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**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

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

**PROGRAMMES OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
WORK IN THE ECE REGION, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003:  
AN INTEGRATED PRESENTATION**

(Post-plenary session version)

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

**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/2001/34)

Programme Activity 1: Organisation and Operation of statistical services (CES/2001/34/Add.1)

Programme Activity 2: Technical infrastructure and other cross-cutting issues  
(CES/2001/34/Add.2)

Programme Activity 3: Economic statistics (CES/2001/34/Add.3)

Programme Activity 4: Social and demographic statistics (CES/2001/34/Add.4)

Programme Activity 5: Environment statistics (CES/2001/34/Add.5)

Programme Activity 6: Dissemination and support for secretariat activities  
(CES/2001/34/Add.6)

2. This version of the Integrated Presentation was prepared as the post-plenary session version of the Integrated Presentation and it contains the decisions that the Conference took in each work area during the plenary session. The Conference uses the Integrated Presentation 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 that 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.

3. The information presented in this addendum refers to work area or “Programme Activity” 1 of the Integrated Presentation which is entitled “Organisation and operation of statistical services”, and that is sub-divided into four “programme elements (PE) ” or fields of work.

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

**Problem Statement:** 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 promote a more strategic and proactive approach to co-ordination; to promote coherent definitions of metadata and the dissemination of metadata; to ensure the harmonisation and consistency in the definitions and classifications that are used by international organisations; and to investigate the possibility of the Conference establishing more interaction with academia, NGOs (e.g. IAOS and ISI), the media and the business community.

**Strategic Medium-Term Goals:** 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:**

- The CES Bureau discussed co-ordination issues at its October 2000 meeting. The Bureau noted that the highest and best forms of co-ordination have been achieved among the organisations that are represented on the Bureau, but that greater difficulties are experienced in achieving similar levels of co-ordination with organisations that are not represented on the Bureau. The Bureau discussed several examples of co-ordination that are not up to the expected standard, such as the conflicting mortality estimates that are being produced by WHO-Geneva and the UN Population Division (see PE 4.9 for additional details). The Bureau drew the attention of the Conference to this at the plenary session.
- The Bureau also drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that the Bureau and the Conference have mechanisms in place that help them to identify problems of co-ordination, but that they do not have many tools available to them for solving problems when they arise. The Bureau also agreed that it is easier to ensure co-ordination at the national level if there is good co-ordination available at the international level.

- Eurostat and OECD are looking into the possibility of developing an annual work programme of joint activities that would provide a detailed outline of areas of common interest, targets and list of actions.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See "Activities and means" section below).

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:**

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 2001 to June 2003:**

**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/ 2001/34/Add.3).
- b) Task force on finance statistics (see project 3.2 in CES/2001/34/Add.3).
- c) Task force on international trade statistics (see project 3.3 in CES/2001/34/Add.3).
- d) Task force on services statistics (see project 3.6 in CES/2001/34/Add.3).
- e) Task force on price statistics including the International Comparison Programme (see project 3.9 in CES/2001/34/Add.3).
- f) Task force on environment statistics (see CES/2001/34/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 International Trade in Services.

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

**Ongoing methodological work:**

- Eurostat will continue to participate as an active observer in the various international fora for statistics: the biennial United Nations Statistical Commission and its Working Group and the Conference of European Statisticians and its Bureau.
- Close links with other international organisations, through the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Joint Programme.
- Review 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.
- Co-ordination of relations with other OECD countries (e.g. USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico)
- 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.

**Priority objective of the methodological work:**

- Simplify the international organisations reporting for the Integrated Presentation. The volume of work involved does not seem to justify the objectives. The simplification should be based on the answers to two fundamental questions: Who are the users of the Integrated Presentation and what is it used for?

**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 by UNSD of international statistical work in the field of trade statistics (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 implementation of a basic indicator framework for common country assessment (CCA). During country visits UNSD 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) IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics; and (ii) Interagency Task Force on Finance Statistics.

- b) Membership in the interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (assuming the rotating Chair after the 2001 Statistical Commission meeting); (ii) Task Force on International Trade Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Environment Statistics; (iii) Task Force on Service Statistics; and (iv) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics.
- c) Participation in the management of global statistical system through: (i) the 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.
- d) Cooperation with BIS (especially on external debt, international reserves, and banking statistics), EUROSTAT, ECB, and OECD in areas of common concern.

