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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**

(Post-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/2000/26/Add.1)
Programme Activity 2:	Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues (CES/2000/26/Add.2)
Programme Activity 3:	Economic statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.3)
Programme Activity 4:	Social and demographic statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.4)
Programme Activity 5:	Environment statistics (CES/2000/26/Add.5)
Programme Activity 6:	Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2000/26/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 for consideration by the Conference at its 2000 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 to take 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 WAS 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 TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE AT 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 2000 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/2000/26) 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
<u>Programme Activity 1:</u> Organization and Operation of statistical services (CES/2000/26/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/2000/26/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/2000/26/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/2000/26/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/2000/26/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/2000/26/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 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 was drawn to the following:

- Prioritisation of programme elements in the Conference's work programme agreed by the Bureau at its January 2000 meeting.
- The Conference emphasised the necessity of coordination of statistical work in light of the globalisation process and particularly the promotion of bilateral and multilateral contacts between national as well as international statistical agencies

Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- The Conference approved 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:

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

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

Rapporteur: ECE

Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:

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/BUR.2000/26/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in CES/BUR.2000/26/Add.3).
- c) Task force on trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/BUR.2000/26/Add.3).

- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in CES/BUR.2000/26/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/BUR.2000/26/Add.3).
- f) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/BUR.2000/26/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 United Nations Statistical Commission 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 PE 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).
- f) Coordination of international indicator activities; preparation of annual reports to the UN Economic and Social Council on the development of basic indicators in the context of follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. In this context UNSD is working closely with the UN funds and programmes in the formulation and implementation of a basic indicator framework for common country

assessment (CCA). Country visits will assess the ability of national statistical systems to routinely produce the basic indicators which have been identified. UNSD will also study the impact on countries of the proliferation of indicator sets, with their inherent reporting requirements at the national level. To facilitate better coordination of indicator work among international organizations, UNSD is establishing – under the auspices of the ACC-Subcommittee on Statistical Activities - a Web page with metadata on development indicators produced and disseminated by international organizations.

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 the PARIS21 Consortium and the Conference on Capital Flow and Debt Statistics.
- d) Cooperation with BIS (especially on external debt, international reserves and banking statistics), EUROSTAT and ECB and OECD in areas of common concerns.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

The activities of CIS-STAT 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 from Commonwealth 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 and statistical materials are published in the statistical bulletin 'CIS Statistics', which is issued twice a month.

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 was drawn to the following:

- The Conference selected the topic "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries" as the topic for substantive discussion at the 2001 plenary session. At the request of the Bureau the National Institute for Statistics of Spain agreed to organise and chair the session. It is planned to cover three major topics: (i) collection of statistics in small countries; (ii) estimation for small areas; and (iii) special issues concerning the collection and dissemination of statistics in countries that are geographically large, but whose population is small.
- attention of the members of the Conference was called to the circular letter the ECE Secretariat has sent to NSOs, asking them to propose possible themes of substantive discussion at future plenary sessions of the Conference.

Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see the "Activities and Means" section below)
- The Conference selected the topic "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries" as the topic for substantive discussion at the 2001 plenary session. At the request of the Bureau the National Institute for Statistics of Spain agreed to organise and chair the session.

Meetings from July 2000 to June 2002:

ECE: 49th CES plenary session (June 2001)

ECE: Four meetings of the CES Bureau pre year.

Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme 10 - 11 July 2000

Eurostat: 38th Statistical Programme Committee 14 September 2000

Eurostat: 10th CEIES 15 September 2000

Eurostat: 39th Statistical Programme Committee 22 - 23 November 2000

Eurostat: SPC meetings: March, May, September, November 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme July 2001

Eurostat: DGINS seminar - May 2001

Eurostat: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees, 2 bureau meetings per year

Rapporteur: Statistics Norway

Activities and means from July 2000 to June 2002:

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-ninth (2001) plenary session the topic - "Small area statistics, and statistics for small countries" 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: The resignation of the European Commission early in 1999 and its replacement at the end of the summer was the stimulus for a radical reform of the institution that will last several years. During this time there will be changes to personnel policy and budgetary and financial procedures.

