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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Forty-ninth plenary session
(Geneva, 11-13 June 2001)

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

(Pre-plenary session version)

**PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 5
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS¹**

Introduction

1. The material presented in this document is part of the “Integrated Presentation of International Statistical Work” which provides a summary overview of the statistically-related work that international organisations plan to carry out in the next two years that is likely to have an impact on ECE, EU and OECD countries. Information on the Integrated Presentation is presented by work area in six different addenda. The Integrated Presentation in its entirety consists of the following documents:

The Integrated Presentation: Introduction and overview (CES/2001/3)

Programme Activity 1: Organisation and Operation of statistical services (CES/2001/3/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues
(CES/2001/3/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.3)

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2001/3/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities (CES/2001/3/Add.6)

2. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared for review at the 11-13 June 2001

¹ The headings within the programme elements have been changed to refer to the headings that are used in the other programme areas of the integrated presentation, but the content of the text under the headings has not yet been altered. The content of the text under the headings in programme area 5 will be aligned in the autumn of 2001, when the Bureau will conduct an in-depth review of Programme Activities 3, 5 and 6.

plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The Conference uses it as an aid in carrying out its primary role of co-ordinating the international statistical work that is planned to be carried out in the next two years which is of relevance to ECE, EU and OECD countries. The Integrated Presentation is also used as a valuable tool for co-ordination at the national level, for countries are increasingly using it to assist them in deciding on their participation in different meetings convened by the various international organisations. The information presented in this version of the Integrated Presentation will be amended after the plenary session to reflect the decisions that the Conference took in the different work areas during the plenary session, and re-issued as the “post-plenary session” version of the Integrated Presentation.

3. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Integrated Presentation which is entitled “Environment statistics”, and that is sub-divided into three

5.1 SECTORIAL CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS, CLASSIFICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASES

Problem Statement: To develop an integrated system of internationally comparable environmental statistics capable of assisting governments in setting and adjusting regulatory, taxation and resource management policies which directly or indirectly affect the environment. Major components include

- the development and revision of statistical definitions, concepts and classifications;
- the establishment of concepts for developing environmental indicators;
- the collection, compilation, treatment and dissemination of internationally comparable, policy relevant environmental data.

Specific objectives include the review and assessment of current questionnaires and the joint development of any new questionnaire with a view to eliminating redundancy and minimising any unavoidable differences in concepts or topics.

Strategic Medium-Term Goals: Agreed standard methodologies for environmental protection expenditure and facilities; waste and recycling; eco-industries; eco-taxes and other economic instruments.

Improvements in the quality of environmental data requests from international/intergovernmental organisations as well as in the quality of data available in international databases.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- **Problems encountered with the Kyoto Protocol.** In addition to the technical problems associated with the application of the “Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”, a major problem is the non-ratification of the Protocol by some major countries. Without its ratification, the Kyoto Protocol will not be as effective an instrument for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.
- **Environmental Performance Reviews (EPRs);** The collaboration between OECD and the ECE on the programme for Environmental Performance Reviews continues to be very successful. In the course of the year 2000, reviews have been carried out for six countries and follow-up reports have been produced for three countries.
- **Problems in joint data collection:** The Conference in 2000 asked the organizations concerned to coordinate better their data collection activities and to simplify their questionnaires and make them less complex. The issue has been further discussed between OECD, Eurostat and EEA together with countries. The Eurostat meeting with Member States on environment statistics discussed the issue in September 2000. The urgent need to improve data availability and quality was recognised by the meeting participants. The Joint OECD/Eurostat Questionnaire should be reviewed with the aim of concentrating on the most important tables. There was a general understanding that lead

organisations should be nominated for each area. For Eurostat, priority questionnaires would be waste, water and environmental expenditure, and until new systems are in place also the land use. (See also the explanation under 3.10 1 (Land use and Landscape) on the LUCAS survey and the evaluation in 2001 and 2002). Air emission data need to be discussed between EEA, Eurostat and OECD to find a solution, building on the reporting to the conventions. The Air Quality, Inland Water Quality and Marine Environment sections should be reviewed by the EEA against other reporting systems, with the aim that these systems should provide OECD with the data needed for European countries. For Noise and Wildlife there are currently no other data source.