#### **World Bank:**

- a) Attends as an observer (i) sessions of the UN Statistical Commission; (ii) the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities; (iii) conference of European Statisticians; (iv) meetings of other UN regional commissions.
- b) Is a member of interagency task forces: (i) Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts; (ii) Intersecretariat working group on price statistics; (iii) Inter-agency task force on Finance Statistics.
- c) Participates in the governing body of the PARIS21 consortium; d) manages a multi-donor Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building; e) cooperates with Eurostat, ECE, OECD in areas of common interest.

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

- The activities of CIS-STAT are focused on coordinating statistical work and aligning and harmonising 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 member countries. Materials in preparation are discussed by the CIS-STAT Scientific Council, task forces and ad hoc meetings. Once finalised, they are circulated as recommendations to national statistical services. For the wide use of various categories of users, the methodological and statistical materials are published in the statistical bulletin "CIS Statistics", which is issued twice a month.
- The CIS Statistical Committee's Web site (<http://www.cisstat.com>) provides information about the macroeconomic indicators of Commonwealth countries and also posts CIS-STAT press releases. As from 2001 it will include listings of methodological materials prepared by the CIS Statistical Committee.
- 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**

**Problem Statement :** Efficient contact at the top management level of the national statistical institutes as well as contact with the management of international statistical organisations is of vital importance for building an integrated and consistent international statistical system, as well as for developing efficient national statistical systems. The role of the different international players, and the different and partial overlap of groups of countries, require special attention. In addition, as the area of work is rather wide, it is also important to focus and give priority to some specific topics for a certain period of time.

The work includes: reviewing managerial and statistical policy issues at the international, national and regional (subnational) levels of direct concern to Heads of national statistical offices; facilitating heads of national statistical agencies exchanging views and experiences on matters affecting the organisation, management and relations with the outside world of the institutions for which they are responsible; formulating priorities for the development of international statistical standards and methods, and promoting their use; enabling heads of statistical agencies to exchange views and experiences on changing statistical requirements that create pressures for the reform of statistical policies and

institutions; considering issues such as the development strategy of national statistical offices, the overall design and conception of official statistics, and professional ethics in statistics; promoting the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and assessing whether they should be revised or updated; monitoring the conflict between increased demand for statistics and shrinking resources; promoting the spread of "best statistical practices" among ECE countries; and enhancing the role and policy relevance of statistics at the national and international level.

**Strategic Medium-Term Goals:** 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 Bureau drew the attention of the Conference to the growing difficulty that statistical offices and other institutions are having in ensuring confidentiality in the modern world.
- It also drew the attention of the Conference to the increasing demand national and international statistical offices are facing for regional statistics.

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See "Activities and means" section below).
- The Conference agreed that as the 2002 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians is the fiftieth anniversary session of the Conference, the theme of the seminar session at that plenary session should be devoted to this important anniversary session of the Conference. It agreed that the seminar session would be devoted to discussion of the main challenges facing the Conference in the future, and on the priority issues and concerns that the Conference will have to focus on in the future.

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:**

ECE: CES Plenary session (June, 2002, in Paris)

ECE: CES Plenary session (June, 2003)

ECE: Four meetings of the CES Bureau per year

Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme 09 July 2001

Eurostat: 42nd Statistical Programme Committee 20 Sep 2001

Eurostat: Financial Partnership with the ESS, October 2001

Eurostat: 11th CEIES 23 November 2001

Eurostat: 43rd Statistical Programme Committee 22 Nov 2001

Eurostat: Financial Partnership with the ESS, May 2002

Eurostat: SPC meetings: March, May, September, November 2002

Eurostat: Working Group: Annual Statistical Programme July 2002

Eurostat: DGINS Conference - May 2002

Eurostat: Financial Partnership with the ESS, May 2003

Eurostat: CEIES - 1 plenary, 4 sub-committees (2 meetings each), 3 bureau meetings per year

**Rapporteur:** Statistics Norway

**Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:**

**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 Statisticians, acting in its capacity as the Steering Committee of the Conference.
- c) Commemoration, at the 2002 plenary session, of the fiftieth anniversary session of the Conference (see CES/2001/13 for the plans for the 2002 fiftieth anniversary plenary session of the Conference that were discussed at the Conference's 2001 plenary session.)
- 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 very limited 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 still not 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 audit:*** audits of Eurostat's internal control system. The objective of these audits is to improve, if needed, the procedures, the quality of the circulation of information and Eurostat's internal organisation. 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. Apply "Workflow" process system to annual programme process. Further develop and fully implement IRMS (Information Resource Management System) for annual programme preparation and execution. In 2001 launch preparation of 2003-2007 5-year programme.