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: further development of the Qualistat programme. Implementation of Unit Development Plans.

Financial and budgetary management: The Commission is changing to a system of activity based budgeting. Together with the effects of the reform process mentioned above, this will have a significant effect on Eurostat's own budgetary procedures.

Activities of other organizations :

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

The IMF has developed standards to guide countries in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public. The Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the top tier of the IMF's data standards' initiatives, is intended to guide countries that have, or seek access to, international financial markets in the provision of economic and financial data to the public. The General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) seeks to guide all member countries in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic data to the public and provides a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. Both the SDDS and the GDDS are expected broadly to improve the availability of reliable, timely and comprehensive statistics, and the SDDS is specifically targeted at the improved

functioning of financial markets by providing the information that market participants need to price risk better.

The Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (DSBB) provides metadata describing the data dissemination practices of SDDS subscribers. The DSBB also provides hyperlinks to national websites (National Summary Data Pages) that contain the actual data disseminated by countries under the SDDS. In addition, summary methodology statements will continue to be added to the DSBB as they become available for posting.

The IMF's Executive Board has strengthened the data category for international reserves; the transition period for subscribers to implement the new template on international reserves and foreign currency liquidity expires at the end of March 2000. Also during 2000, the Executive Board will consider proposals on the duration of a transition period for the implementation of a new data category on external debt. In 2000 the IMF will initiate a program to enhance the DSBB by implementing up-to-date web-based technologies aimed at making the DSBB a more interactive and user friendly site.

The preparatory phase of the GDDS, involving nine regional training seminars and the preparation of pilot GDDS metadata for some 15 countries, is coming to an end in early 2000. Metadata for participants in the GDDS are expected to be posted on the DSBB later in 2000.

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 was drawn to the following:

- Priority areas in which the work is to be carried out by the ECE Regional Adviser in Statistics.
- The Conference noted that the ECE's Regional Adviser for Statistics will assume his duty in the near future. As in the past, the Regional Adviser's activities will focus on the field of economic statistics.
- Representatives of countries in transition expressed appreciation for the technical assistance in statistics that has been provided by international organisations and NSOs in the past in the framework of regional statistical programmes, and by the ECE's Regional Adviser in statistics. The Conference agreed that it would be useful to continue similar kinds of activities in future.

Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- The Conference approved 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:

Eurostat: Working Group: Policy group Phare, Budapest, 26 - 27 October 2000
Eurostat: Steering Group on EU Statistical Co-operation With New Independent States and Mongolia and Tacis High Level Seminar, Kiev, 18 - 22 September 2000
OECD: Expert Meeting to draw up commodity specifications for the 2000 round of PPP comparisons for CIS countries. (Programme sponsored by OECD, World Bank, CIS and Russian Federation).
OECD: Expert Meeting on Business Tendency Surveys for the Russian Federation. June 2000.
UNSD: Workshop for statistical managers of CIS countries on the topic of 'statistical organization' (Vienna, 10-14 July 2000).
IMF: Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the Former Soviet Union (two to three meetings per 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 Statistics

ECE's Regional Adviser in Statistics will provide technical assistance in the areas of interest to the countries in transition, namely: social and demographic statistics, economic statistics and technological infrastructure.

The Regional Adviser post is currently (March 2000) vacant, but the Division expects to be able to fill it in the coming months.

Activities of OECD: **Countries covered:** Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROM, Croatia, (and other countries outside the ECE region.)

Methods of work: Technical cooperation mainly through regional workshops and training at OECD.

