHER STATISTICALLY-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF THE ECE SECRETARIAT

Objectives over the next several years:

For ECE, to collect statistical data and to provide other statistical support needed for the ECE's economic analysis. To develop and maintain a statistical database for this purpose with emphasis on countries under the transition process. To provide statistical services to other ECE divisions. Further develop electronic data interchange between national statistical offices and the ECE secretariat based on international standards developed within the Western European EDIFACT Board.

Expected collective output in the next two years :

For ECE, database on macroeconomic data from market economy countries and countries in transition; operational network for EDI collection of macroeconomic data from market economy and transition countries; periodic progress reports to the CES plenary sessions.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following: nothing

Recommended decisions by the Conference 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 2000 to June 2002: Not applicable

Rapporteur: Not applicable.

Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:

Activities of ECE:

To develop, in full coordination with all existing international macroeconomic data bases, a system for collecting macroeconomic data from transition and market economy countries for the preparation of the three issues of the "Economic Survey of Europe" in a manner which minimizes duplication with other international organizations involved;

To develop and maintain an ECE statistical macroeconomic database on transition and market economy countries, and to make it available to ECE's internal and external users.

Secretariat resources: Substantial.

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