A meeting at Director level between OECD, Eurostat and EEA has taken place in February to further progress the issue.

- **Problems in joint data collection - Agri-environment Indicators:** A joint OECD/Eurostat data collection is being discussed in the area of agri-environment indicators. In a first phase it could cover nitrogen balances, pesticides, emissions of climate gases and organic farming. Data already available is planned to be pre-filled. Later on the data collection could be extended to cover also other indicators. The data collection will be further discussed between the secretariats and with countries at Eurostat and OECD meetings.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- to approve the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (see "Activities

Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:

ECE-Eurostat: Joint Work Session on Methodological Issues in Environment Statistics, October 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Environment statistics, 19-21 September 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Waste Statistics, 24-25 September 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Energy and Environment back-to-back meeting, 12 October 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Environmental expenditure, 03-04 December 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Environmental expenditure, once a year in January or December

Eurostat Working Group: Agro/environment statistics, once a year in February

Eurostat Working Group: Transport and Environment statistics, once a year in May

Eurostat Working Group: Water statistics, spring 2002

Eurostat Working Group: Environment statistics, once a year in September

Eurostat Working Group: Waste statistics, summer 2002

Eurostat Working Group: Energy and Environment back-to-back meeting, once a year in October

OECD: Working Party on Waste Prevention and Recycling (two meetings per year)

OECD: Joint Working Party of the Committee for Agriculture and the Environment Policy Committee (9-11 July 2001)

OECD: Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks (one or two meetings per year, next: October 2001)

OECD: Working Party on National Environmental Policies (two meetings per year)

OECD: Joint meeting of environment and tax experts (November 2001)

UNSD: Expert meeting to discuss the second volume of the Manual of Environment Statistics (2003)

Rapporteur: Eurostat

Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:

Activities of ECE:

Ongoing methodological work:

- a) ECE/Eurostat Joint Work Session on methodological issues of environment statistics to consider in 2001/2002 the topics listed below: (i) Developing of air, water, land use and waste statistics

according to the NACE/ISIC classifications and their uses; (ii) Environmental statistics (basic data, indicators, etc) as a basis for national, regional and local decision-making. What data and methods are suitable and feasible at different geographical levels? (iii) Country experiences in linking environment information to different economic sectors, e.g. transport, energy, agriculture, fisheries, industry and tourism; (iv) Urban environment indicators (e.g. land use change, noise, air pollution, human health, cultural heritage, etc.); (v) Use of estimation methods and indirect measurements to provide environmental information for areas where data are lacking.

Other work:

- b) Organization, according to need, of specific task forces to consider other methodological aspects of environment statistics.
- c) Preparation, if resources permit and when required, of 'readings volumes' of methods used in the collection, compilation or dissemination of environment statistics.
- d) Participation in coordination schemes, in particular the Task Force on Environment Statistics.

Secretariat resources: Moderate

Cross-reference: Work on "Agricultural statistics of the environment" is being undertaken by the Joint FAO/ECE Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Food and Agricultural Statistics and is reported under programme element 3.10 (see CES/BUR.2000/19/Add.3).

Refer also to the ECE Work Session on GIS Technology in Programme Element 2.6 in CES/BUR.2000/19/Add.2.

Activities of the ECE Environment and Human Settlement's Division (ENHS):

The International Environment Data Service (IEDS) database continues to be used for the purpose of the Environmental Performance Reviews. This programme is also the prime user of the environment database. The database has been extended to cover all information collected from national sources through the Environmental Performance Reviews as well as from international databases as they pertain to environmental indicators of the countries being reviewed. The IEDS is currently available on ECE's intranet."

Activities of Eurostat: (*Theme 71 - Environmental statistics and indicators (711-718)*):

Ongoing work:

Environment statistics are still scarce and there are substantial data gaps and quality problems in priority data sets. Continuous improvement of the regular reporting and dissemination of environment statistics together with Member States is therefore necessary in order to fill data gaps, to improve data quality, and to facilitate data transfer. This requires a close co-operation with OECD and EEA to facilitate reporting by countries.