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 2000 round of comparisons; (iii) Continued work on enhancement of business tendency 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 provide composite leading indicators of economic activity; (iv) Work to utilise the results of business tendency surveys in conjunction with other short term indicators to; (v) Collection of

short-term economic statistics on non-Member countries for use within OECD and for outside publication;
(vi) Development of a series of structural indicators for economies undergoing significant change. In all these activities there is regular co-ordination with other international organisations.

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

PHARE Programme:

The continuing objectives remain to fund, contract, organise and provide statistical co-operation activities in the framework of the Phare programme to 10 candidate beneficiary countries in order to allow them to:

1. Progressively integrate the statistical systems into the ESS;
2. Promote compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and, as by-product, enhance comparability with EU statistics;
3. Cope with data supply needed increasingly in the framework of international negotiations on different levels and in various circumstances;
4. Strengthen statistical systems of the Phare countries in terms of their institutional capacities;

Following the new Phare orientation an important side objective is also to compile regularly the necessary information to follow compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and to aliment a regular reporting system.

The statistical assistance work and the support of the enlargement are continuing in broad lines like during the previous year, with a decreasing tendency, as a higher degree of compliance will have been achieved. The supporting tools and the data support will be in place and operational. The statistics provided will satisfy most of the needs of the clients.

In general, provision of technical assistance is seen as priority, and its organisation is assured by Eurostat. It is one objective to increasingly involve Eurostat units in statistical co-operation, at least as far as applicant countries are concerned.

It shall be noted that by 2001 a series of new beneficiary countries are expected from the West Balkan area. This will drastically increase the scope and financial management of statistical co-operation. The means used to achieve the goals are enshrined in the Phare Horizontal contract. They are the main subject of Eurostat work and comprise:

- Participation in Eurostat working groups and training courses;
- Secondment of trainees for a long term stay at Eurostat and in Member States;
- Bilateral consultancies and study visits with Statistical Offices of Member States, as far as still appropriate;
- Running common pilot projects with defined results assisted by Member States, in areas of new *acquis statistique* or in still existing gaps;

Programming of activities is done on the basis of a strong strategic approach and including involvement and steering from Eurostat units.

Preparation for EU enlargement:

Work related to enlargement will be continuously at high speed in 2001 with all applicant countries in negotiations, statistics as chapter mainly terminated. The continuing objectives within this environment are:

1. Provide easy access to the statistical *acquis communautaire* and its developments and updates to applicant countries;
2. Examining the compliance of candidate 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.

3. Regular provision of reports to the Commission and Council on the compliance of applicant countries in the field of statistics, more detailed reporting in appropriate for a to Member States statistical institutes.
4. Support of the enlargement process with statistical data: this activity will be very demanded with first accessions approaching. Eurostat units have an increasing role in data supply.
5. Support and encouragement of candidate countries to provide statistical services to their national political authorities within their countries. This shall also strengthen the organisation and the standing of the statistical system within candidate countries.

Statistical co-operation is an ongoing activity, which has to serve the enlargement priorities. Therefore strategic programming of co-operation activities and strategic orientation of NSO of candidate countries must be reinforced and oriented towards enlargement.

In the year 2001 will continue the rather advanced integration of the statistical systems of applicant countries in Eurostat working groups and activities, for the entirety of thirteen countries. This is still subject to the availability of sufficient funds from Phare or other sources.

In 2001 several key areas of statistics in several candidate countries should be fully comparable to those of Member States. Several ongoing national Phare programmes should provide the required financial resources for this.

Preparation work for monitoring compliance of applicant countries with the statistical acquis communautaire shall be a routine operation. The establishment of a regular reporting system shall be finalised.

The maintenance of a monitoring system including an operational database on compliance of different countries will become a regular operation.

TACIS programme:

The continuing objectives are to fund, contract, organise and provide statistical co-operation activities in the framework of the Tacis programme to 13 beneficiary countries in order to:

1. Strengthen the ability of National Statistical Institutes to operate in a democratic environment;
2. Improve the management of National Statistical Institutes in setting up corporate plans, information technologies master plans, training programmes and communication plans;
3. Assist the statistical services of the Tacis countries in providing their users with the necessary statistical information in priority areas;
4. Improve the statistical support for the negotiation and monitoring of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements between the European Union and the Tacis countries;
5. Promote the implementation of international and EU standards in order to increase the comparability of statistical data between Tacis and other countries.