***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. Start rationalising meetings structure (follow-up of TF meetings/SPC recommendations) and improve resultant planning. Continue quality improvements for Member state meetings.

**Corporate Planning:** revision of the short-term objectives of the Corporate Plan and further development of the Qualistat programme -; Support to fully integrated training plan; Process Management methods applied to all critical processes and initiating work on project management; Improving implementation of Unit Development Plans; performance of the EFQM model based 2001 self-assessment; monitoring and follow-up of office-wide improvement actions; analysis of existing sources like quality reports, user surveys or office-wide performance indicators to prepare future improvement actions; preparation of the next comprehensive staff opinion survey; rolling reviews in further areas.

**Financial and budgetary management:** The Commission is changing to a system of strategic programming and 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. Implementation of financial actions of Reform White Paper, including new workflows and accounting functions. Development and implementation of new grants procedures for partner institutes in Member States.

**Human resources management and development:** Cooperation between the National Statistical Offices and Eurostat is being extended to human resource management and development, and a Task Force on Human Resources was created. This forum will allow sharing experience on structural and organisational changes, problems stemming from reduction in staff, influence of new technologies on the content and structure of work, as well as on the need for new or transformed staff competencies.

#### **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 and GDDS participants. The DSBB also provides hyperlinks to national websites of SDDS subscribers 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. As part of the program to enhance the DSBB, work has begun on developing an XML language for the open exchange of statistical data and metadata.

The strengthened SDDS data category for international reserves and foreign currency liquidity became effective at end-March 2000. The transition period for the new data category on external debt will end in March 2003. A data category for public sector external debt has been added to the GDDS.

The GDDS site was introduced on the DSBB in May 2000.

##### **World Bank:**

Together with the IMF, the World Bank will continue to work on the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) which provides guidelines to the countries in the dissemination of economic, financial and socio-demographic data to the public and establishes a broad framework for countries seeking improvements in their statistical systems. The World Bank input is developing guidelines for the preparation of metadata covering the following areas: population, education, health, poverty assessment and monitoring. The World Bank, in collaboration with the IMF, will be



participating in regional seminars and in preparation of the GDDS metadata for participating countries, as well as providing technical support from headquarters or in the field to staff of member countries participating in the GDDS.

In the Russian Federation, the following activities will be financed with the WB loan under the Development of the State Statistical System (STASYS) Project: (i) Restructuring and streamlining of functioning of the federal and regional statistical offices, creation of effective mechanism for inter-agency coordination, formalization of the public relations with the users of statistical products. The implementation is expected to start at the beginning of the year 2003; (ii) Development of regulative and legal documents supporting official statistical activities in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation and recommendations of international organizations are planned to start in mid-2001. This will include development and trial-testing of the Federal Law "On Statistics", establishing legal foundations for the organization of statistical works, collection of statistical data, specifying the rights, obligations and responsibilities of legal and physical persons and authorities related to the conduct of statistical works, the rules for the development of official statistical methodology.

The World Bank is supporting work on strategic planning in the statistical offices of the countries in transition. It is planned to co-finance, together with Eurostat a seminar on strategic planning for CIS countries in the second half of 2001

#### **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**

**Problem Statement:** 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; 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; Evaluation, by both recipient and donor countries, of the progress that is being made by technical assistance programmes that are intended to provide support to countries in transition.

For EU Candidate Countries, the objectives for Technical Assistance for them is to comply "acquis". This is also in conformity with the needs of the beneficiary countries.

For the EU, in the CIS area the Tacis programmes are based on dialogue driven principles where the country presents its needs and even drafts the project proposals. Regular meetings are organised between international organisations. There is a tendency from co-ordination to c-operation in the CIS area. In practice this means joint ventures, like seminars and other actions.