Eurostat is establishing a system of Community waste statistics through implementation of the forthcoming Regulation on Waste Statistics. It contains all basic definitions relating to generation and treatment of waste (e.g. NACE-groupings, statistical classification of waste categories, classification of treatment facilities). It also sets out areas for pilot studies, where more methodological work is needed (import and export of waste, packaging waste and pre-treatment of waste).

The statistics on water use and wastewater treatment is based on voluntary data collection from Member States. There are substantial data gaps. Eurostat has created a task force to refine definitions, help with methodologies, set priorities and to establish "Gentlemen's agreement" with Member States on data transfer of priority sets of data.

Investments and current expenditure by industry to protect the environment is covered by the Council Regulation on structural business statistics and pilot studies have been made. Further work will focus on refining definitions and to facilitate the practical implementation of surveys. Work will also continue to improve the data for public environment expenditure statistics.

Agricultural, energy and transport statistics are being explored to highlight the environmental dimensions for production of indicators (see also 2.8). Nitrogen balances and pesticide statistics are being produced as part of agri-environment indicators, incl methodological work. A data base model for transport related pressure indicators will be completed.

A set of pressure indicators is being published and for some of the indicators there are substantial methodological problems, for example indicators on toxic chemicals, that will need further work. Eurostat is participating in the work on EU headline indicators for the environment.

There is also support to PHARE countries and to non-EU Mediterranean countries in environment statistics.

Priority objectives:

- Implementation measures relating to the Regulation on waste statistics (Commission Regulations and guidelines)
- Manual on water statistics
- Implementation measures relating to the environmental variables in the Structural Business Statistics Regulation (Commission Regulations and guidelines)
- Possible revision of the draft manual on pesticide statistics and recommendations for nitrogen balances.

New activities to be undertaken:

The proposal for the 6th EU Action Programme for environment, planned for spring 2001, will influence the priorities for environmentally related data collection. In particular, statistics on environment and health and on chemicals of environmental concern are expected to request additional efforts.

A EU strategy paper on sustainability will also be presented by the Commission in Spring 2001. This paper will influence the priorities not only in environment statistics, but also in other statistical areas.

Activities of OECD:

Environmental data:

Ongoing work:

1. Further improvement of the quality and international comparability of the data collected and used by the OECD, and extension of the OECD System of Information on Resources and the Environment (SIREN) database. Priorities include: i) data needed for the calculation of international environmental indicators and for country environmental performance reviews; ii) further development of economic data of environmental relevance, including data on environmental expenditure and data on revenues from environmentally-related taxes, using the statistical framework developed in close co-operation with EUROSTAT.
2. Further review of the OECD questionnaires on the state of the environment and on pollution abatement and control expenditure (joint OECD/Eurostat questionnaires for European Union, EFTA and EU candidate accession countries; co-operation with UNSD for non-OECD countries). The definitions and classifications used in the questionnaires are being reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the latest international developments. Standard statistical classifications adopted by the CES are used where possible. The questionnaire section on "forest" is co-ordinated with the UN-ECE and the FAO. The questionnaire section on "waste" is co-ordinated with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The data requested in the different questionnaire sections will be prioritised and the use of new international data sources will be explored in order to reduce the response burden on countries.
3. Data collection and treatment (regular two-year cycle; next collection in 2002). Co-operation with EUROSTAT, the European Environment Agency, UNSD.
4. Waste management reporting: Harmonisation of the OECD control system for recoverable waste with the Basel Convention and development of a global harmonised control system.

Priority objectives and outputs:

1. Revised OECD questionnaire on environmental expenditure for 2002 data collection (jointly with EUROSTAT).

2. Revised OECD questionnaire section on inland waters for 2002 data collection (jointly with EUROSTAT).
3. Publication of the OECD Compendium of Environmental Data (biennial; next editions: end of 2001, end of 2003).
4. Publication of monograph on environmental expenditure.
5. OECD database on revenues collected from environmentally-related taxes (<http://www.oecd.org/env/policies/taxes/index.htm>).
6. Waste management reporting: Revised documents related to the implementation of the OECD Council decision on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations (revised guidance manual).