All Tacis credits directly used in statistical co-operation do come from DG RELEX budget. The external operation is totally dependent on the availability of these credits.

The means used to achieve the goals are enshrined in the Tacis Statistical contracts. They are the main subject of Eurostat work and comprise:

- Bilateral consultancies and study visits with Statistical Offices of Member States;
- (Semi-) Resident Advisers support;
- Training actions and provision of documentation and assistance tools in Russian;
- Provision of computer equipment.

Partnership and Cooperation Agreements signed between the EU and most Tacis countries give the political framework for Tacis cooperation. In order to contribute to meet Commission's information needs, this module includes the exchange of data between Eurostat and the Tacis countries, and the production of joint statistical publications in some priority areas.

Partnership and Co-operation Agreements signed between the EU and most TACIS countries give the political framework for TACIS co-operation. In order to contribute to meet Commission's information needs, this module includes the exchange of data between Eurostat and the TACIS countries, and the production of joint statistical publications in some priority areas.

Activities of other organizations :

United Nations 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);

The Division is also preparing a workshop for statistical managers of CIS countries on the topic of 'statistical organization' (Vienna, 10-14 July 2000).

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

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 onsite 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, Russian Federation, and Ukraine).

World Bank: The World Bank provides technical assistance on a country by country basis in the form of loans and grants. The World Bank programs are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects are aimed to improve statistical infrastructure, to change the methods and modes of data collection, processing, transmission, sharing and storing, and to allow the countries to produce economic and social indicators needed for policy and poverty alleviation. The World Bank currently has projects in the ECE region in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. New projects in several transitional countries may be commenced during the period between July 2000 and June 2002.

Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States:

CIS-STAT provides technical, advisory and technological assistance to countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with a view to promoting the exchange of information within the Commonwealth.

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 was drawn to the following: Nothing

Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2000 plenary session:

- The Conference approved 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:

Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT 11 - 12 September 2000

Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Cooperation with the Developing Countries 18 - 19 December 2000

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 2000 to June 2002:

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 and countries of South and South East Asia 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*):

Statistical co-operation with non-member countries will continue and develop as part of major regional programmes of EU assistance for the ACP countries and for countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

The development of a genuine partnership in trade relations, more in line with WTO rules, will take the form of greater priority for work on trade statistics and greater emphasis on activities geared to an overall approach offering a more accurate picture of trade than can be provided solely by customs statistics.

Similarly, the Community's renewed insistence on the key aspect of combating and eliminating poverty will provide a new framework for Eurostat for statistical work on measuring poverty and assessing the impact of EU programmes.

There will be special emphasis on institutional strengthening of regional and national statistical systems through training activities and other measures, with the aim of taking a long-term view of all developments and ensuring maximum ongoing effectiveness.

There will be further analysis of the Fifth Framework Programme for research, with regard to the various sectors of activity in statistical co-operation, and Eurostat will support initiatives for concrete plans in this area.

Lastly, work on the other thematic sectors will continue: the emphasis will be on the consolidation and optimal administration of programmes (Medstat, Mercosur, China, WAEMU, SADC, etc) by exploiting the best of the new institutional environment introduced as a result of the reorganisation of the External Relations departments and the introduction of new budget procedures for awarding contracts.

Activities of other organizations:

International Monetary Fund (IMF): Technical assistance to member countries in the area of government finance, balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves money and banking statistics, merchandise trade, price statistics, and national accounts. Forms of assistance: (i) two to three week onsite 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, (as well as the Singapore-IMF Regional Training Institute, and the joint African Institute (Abidjan)) and in various host countries.