**Strategic Medium-Term Goals:** To ensure that the building of sustainable national statistical systems meet national needs and priorities; to determine to what extent the social sector has been ignored while focus has been on the economic impact of transition; to ensure that members receive updates on the progress with the CARDS programme (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stability) for the Western Balkans; to clarify what assistance is to be provided to census operations in the region, and to ensure that support is provided in this area given the vital impact of population data on

other statistical estimates; and to ensure that activities undertaken by countries and international organisations are carried out in a co-ordinated and efficient manner.

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

- The Bureau considered that there is a need for greater clarity in the planned future work of international organisations showing what provisions have been made for planned future assistance to individual countries in transition.
- It also considered that there is insufficient focus upon assessing whether international organisations are meeting the needs of users, and that greater transparency is needed in the co-operation that takes place between international organisations so as to ensure that the support being provided to countries in transition is of the required high quality.
- The Bureau also considered that the support given to CITs must be relevant to the statistical needs of the countries, regardless of whether these needs are economic or social in nature.
- The Bureau called the attention of the Conference to the benefits that countries in transition could receive by receiving technical assistance from the international community to assist them to take advantage of the rapid developments that are occurring in the field of information and communications technology, particularly with respect to the emergence of new strategies for statistical data collection, data processing and dissemination

**Decisions taken by the Conference at the 2001 plenary session:**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See "Activities and means" section below).

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:**

Eurostat: Working Group: Policy group on statistical co-operation (Candidate Countries and the Western Balkan), 25-26 Oct 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Management Group on statistical co-operation (Candidate Countries and the Western Balkan), April 2002

Eurostat: Working Group: Steering Group on EU Statistical Co-operation with New Independent States and Mongolia, May 2002

OECD: Expert on the 2000 round of PPP comparisons for CIS countries. (Programme sponsored by OECD: World Bank, CIS and Russian Federation) September 2001

UNSD: Sub-Regional training workshop on GIS for Western CIS countries and Baltic States, July 2001

UNSD: National training workshops in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine on census management and data processing (second half of 2001 and later).

UNSD: Expert Group Meeting on Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries, April 2002.

**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 an ECE/UNDP project agreed upon in early January 2001. The aim of this project is to assist countries in central and eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to improve the statistics they require for human

development reporting and for social planning and policies generally. It will cover 2001 and (subject to a positive outcome from a mid-term review of progress achieved at the end of 2001) 2002. (additional information on the activities undertaken in these projects is presented below).

Secretariat resources: Substantial

**Other work to be carried out by the ECE Statistical Division that is not part of the CES work programme**

Mr. Jean-Etienne Chapron, the Division's new Regional Adviser in Statistics, was appointed in October 2000. His main function is to provide ECE member countries, especially countries in transition, with advice of a broad nature in statistics, and with statistical capacity building in social and economic statistics and indicators, in order to facilitate the transition to the market economy and the integration into the European and global economies. This task is to be accomplished through bilateral as well as multilateral contacts, and in the latter case, by taking advantage of regional and sub-regional expert group meetings, seminars and workshops. Linkages are, and will continue to be, established with the regular programme of work of the conference of European Statisticians. Linkages will also continue to be established with other institutions and organizations active in the ECE region in the field of statistics, such as the European Union, the OECD, UNDP, IMF, the World Bank, ILO, and others.

The ECE Statistical Division also manages an extra-budgetary project on social reporting that is funded by the UNDP. The project covers three different but related sub-activities: (i) Monitoring systems for social development and support of the statistical base of the national human development reports; (ii) Support to gender statistics in form of a Regional Gender statistics Website; (iii) Development of statistical measures of human security.

**Activities of OECD:**

Countries covered: Russian Federation, Ukraine, other CIS countries, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROM, Croatia, Bosnia, Albania.

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, non-observed economy and business and other tendency surveys.

Activities: (i) Continued work to improve the quality of national accounts through better coverage of the "non-observed economy"; (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; (v) Collection of short-term economic statistics on non-Member countries for use within OECD and for outside publication. 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*):

a) Ongoing methodological work:

Phare statistical co-operation

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:

- Progressively integrate the statistical systems into the ESS;

- Promote compliance with the *acquis communautaire* and, as by-product, enhance comparability with EU statistics;
- Cope with data supply needed increasingly in the framework of international negotiations on different levels and in various circumstances;
- 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.

All Phare credits directly used in statistical co-operation do come from the Enlargement DG budget (B5-7000) and are partly sub-delegated to Eurostat for contracting. The external operation is totally dependent on the availability of these credits.