Environmental indicators:

Ongoing work:

Continued work on methodology, comparability, publication and use of environmental indicators. Co-operation with other international organisations: e.g. EEA, UNCSD, World Bank. Priorities include:

- review of the OECD Core Set of environmental indicators;
- identification of a sub-set of major core indicators;
- further refinement and development of sectoral indicators: transport-environment indicators, energy-environment indicators, agri-environmental indicators (see below), indicators of sustainable household consumption patterns, and tourism environment indicators;
- expanded use of environmental indicators in country environmental performance reviews.

Priority objectives and outputs:

1. Publication of the OECD Core Set of Environmental Indicators (biennial in alternance with the Compendium of Environmental Data).
2. Publication of OECD Sets of sectoral indicators.

See also 2.8 for OECD's work on sustainable development indicators.

Agri-environmental indicators:

Ongoing work:

See new publication, OECD (2001) Environmental Indicators for Agriculture Volume 3: Methods and Results, Publications Service, Paris, France.

Priority objectives and outputs:

1) Soil carbon/sinks; 2) Soil erosion; 3) Biodiversity and Habitat; 4) Water Quality. To provide a comprehensive report by late 2002, early 2003, on the progress by then on OECD agri-environmental indicator development.

New activities:

Development of new OECD agri-environmental indicators web site, see the OECD web site at:

<http://www.oecd.org/agr/env/indicators.htm>

Activities of other organizations:

The European Environment Agency (EEA):

Ongoing work:

Establishing of Europe-wide networks for monitoring air and water quality, emissions to air and water, and land-cover with regular data flows and central databases (<http://eea.eu.int>). The EEA uses the information from these networks and statistics from other organisations to provide policy relevant assessments of changes in the state of the environment and the causing factors. Reports for various audiences are based on indicators.

The EEA is a central point for methodologies in European air emission inventories. It maintains together with the UNECE Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections the EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook and accompanying software.

Priorities:

Extending the coverage of the networks to the EU accession countries. Harmonisation and rationalisation of data flows linked to policy needs. Development of a consistent set of indicators for environmental issues and for the integration of environmental concerns in sectoral policies for the EU.

New activities:

Indicator report Environmental signals 2001. Pan-European assessment for the environmental ministers conference in Kiev in spring 2003. Sector environment indicator reports. Continued thematic reporting linked to policy and legislative priorities (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions monitoring mechanism).

UN Statistics Division:

Ongoing methodological work:

UNSD is currently setting up an international database of selected environment statistics and indicators. The database feeds on data compiled via the UNSD Questionnaire on Environmental Indicators and imports data from international sources. The first pilot UNSD Compendium of Environmental Statistics and Indicators will be published in 2001. The next UNSD data collection – addressing again the non-OECD countries – takes place in the first half of 2001.

The first volume of the Manual of Environment Statistics, covering statistics on environment pollution and environmental quality, will be finalized in 2001. The second volume, focusing on natural resource statistics, is to be published in 2003. The Manual is to assist national statistical services in establishing and developing their environment statistics programmes.

As part of the UN project “Strengthening Capacity in the Compilation of Statistics and Indicators for Conference Follow-up in the CARICOM Region”, UNSD provides technical support to the countries of the region in environment statistics.

Priority objectives:

Priorities for 2001-2003 include the establishment of regular biennial data collection and production of the Compendium as well as the production of the Manual of Environment Statistics.

New activities to be undertaken:

In addition, UNSD will investigate the possibilities for the development of estimation methods for core environmental pressures in developing countries. UNSD plans to publish environmental country profiles on the Internet.

The World Bank:

The Bank is and will be contributing to the development of core environmental indicators for monitoring progress toward the international development goals adopted by the World Bank, United Nations, and the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.

The development and expansion of an environmental database is on-going. Its coverage includes, among others, the ECE countries and it is annually updated from various sources inside and outside the World Bank. Being available to all World Bank staff, it is mainly utilized for the expanded Environmental section of the World Development Indicators. Also, a set of selected environmental indicators is being published annually by the Environment Department and the Development Data Group of the World Bank. The publication, organized by country, covers more than 150 countries and each country page presents more than 50 indicators.

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

Ongoing work: Plans for 2001-2003 include the collection and collation of data concerning protection of the environment. It is also intended to provide advisory services to national statistical services regarding arrangements for the statistical observation of environmental protection.

In addition to special reports, CIS statistical bulletins will periodically include statistical and analytical materials covering a variety of environmental issues.

An analytical note entitled “Progress of work to deal with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

Problem Statement: To review developments in natural resource accounting; to ensure there is an integration path between accounts in physical terms and the corresponding elements on national accounts in money terms; to suggest ways in which a synthesis of different approaches may be constructed to ensure flexibility for special cases within a framework which is consistent overall; to work to avoid a divergence in approach taken by ECE Members and that taken by countries outside the region (specifically developing countries).

A specific objective will be to determine how "green accounting" should be interpreted in relation to marketed natural assets (such as minerals and forests which may be exploited beyond sustainability) and non-marketed natural assets (such as air and water used as environmental sinks).

Strategic Medium-Term Goals: Some form of monitoring of the voluminous studies on environmental issues to ensure that quick and comprehensive information is available about developments in environmental accounting; new studies undertaken; new approaches developed. Critiques and comparisons of systems designed for general use to highlight similarities and differences.

Attention of the Conference is drawn to the following:

- Eurostat and OECD to agree on a mutually agreeable division of labour, this will be discussed at the autumn meeting of the Bureau.
- Work has continued on the revision of the United Nations' handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounting (SEEA), an activity carried out by the United Nations Statistical Division in collaboration with the London Group on Environmental Accounting, World Bank, OECD and Eurostat. It is expected that the manual will be completed by the end of July 2001.

Recommended decisions by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session: None

Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:

Eurostat Working Group: Economic Accounts for the Environment, 19-21 September 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Economic Accounts for the Environment, 03-04 December 2001

Eurostat Working Group: Economic Accounts for the Environment, 3 times a year in January, September and December .

Eurostat Working Group: Namea Workshop, once a year in June.

OECD Working Group on Environmental Information and Outlooks, October 2001 (related item: questionnaire on environmental expenditure)

UNSD: Regional workshop on environmental accounting for "ASEAN" countries (Indonesia, 2002)

UNSD: Regional workshop on environmental accounting for the Latin American and Caribbean jointly with ECLAC

UNSD: Regional workshop on environmental accounting for Southern-African countries (Zimbabwe)

London Group: Post-SEEA revision meeting

Rapporteur: Eurostat

Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:

Activities of ECE: None

Activities of OECD:

Work on environmental accounting builds on OECD's experience in integrating environmental and economic thinking. Beside methodological work, it covers collection and treatment of environmental expenditure data; regular information exchange and progress reports in Member and Partner countries; environmental accounting as part of the OECD assessments of environmental information systems.

Ongoing work:

- (1) continued work on pollution abatement and control expenditure: methodology, questionnaire review in 2000-2001 (see also 5.1).
- (2) review of work carried out to date in the field of material flow accounting (national, international); identification and definition of derived indicators to complement other resource indicators;

Priority objectives and outputs:

- (1) publication of environmental expenditure data for OECD countries in 2001;
- (2) revised questionnaire in 2002 (joint work with Eurostat)
- (3) inclusion of indicators on selected material flows in relevant OECD publications,

Activities of Eurostat: (*Theme 41 - Quarterly and environmental accounts (412)*):

Ongoing methodological work:

- To review the implications of the revised SEEA for the development and orientation of environmental accounting in the EU.
- Some areas will still need further conceptual development: in particular we will aim to finalise agreed methodologies and set of accounting tables for water, land, material balances and waste accounts.
- To improve quality and comparability, several compilation guides will be produced, including on expenditure accounts, material balances and emission accounts.

Development of environmental accounting in Member States has been assisted by pilot projects financed from the Commission budget. Continued funding is essential to maintain the speed of progress, but progressively countries will have to assume the financial burden from their own resources.

Priority objective

The world-level handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounting (SEEA) should be finalised in the first half of 2001, with Eurostat as a co-publisher. Environmental accounting will be more and more firmly established in Member States.

New activities to be undertaken

As environmental accounts are progressively established in Member States, Eurostat will put in place a data base and publications with a set of EU-wide environmental accounts that are integrated to the extent possible and that will be regularly updated and improved. This will include air emissions, environmental taxes and expenditure and accounts for forest and sub-soil assets.