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;
- 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.

#### Tacis statistical co-operation

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:

- Strengthen the ability of National Statistical Institutes to operate in a democratic environment;
- Improve the management of National Statistical Institutes in setting up corporate plans, information technologies master plans, training programmes and communication plans;
- assist the statistical services of the Tacis countries in providing their users with the necessary statistical information in priority areas;
- improve the statistical support for the negotiation and monitoring of the Partnership and Co-operation Agreements between the European Union and the Tacis countries;

All Tacis credits directly used in statistical co-operation do come from the External Relations DG budget (B7-520) and are contracted by the Common Service for External Relations. 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 as the main instrument;

- (Semi-) Resident Advisers support;
- Training actions and provision of documentation and assistance tools in Russian;
- Provision of computer equipment.

Within the Tacis programme, some manuals and handbooks have been developed: Pattern of statistical law, a handbook on Information technology and one on Data dissemination and pricing.

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.

#### Preparation of enlargement

Work related to enlargement will be continuously at high speed in 2002. For the 12 applicant countries in negotiations, the aim is to terminate work on the statistics chapter. The continuing objectives within this environment are:

- Provide easy access to the statistical *acquis communautaire* and its developments and updates to applicant countries.
- 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. The possibility of setting up performance indicators describing the candidate countries compliance with the statistical *acquis communautaire* will be studied.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 2002 will continue the rather advanced integration of the statistical systems of applicant countries in Eurostat working groups and activities, for all thirteen countries. This is still subject to the availability of sufficient funds from Phare or other sources.

In 2002 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.

In nearly all operations the active contribution of candidate countries is indispensable. The means to enable this contribution are provided by the Phare programme managed by the Enlargement DG. Sufficient funding from this programme for statistics is prerequisite for nearly all operations.

Continuous follow-up of the dynamics of the statistical *acquis* must be assured by candidate countries. This requires a high degree of participation in the work of the ESS and there is little hope that all required resources will be granted. Therefore all candidate countries will have to concentrate on priority areas where they have the main problems of compliance.

Furthermore all Eurostat units will have to increase their role in monitoring compliance on a daily basis. Resources in many units are already strained due to political priorities.

b) New activities:

Phare statistical co-operation

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.

CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stability) co-operation programme (Balkans)

Initial planning and preparation for implementing the CARDS programme which could start during 2001.

Tacis statistical co-operation

In the Tacis statistics programme, new activities concern production of country reports (progress in statistics) and organising thematic workshops, such as on classifications, environment statistics and planning and programming.

**Activities of other organizations:**

**United Nations Statistics Division:**

Management of a UNFPA-funded projects to support statistical capacity building in Kyrgyzstan Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Management of a UNFPA-funded project to support capacity building in Western CIS countries and Baltic States (Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Federation, and Ukraine). Activities of this project include: one sub-regional training workshop on census management (April/May 2001), one sub-regional training workshop on data processing (Ukraine, June 2001), one sub-regional training workshop on GIS (tentatively in July 2001), and national training in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine on census management and data processing.

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

Technical assistance program in transition countries on macroeconomic statistics (balance of payments, international investment position, external debt, international reserves, government finance, 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 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation, and Ukraine).

**World Bank:**

World Bank programs are mostly long term and comprehensive in coverage. The projects are aimed to build capacities of the national statistical systems by improving statistical infrastructure, changing 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 or is preparing 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 2001 and June 2003. There are also plans to launch regional technical assistance activities, financed by the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building.

**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)**

**Problem Statement:** 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.

**Strategic Medium-Term Goals:** 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 2001 plenary session:**

- The Conference approved the activities to be undertaken by the Conference in this programme element (See "Activities and means" section below).

**Meetings from July 2001 to June 2003:**

Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT 13 - 14 September 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Co-operation with the Developing Countries 12 - 13 December 2001

Eurostat: Working Group: Statistical Co-operation with the Developing Countries, 1 or 2 a year

Eurostat: Task Force: MEDSTAT, twice a year in May and September .

Eurostat: Working Group: The measurement of Poverty, once a year in April .

Eurostat: Working Group PARIS21, once a year in May .