Activities of other organizations:

The European Environment Agency (EEA):

Projects on water, land, forests; Projects on environmental taxes and on costs of specific environmental protection technologies ("avoidance cost curves").

UN Statistics Division (UNSD):

Ongoing methodological work:

UNSD is continuing contributing to the on-going revision of the SEEA in co-operation with the London Group. It has served as chapter coordinator, it has contributed to the substance of the manual and is a member of the Coordinating Committee. UNSD plans to publish the manual jointly with the World Bank, OECD and Eurostat.

UNSD has published in 2000 the handbook of national accounting *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting – An Operational Manual*. The manual is co-authored with UNEP and was

prepared by the so-called Nairobi Group, a group of experts from national, international and non-governmental organizations. The manual provides a hands-on for the implementation of the more practical SEEA modules. It is accompanied by a user-friendly software, prepared by UNSD and Fondazione Enrico Mattei, consisting of a series of worksheets linked through formula.

UNSD is also preparing in co-operation with FAO and UNU a manual on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Fisheries. The manual is expected to be published at the end of 2001.

Priority objective:

The priority objectives of UNSD are to produce: (a) a handbook on the revised SEEA; and (b) a handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounting for fisheries;

New activities to be undertaken:

UNSD plans to continue participating to the London Group meetings, contributing technical papers. In particular, it plans to collaborate with the London Group in the preparation of "operational" handbooks on selected natural resources or topics in environmental accounting. These handbooks will complement the revised SEEA by providing practical implementation guidelines.

UNSD also plans to prepare and publish training material on the compilation of the SEEA that could be used in training seminars and for providing simple explanations on how to implement the SEEA.

UNSD also plans to undertake country projects on environmental-economic accounting.

The World Bank:

The World Bank works closely with the UN Statistics Division in this area and continues to support initiatives in the field of environmental accounting primarily through the London Group. The Bank is contributing to the preparation of the revised SEEA dealing with the issues of valuation, as well as potential operational policy relevance and use of the proposed manual in informing a wider range of management decisions. Work in this area is bolstered by the development of accompanying indicators of environmental change including estimation of "genuine savings" for more than 120 countries.

The "London Group" on Environmental Statistics:

Ongoing methodological work:

The on-going methodological work of the London Group continues to be devoted entirely to the revision of the United Nation's handbook on integrated environmental and economic accounts (the SEEA). Work on this revision is now entering its final stages. Draft versions of all chapters of the revised handbook have now been produced and circulated for public comment in a variety of international fora and via the London Group web site (ww2.statcan.ca/english/citygrp/london/london.htm). The revision process is being led by the Group's coordinating committee and the SEEA editor (Anne Harrison, OECD Statistics Directorate). A final structure has been agreed upon for the revised handbook and most chapters are in a well advanced state. There remains, however, some additional work to revise current drafts, to draft additional material and to arrive at agreement on controversial aspects of environmental accounting (particularly those related to valuation of the environment). Current expectations are that the manual will be completed and handed over to the international organisations that will publish it (UN, OECD, Eurostat, World Bank) by the end of July 2001.

Priority objective in the next two years:

The priority (and single) current objective of the London Group is completion of the revision of the SEEA handbook.

New activities to be undertaken in the next two year:

Beyond completion of the revised SEEA handbook, the next two years will see a return to the London Group's normal mode of functioning. That is, an annual meeting devoted to furthering methodological and empirical development of environmental accounts in the developed and developing world. One possibility that has been discussed is that this work take the form of drafting "operational" handbooks on environmental accounting that will be used to complement the more conceptually and methodologically oriented SEEA handbook.

5.3 METEOROLOGY STATISTICS

Note by the Secretariat: This programme element was included in the Integrated Presentation a year ago in order to be consistent with the ACC classification of statistical activities. As none of the reporting international organisations has submitted any information on planned future work in the field of meteorological statistics, the Bureau recommends that the Programme Element be deleted from Programme Activity 5.

Recommended decision by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:

- To delete this Programme Element from Programme Activity 5 of the Integrated Presentation.