Eurostat: Specialised Task Forces and Seminars

OECD: PARIS21 - Regional Workshops worldwide

OECD: PARIS21 - Annual Consortium meeting, 4-5 October 2001

OECD: Workshop for countries of the ESCAP Region to review the new ILO-ECE Manual on Consumer Price Indices. June 2001

OECD: 3rd joint ADB-OECD-ESCAP Workshop on Business Tendency Surveys for countries of the ESCAP region, November 2001.

OECD: Workshop on Cyclical Analysis and Leading Indicators for countries of the ECLAC region, December 2001

**Rapporteur:** ECE

**Activities and means from July 2001 to June 2003:**

**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; and to assist Eurostat in a supportive role in activities it carries out in its MEDSTAT project, particularly in the priority area of international migration statistics (see Activities of Eurostat below).

**Secretariat resources:** Minimal

**Activities of OECD:**

a) Technical co-operation with China, countries of South and South East Asia and large economies in Latin America in various areas of economic statistics. (Other OECD activities outside the ECE region are described in programme activities 3, 4 and 5).

b) The OECD hosts and provides the Secretariat for *PARTnerships In Statistics* for development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The *PARIS21* Consortium was set up as a result of a joint UN, OECD, World Bank; IMF and EC senior expert meeting on statistical capacity building held in November 1999. Statistical organisations world-wide have been invited to join the consortium and to become members of task forces. There are now nearly 100 members.

The task forces will investigate means of ensuring that policy frameworks, particularly the Poverty Reduction Strategies and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, are supported by country-owned statistical systems which provide information and indicators to both set and monitor policy. The consortium activities are intended to assist countries to develop a statistical strategy which caters for both the short-term needs of policy frameworks and the longer term objective of building sustainable statistical systems, aided by the development of strategic statistical development plans.

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

**Ongoing methodological work:**

*See 3. New activities to be undertaken...*

**Priority for regional integration:** In this new framework, co-operation with non-member countries will be continued with priority being given to the regional approach and ensuring that there is permanently a close and direct link between the statistical actions undertaken and the wider programmes with political, economic and social objectives.

**Thematic priorities:** Particular attention will be paid to training activities and measures for the institutional reinforcement of regional statistical systems and their national components with the aim of making all the developments part of a long-term perspective and giving them maximum effectiveness. The multi-annual planning and programming of statistical activities will be given priority, and the UEMOA and SADC experiments will be extended to cover the other regions.

Priority will be accorded to two areas of co-operation: external trade and social statistics. The former will aim to establish the terms of a genuine partnership in trade relations between the countries and areas and to provide the bases necessary for measuring the implications and consequences of the projects for a customs union of the various economic areas.

The key role played by the fight against poverty and its eradication will be reflected in the accelerated implementation of the framework programme for measuring poverty and the impact of the



co-operation projects undertaken in this field at EU level. In particular, the conclusions of the pilot experiments conducted in the two countries of sub-Saharan Africa will be widely discussed and will serve as a basis for the general application of an integrated approach to measuring poverty in the whole area.

At a more technical level, definitive solutions will be found to put an end to the fragility and over-dependence caused by the development and maintenance of the software belonging to Eurostat (Eurotrace, ERETES).

Lastly, Eurostat will continue to bring its experience and expertise to bear in the statistical programmes for measuring and monitoring regional integration. For the various geographical sectors, the following work and actions will be undertaken:

Mediterranean countries: Progress on the various sub-programmes will be assessed. The interim progress report on the MEDSTAT I programme will be drawn up on the basis of the following main criteria:

- progress on data harmonisation (indicator: the number of Mediterranean partner countries which have adopted common definitions, concepts, classifications and survey methods)
- the level of satisfaction of users of Euro-Mediterranean statistics: Commission departments, FEMISE, politicians (indicators: result of the survey on the paper publication, statistics on consultation of the electronic data)
- the regularity of exchanges between the EU and Mediterranean partners (indicator: statistics on the use of exchange tools)
- the impact of the Mediterranean partners on the national statistical systems (indicators: agreement protocols signed between Statistical Offices and Ministries, new types of relations with the media, such as press conferences).

In addition, the culture of internal assessment will be instigated among the players in the programme (indicator: the scoreboard on the monitoring of results will be permanently updated for all the sub-programmes).

This strict implementation will be accompanied by greater flexibility owing to the promotion of the approach by clusters or sub-regional projects.

The discussions on MEDSTAT II will be completed, so that the outcome will be its financial proposal accepted by the various players.

At bilateral level, programmes supplementing MEDSTAT for Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan will be in the implementation phase, the accent being on improving the capacities of the statistical systems.

ACP countries:

- COMSTAT II: Implementation of the programme: preparation for transferring statistical training to the Portuguese-speaking countries, initial continuing education courses.
- UEMOA:
  - Implementation of the PARSTAT programme; ERETES installed in eight countries.
  - Financing and implementation of a programme to improve basic statistics.
  - Implementation of the multi-annual statistical programme.
- CEDEAO:
  - Continuation of the start-up programme.
  - Preparation of a multi-annual programme.
- CEMAC:

- Terms of reference of a co-operation programme similar to that of the UEMOA.
  - Search for financing.
  - COMESA: Continuation according to the annual work programme.
  - PALOP: Continuation of PALOP II. Improvement of statistical capacities and adoption of harmonised classifications.
  - AFRISTAT: Implementation of a complementary PROSMIC programme
  - DIAPER: Adoption of financing for a programme for measuring cereal production and the marketing of agricultural products.
  - SADC, EAC, LESOTHO (Training activities): Continuation according to the implementation timetable.
  - EAC:
    - Database
    - End of work, evaluation.
    - New project: strengthening statistical capacities
  - SADC: Price index-Year 1
  - EMCAP: Support for the Nigerian statistical system.
  - STATMAD:
    - Interim evaluation of the support for INSTAT
    - Continuation
- ALA countries:
- China: Continuation and completion of the co-operation programme, evaluation of the results on the basis of the terms of reference.
  - MERCOSUR: Active participation in a programme for statistical harmonisation and development with MERCOSUR and Chile.
  - India:
    - Setting up and financing a co-operation programme.
    - Awarding a contract on the basis of the 2000 identification report.
  - Bangladesh: implementation of the programme according to the terms of reference.
  - Pakistan: awarding a contract for price statistics and external trade statistics.
  - Latin America:
    - Identification of priority areas.
    - Resumption of co-operation with the Andean Pact.

Priority objective of the methodological work :

New activities:

Organisation and externalisation

The challenge for 2001 will involve defining and successfully implementing the most effective organisational structure for conducting statistical co-operation activities. This organisation will take account of the decisions adopted by the Commission on the restructuring of the External Relations departments and of the new administrative and budgetary procedures, and will depend on Eurostat's strategy on Europe-wide statistical co-operation. The outsourcing of certain activities will be closely examined and the supervision arrangements defined.

*Process:* The practical implementation of this strategy will be formalised, transposing the Commission's guidelines and priorities into structured, concrete programmes, specifying the partnership arrangements between Eurostat and the European statistical system, and describing the instruments and procedures for co-ordinating with the departments of the European Commission and with international organisations. The standardisation of co-operation programmes will be based on the provisions of a documentary database of auxiliary tools and sectoral modules (external trade, national accounts, etc.) and will be accompanied by the development of the monitoring and evaluation procedures necessary for measuring the degree of implementation. Co-ordination with the European Commission's departments will be developed under the responsibility given to Eurostat for conducting the co-operation project, while co-operation with international organisations will be conducted in working parties set up for this purpose: "PARI 21 – Initiative", CASD, DAC working group on poverty indicators, SPA fora.

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

*PARIS21* Consortium activities are initially concentrated on regional workshops to stimulate programmes in countries required to prepare a poverty reduction strategy paper. The workshops and follow-on national programmes will assist countries to maximise the effectiveness of existing data by bringing together policy makers and statisticians to discuss the immediate and longer-term information needs for setting and monitoring policy in the context of poverty reduction strategies. The project aims to provide developing countries with the resources they need to prepare a sequenced information strategy to build sustainable capacity in the longer term.

The *PARIS21* website ([www.paris21.org](http://www.paris21.org)) provides an instrument for dialogue and information exchange for the consortium.

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#### **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, international 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, the Singapore-IMF Regional Training Institute, the Joint African Institute (Abidjan), the Regional Training Program in the United Arab Emirates, and in various host countries.

#### **World Bank**

Technical assistance in statistical capacity building, financed by grants and loans, on a country by country basis is planned to be provided in the next two years to Chad, The Gambia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, SADC countries in Africa, regional household survey program MECOVI in Latin America.

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